

NEWSLETTER



To the greater glory of God
St ALOYSIUS' CHURCH
a lebanon church founded in 1508

3rd WEEK OF EASTER

3rd SUNDAY of EASTER 18th April

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

3rd Week of Easter

Monday 19th April – Saturday 24th April

Open for registration & Confessions at 11.45am with Mass at 12.15pm

4th SUNDAY of EASTER 25th April

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

St Aloysius, 25 Rose Street, Glasgow, G3 6RE

Tel 0141 332 3039

Email: Staloyisius.garnethill@rcag.org

www.staloyisiusglasgow.org

Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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

Church Regulations Update

The Scottish Government have said that from **26th April** the “50” limit on capacity in churches will be removed. After that date places of worship will not have a fixed maximum, but can find their own safe socially-distanced capacity. The Government is still to issue detailed guidance about how an individual Church like St Aloysius can estimate ‘safe capacity’. Local environmental health departments will be enforcing the safety of church buildings.

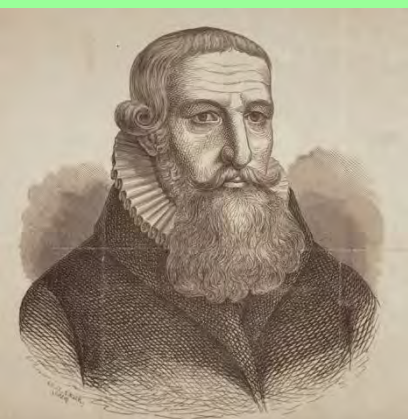
We will still be required to observe 2m distancing, wearing of face-masks, registration, cleaning of the Church etc... so for many churches the practical effect may not be notable (and some churches are too small even for the current maximum).

Baptisms can now take place, subject to the capacity limit of 50 and the general restrictions. Until 26th April the maximum at **Weddings** remains **5** people and at **Funerals** **20** people. **After** 26th April the maximum at both weddings and funerals will theoretically be **50**. If all continues to go well, by early June this limit for should rise to **100** and then **200** at the end of June (although as long as 2m social distancing remains in force this will be theoretical as very few churches would be able to fit 100 or 200 anyway).

The current Government plan is for all of Scotland to move to **Level 3** on 26th April, **Level 2** on 17th May, **Level 1** in early June, and **Level 0** in late June.



Hymns in the time of Plague



There is a new hymn doing the rounds called ‘**Jesus the Essential Worker**’ which might seem weird at first, but it reflects a dynamic through Christian history – life and death can help us sift the important from the unimportant, and words are a way of emphasising insights glimpsed.

A good example of a hymnwriter-in time-of-plague would be the man on the left, **Martin Rinkart** (1586-1649) who was the Protestant Bishop of Eilenberg in Germany during the Thirty Years’ War. Since Eilenberg was a “walled” city, it became a place of refuge for fugitives of the war, and also a place of famine & disease due to overcrowding. In 1637 at the height of their problems, Rinkart was the only clergyman left in the city and he had at times 40 or 50 burials daily – one such burial was even for his wife. During his time as Bishop Rinkart still managed to find the time to write 66 hymns (and various plays!) Including the famous ‘**Now thank we all our God**’ which started out as a grace-before-meals in Eilenberg and now is found in many Christian hymnbooks across the world. This item says a little bit about a modern surge in hymns...

<https://religionunplugged.com/news/2021/4/6/jesus-the-essential-worker-and-other-new-hymns-inspired-by-covid>

Ramadan & the Vatican

The **Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue** in Rome released a message addressed to “all Muslim brothers and sisters” to show solidarity and friendship as they start their month of Ramadan and look ahead to ‘Id al-Fitr. Let us remember to pray for the Muslim community in this time of prayer and fasting.



<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-04/pontifical-council-interreligious-dialogue-ramadan-message.html>

Yes – it's back! There is even a piece of Brother Rene and his art-work!
Some paper-copies at the Church but the e-link is...

<https://www.flourishnewspaper.co.uk/downloads/Flourish-April-2021.pdf>

Myanmar Army raiding Churches...

In the Myanmar military's crackdown against opponents of its 1st February coup, places of worship of all religious affiliations are being targeted with raids by security forces in search of protesters, alleged illegal activities or insurgents. At least four Catholic churches in villages in Myanmar's Patheingyi Diocese in Irrawaddy were raided on 8th April by police and soldiers in search of alleged illegal activities or anti-coup activists. Armed security forces searched inside a Catholic church and checked around the cemetery, according to church sources. The latest targeting of Catholic churches follows military raids on other churches in Kachin state, a Christian stronghold, over the Easter weekend.



<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2021-04/myanmar-military-raids-religious-places-worship.html>

The Military...and ballet

Román Baca (below) returned from war a changed man.

Struggling with depression and anxiety after a combat tour with the US Marines in **Fallujah**, Iraq, from 2005 to 2006, he took a huge risk and returning to his original calling created a dance company in New York called **Exit12**.



Realising the need, Baca & Exit12 expanded beyond performances by professional dancers to offer workshops to veterans and their loved ones.

Devoted to the belief that art heals, the workshops became a safe place for veterans to process memories of war & trauma through the language of dance and reconnect with their humanity.

This is a short, beautifully choreographed, film which shows their work of healing...

<https://psyche.co/films/how-the-language-of-dance-enables-war-veterans-to-process-trauma>

Lockdown Telemedicine concerns...

