

# NEWSLETTER



To the greater glory of God  
**St ALOYSIUS' CHURCH**  
a Jesuit church founded in 1908

## 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021

This week:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February **St Josephine Bakhita**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February *Feria*

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February **St Scholastica**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February **Our Lady of Lourdes**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February *Feria*

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February *Feria*

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**Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-GPleOdFrbiCLvmqTVgIIg>

Please pray for a number of people associated with  
St Aloysius Church who have died recently ...

James Brennan,  
Paul Donnelly  
Elizabeth Abraham.

May they rest in Peace



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It is a week dominated by four women of the Church...!

## Our Lady of Lourdes (11<sup>th</sup> February)



This Feast commemorates the eighteen appearances of Our Lady to St Bernadette in 1858 at her home in the south of France, close to the border with Spain.

Our Lady called for pilgrims to pray and do penance.  
A little introduction to Bernadette's life can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=robfgTudpw>



Pope John Paul II dedicated this feast as a World Day of Prayer for all who are Sick, a poignant feast this year given the ravages of the pandemic.

Bernadette Soubirous



If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces... never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That's the beauty of being alive... We can always start all over again. Enjoy God's amazing opportunities bestowed on us. Have faith in Him always.

AZ QUOTES

# Saint Josephine Bakhita (8<sup>th</sup> February)



Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself, 'Who could be the Master of these beautiful things?' I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage.

— Josephine Bakhita —

AZ QUOTES

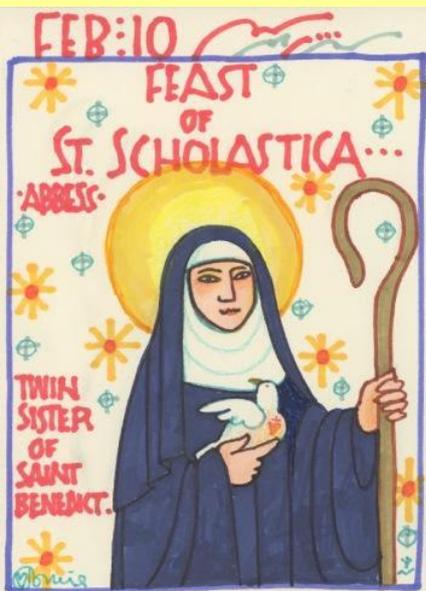
Josephine was born around 1869 in the Darfur region of Sudan. In 1877, she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. And over the next 12 years, she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She died in a convent in Italy in 1947. She was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. She is the patron saint of Sudan

and of all women and men who have been trafficked or enslaved.

Please remember the work of the **St Aloysius Parish ESOL School** who have continued to minister to refugees and asylum seekers in our city during the pandemic. People from the Darfur region also continue to suffer today and arrive in our midst in Glasgow. [https://www.facebook.com/StAloysiusGlasgow/posts/1028195001058738?\\_in=&\\_R](https://www.facebook.com/StAloysiusGlasgow/posts/1028195001058738?_in=&_R)

This is a link to a little video on Bakhita's life... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mltOZGFJYOg>

You can read her life story more fully here. [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=5601](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5601)



## St Scholastica

was the twin-sister of **St Benedict** and she is regarded as the founder of the various of Benedictine nuns around the world. Closest to home in the Benedictine tradition are the Tyburn Nuns down in Largs... A little video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chugXdOX9og>



Somewhat exotically, in Oxford, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1355, some students complained about the quality of ale in an Oxford tavern, and in a tense situation of distrust between townspeople and the university, this became an excuse for a pitched battle between armed groups. The students came off worst in the battle, and sixty three of their number were killed. It became known as the **St Scholastica's Day Riot**. An annual penance was imposed

on the town: each year, on 10<sup>th</sup> February, the mayor, bailiffs and sixty townspeople were to attend a Mass at the University Church of St Mary in central Oxford for those killed; the town was also made to pay the university a fine of one penny for each scholar killed. The practice continued until 1825! In 1955—the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the riot—in an act of reconciliation the Mayor of Oxford was given an honorary degree and the vice-chancellor was made an honorary freeman of the city.

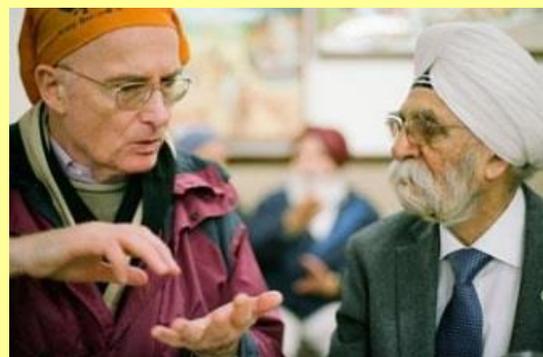


Which leads, quite naturally, onto ...

