

NEWSLETTER



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

2nd WEEK OF LENT

28th February – 6th March 2021

This week:

Sunday 28th February 2nd **Sunday of Lent**

Monday 1st March *Feria*

Tuesday 2nd March *Feria*

Wednesday 3rd March *Feria*

Thursday 4th March *Feria*

Friday 5th March *Feria*

Saturday 6th March *Feria*

St Aloysius, 25 Rose Street, Glasgow

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Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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

Please remember in your prayers those who have died
especially

Hugh English

(Hugh lived locally on Garnethill, will be remembered by many in St Aloysius Church as one of the pass-keepers at the midday mass. Cheerful and conversational with a shock of white hair, he had been fragile in health in recent times but died peacefully on Thursday, 25th February. The funeral will be in the middle of March.)

+

May he rest in Peace



Easter Church Opening?

If you have been following the rather runic announcements about the easing of lockdown and the possible opening of public buildings, the latest word from Government is that places of worship will be allowed to open on **Monday 5th April**, which would be Easter Monday. Whether this date might be drawn forward a little for Holy Week is a question, but even then it is highly likely that would be back only into **Tier 4** and thus limited to **20 people**. If that was the case we would most likely just open St Aloysius for prayer and confessions, and celebrate the **Sacred Triduum** (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) online.

Unless you are **Welsh** – when the 1st March is **St David's Day** – this is a rather quiet week for saints & feast days... although scroll down to the item on **St Nicolas Owen SJ...**

Lent Retreat

It is never too late to start 'Knowing Jesus' the Lenten retreat. To enter into the options go to the Jesuit Province prayer website and follow the options through: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/lent-retreat-2021> and the St Aloysius Sunday Worship programme on the **First Sunday**



of **Lent** continues to lurk on the BBC Sounds...
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000sgv9>



Edinburgh Lenten Talks



The series organised by the Edinburgh Jesuits continues on Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30pm with guest speaker **Sr Imelda Poole**, of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM) who will be reflecting on **Pope Francis & Modern Slavery**.

Sr Imelda is the President of Religious in Europe Networking Against Human Trafficking (RENATE). In 2018 she received an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for her services in combating modern human slavery.



Go to Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814>
or View on Facebook live by typing "Edinburgh Jesuit Centre" into Facebook

Laudato Si

If it all seems bad news on the environmental front, there was a very uplifting little report on the BBC about the attempt to repair The Walker Swamp in Australia which was an area of wetlands that had been drained and farmed and degraded badly.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-australia-56151304>

Together we can make a difference...



If that might seem a little far away, perhaps to see how your diet might improve your carbon footprint?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>

Fasting

Although many people point-out the *differences* between Christians and Muslims, there are many things we have in common. How does being a Christian in a Muslim country effect the way you Fast during Lent? Here are some reflections from Christians in Pakistan...

https://www.uca-news.com/story-archive/?post_name=/2002/02/27/some-christians-observe-lenten-fast-the-islamic-way&post_id=20178#



Remember that you are dust...

A reflection on Ash Wednesday from the American Jesuit, Fr Michael Rogers SJ in the Huffington Post might be of interest...

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/remember-that-you-are-dus_b_4885347#

St Nicholas Owen SJ

The son of a carpenter, Nicholas Owen was raised in a family dedicated to the faith of the Catholic Church in England. Nicolas became a carpenter & mason by profession and through his life he used his building skills to save the lives of priests and help the underground Church in the England of Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1577 Nicholas became a Jesuit Brother. Father Henry Garnet SJ, Superior of English Jesuits, employed Nicholas to construct hiding places and escape routes in the various country houses used as underground centres throughout England.



Anonymity was his great gift – we don't really know what he looked like and we know of nothing he might have written. By day he worked at the houses maintenance jobs so that no one would question his presence; by night he worked alone, digging tunnels, creating hidden passages and rooms in the house. Some of his rooms were large enough to hold cramped, secretive prayer services, but most were for a single priest to escape the priest-hunters.

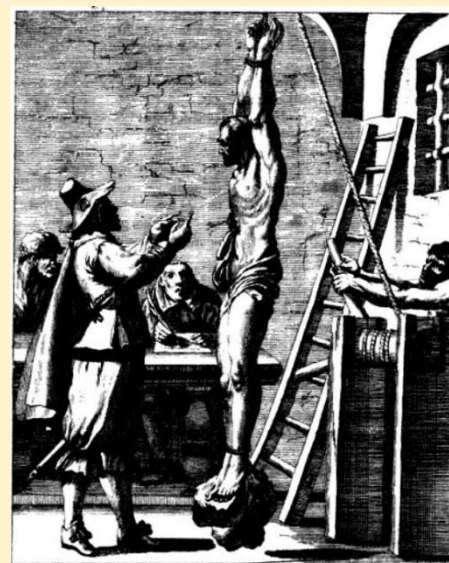


As there were no records of his work, there is no way of knowing how many of these hiding places he built, or how many hundreds of priests he saved. The anti-Catholic authorities eventually learned that the hiding places existed, but had no idea who was doing the work, or how many there were. There are likely still hidden priest-holes in some of the stately homes in England. (*← To the left is Baddesley Clinton, in the English midlands, which has a number of priest-holes built by Nicholas Owen.*)