The **Catholic Parliamentary Office** in Scotland reports on a new opinion-poll that has found that a majority of GPs are concerned about home abortions, including a remarkable 86% who are concerned about women being coerced into abortion under the Scottish Government's proposed permanent telemedicine system.



<https://rcpolitics.org/gps-express-serious-concerns-about-home-abortions/>

Laudato Si



Disposable...

Look closely at the latex glove to the left... It was spotted in August 2020 by volunteers in the Netherlands while they were collecting rubbish along Leiden's *Oude Vest* canal.

It was unsettling: the glove was torn, and wedged inside a gash beneath the thumb, they saw a tail.. which belonged to a fish that swam in and never found its way out. That unfortunate fish – a European perch – is one of many animals (*like the robin tied up with a plastic face-mask to the right*) that recently found themselves at the mercy of the wave of pandemic-related disposables.

Atlas Obscura tells the fuller quite sobering story...

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/covid-trash-affecting-animals>



Who is Lolita?

Aura Lolita Chávez Ixcaquic, (to the right) is a K'iche Maya teacher and community leader in **Guatemala**, was returning home on a bus with other women when armed men boarded the vehicle and demanded to know "*Who is Lolita?*" Thinking she was about to die, she was about to answer... when another woman stood up and said, "I am Lolita." The men began to beat her, when another woman, and then another, said, "No, I am Lolita." She escaped injury that day, but in 2017, she and other members of the **Council of K'iche Peoples for the Defence of Life, Mother Nature, Land & Territory** were attacked after stopping a truck carrying illegally cut timber.



Death threats forced her to leave her country that year. Aura Lolita Chávez Ixcaquic was one of three finalists for the European Parliament's **Sakharov Prize** for Freedom of Thought in 2017, the year she fled Guatemala. On 20th April this year, she will receive the annual **Romero Human Rights Award** from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. The US National Catholic Reporter picks up the story...

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/environmental-justice-award-winner-wc-have-right-live-territory-us-sacred>

Light & Water

1 in 3 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water.

This shocking statistic was released by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation in 2019, and the pandemic has only worsened the situation. It's clear that providing safe water for all is one of the most pressing problems in global health.



Architecture student from Denmark, **Henry Glogau** (right) thinks he has developed a simple solution - and it's cheap to produce and free to use and he has developed a 'skylight' (see left) which produces drinking water alongside light from saltwater. He passed on his design know-how to local people in Chile where water is expensive and power is limited... so they can build their own skylights using materials they already have, like old plastic bottles.

This insightful report from **Euro News**...

<https://www.euronews.com/living/2021/04/09/the-amazing-solar-desalination-skylight-offers-hope-to-millions-without-clean-water>

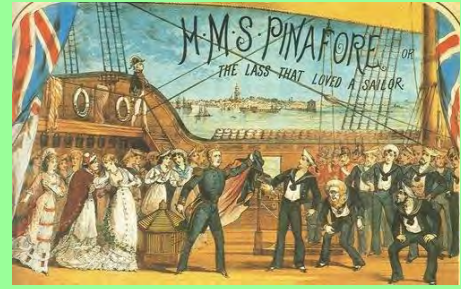


Sullivan... without Gilbert

The Savoy light-operas of **Gilbert & Sullivan** will always remain Arthur Sullivan's most enduring legacy, yet they are not what he wanted to be remembered for.



In a newspaper interview during a visit to the United States in 1885, Sullivan said: *"My sacred music is that on which I base my reputation as a composer. These works are the offspring of my liveliest fancy, the children of my greatest strength, the products of my most earnest thought and most incessant toil."*



This piece from the **Oxford University Press** gives a fascinating (and forgotten) insight into the deep Christian faith of the man, one of the most important of British composers whose religious music has been ignored...

<https://blog.oup.com/2021/04/rehabilitating-the-sacred-side-of-arthur-sullivan-britains-most-performed-composer/>

Wise Man From The West

The BBC World Service is broadcasting **"Chinese Characters"** which is a series of 20 radio essays exploring Chinese history through the life stories of key personalities. One of these is the Italian Jesuit priest **Fr Matteo Ricci SJ**. Ricci was one of the first missionaries who brought the faith to China in the early 17th Century, but he also brought new ideas drawn from the scientific revolution taking place in Europe. A collaboration rather than a conquest, his life (says the BBC) was *"a demonstration that western religion in China didn't have to be about invasion, gunboats and opium trading."* Ricci's approach of serious inculturation and working with Chinese colleagues led to develop ideas in astronomy, mathematics and even music which changed the Chinese impression of 'the barbarians' from the West.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09ybj36>

BBC
SOUNDS

Melinda Gates on 'Heart & Soul'

As part of another BBC World Service series, Razia Iqbal speaks to **Melinda Gates**, the wife of Bill Gates the founder of Microsoft. She is a practicing Catholic and with Bill is the co-founder of the **Gates Foundation** which is the world's biggest philanthropic organisation.

In the discussion, Melinda tells how her Catholic education and upbringing have inspired her to try to improve the health and conditions of millions of people of around the world.

She describes, also, how she has had to think through her faith in ethical matters and speaks about criticism and misinformation about herself and Bill's work with the Covid-19 vaccine rollout. And she also talks about redressing the balance between billionaires and the poor.



An interesting interview with a thoughtful person... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct2cm1>