## The International Day of Human Fraternity

Lest you missed it, in this last week (4th February) was the International Day of Human Fraternity (a little video will give an introduction) <https://vimeo.com/506194395> .On the left of the photo to the right is Prof Fr Michael Barnes SJ who teaches Inter-religious relations at the University of Roehampton. Between 2007 and 2009 he was engaged in developing Faiths Together, an innovative educational project promoted inter-religious dialogue in the Britain.

<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/blog/reflections-faith-and-harmony-amid-violence-and-pandemic>



## Lent Retreat

Rolling-in over the horizon is the Lenten retreat! Fr David Birchall SJ at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre here in Glasgow has once more



taken the lead on creating the programme. The overall theme is 'Knowing Jesus'. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> February) and there will be daily resources for meditation and prayer. People can explore the resources, sign up for daily emails and you can sign up for a weekly sharing group which will

take place by Zoom. To enter into the options perhaps go to the Jesuit Province prayer website and follow the options through

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/lent-retreat-2021>

**THE POPE VIDEO**  
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

**For women who are victims of violence**

"Let us pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all."  
- Pope Francis -

Challenge for humanity and for the mission of the Church - February 2021

← With the beginning of the month of February, Pope's Francis' monthly video <https://thepopevideo.org/> as the panel to the left indicates the theme of praying for Women who are the Victims of Violence

**TODAY, WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE VICTIMS OF MULTIPLE FORMS OF VIOLENCE**

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**

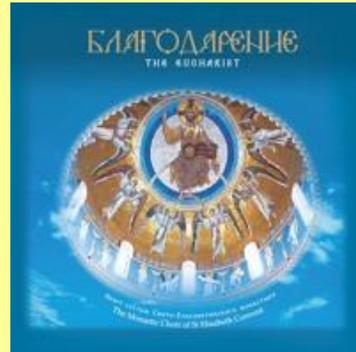
- Every day, 137 women in the world are killed by a member of their own family.
- More than half of the victims die at the hands of family members or intimate partners.
- In 2020, 243 million women and girls suffered abuse from their partners.

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

- Worldwide, 35 per cent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point.
- Adult women constitute nearly half of all victims of human trafficking worldwide.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL AND VERBAL VIOLENCE**

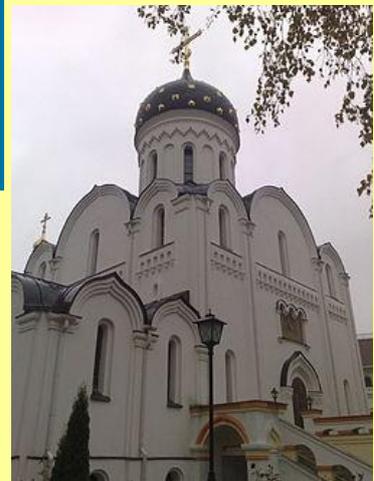
- In the European Union, one in 10 women report having experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15.
- Girls are at greater risk of suffering psychological harassment at school.
- Domestic violence may include various forms of psychological and emotional abuse including intimidation, threats, disparagement, or insults.



The Sisters from St Elizabeth Convent who have been regular visitors to

St Aloysius selling icons and religious gifts to further their ministry in troubled Belorussia... they have a short video of their singing on YouTube...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d14fBmk81YU>



**WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE HEALTH PROBLEMS:**

- Trauma.
- Depression or anxiety disorders.
- Sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV.
- Self-harm or suicide.
- Unwanted pregnancies.
- Problems related to alcohol and drug use.

And finally, from Hollywood, the ever-impressive Denzel Washington gave this recent interview to the

Financial Times about his work, his life, his faith... and on stealing from Steven Spielberg...

<https://on.ft.com/3c5vm5o>



**Pope Francis invites us to reflect:**

- We must not look the other way: the testimonies of the victims who dare to break their silence are a cry for help that we cannot ignore.
- We can understand our degree of humanity by how we treat a woman's body.
- Every form of violence inflicted upon a woman is a blasphemy against God, who was born of a woman.

*"If we want a better world, that will be a peaceful home and not a battlefield, we all need to do a lot more for the dignity of each woman."*

Pope Francis

Main sources: UN WOMEN; Facts and Figures: Ending Violence against Women (November 2020); 17 Sustainable Health Organization/World Health Organization (November 2019); 23rd World Day of Prayer, Month of the Holy Family of the Holy Spirit (January 2020); Pelletier, Anne-Marie: *Égalité des femmes avec des hommes* (2019).

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network