Following the Gunpowder Plot on 5th November 1605, the English Government decided it was a plot organised by Fr Garnet, so he along with Brother Nicholas and two other Jesuits were forced to flee and hide to escape the priest-hunters. They ended up in Hinlip Hall, near Birmingham - a house with at least 13 of his hiding places. Owen spent four days in one of his secret rooms as the dozens of hunters explored the house; but having no food or water, he finally decided to surrender (partly to see if he could and was taken to the Tower of London.

By now the authorities knew that Owen was the builder and thus they knew that in his head he knew all the secrets of the Catholic houses and their occupants, so he was endlessly tortured for information. (*The engraving on the right was made in 1645.*) On the night of the **1st-2nd March** 1606, while suspended from a wall, chained by his wrists, with weights on his ankles, his stomach split open, spilling his intestines to the floor of the dungeon; he survived for hours before dying from the injury. Because he was under orders not to kill Owen, the torturer spread the rumour that he had committed suicide.

Nicholas Owen was canonised as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales in 1970. **St Nicolas Owen, pray for us!**

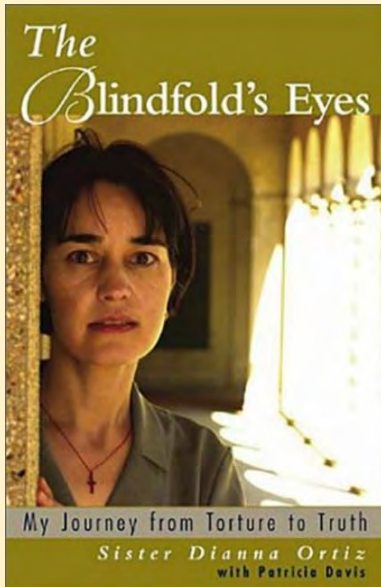


Nicolaus Odöenus Anglus Soc. IESU. odio Religionis Catholice tormentis excruciat Londini in Anglia. A. 1606. 12 Nouembris.

Now if that might seem a little distant from our 'civilised' times, read on...

May she rest in Peace

Sr. Dianna Ortiz, an American Ursuline Sister died of cancer on the 19th February. She was 62 years of age.



Her name might not ring a bell, but Dianne was working as a missionary in Guatemala in Central America when 1989 when she was kidnapped by the CIA-supported Guatemalan security forces because of her work with Indigenous people.

She was taken to a secret detention centre in the capital and she was raped and tortured for 24 hours until she was able to escape. She returned to her family in the United States but her life and her faith were deeply traumatized; she had no memory of her life before the abduction and was unable to recall family members or her Ursuline sisters.

She spent years pursuing justice, but no one in the Guatemalan Military regime has ever been charged, and her memory never fully returned. But the pursuit of justice for herself led to a mission to work for all victims of torture.

While under torture herself, Sr. Dianna made a promise to those whose screams of pain she heard:
"If I survive, I will never forget you. I will tell the world what I have seen and heard."

Read something about her life here... <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/news/news/sr-dianna-ortiz-kidnapping-survivor-and-advocate-torture-victims-dies-62> and watch her own quiet, remarkable & challenging testimony <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXNkWYwHVXo>

God in the Building

Towering above the nearby blocks in a district of Barcelona, the **Sagrada Família** Church is unmistakable for its colossal scale and its convention-defying architecture. Looking like "a Gothic cathedral seen through a surreal fairy-tale filter", this is the most audacious project of the influential Catalan architect, **Antoni Gaudí** (1852-1926). More than 135 years after construction began (and long after Gaudí's death), it is quite visibly still a 'work-in-progress'.

The link below is to a 6 minute film called 'Stone Cut' is a brief profile of the Japanese sculptor, **Etsuro Sotoo**, who, for 40 years, has made finishing Gaudí's would-be masterpiece his own life's work. Capturing the splendour of the Sagrada Família, the beautiful little documentary chronicles how, in committing to transform Barcelona's once 'abandoned ruin' into its crown jewel, Sotoo felt a vocation to 'stone' while in Japan, and has tried to understand the mind and inspiration of Gaudí, becoming a Catholic in the process.

<https://acon.co/videos/surreal-audacious-unfinished-the-sagrada-familia-remains-a-divine-work-in-progress>

