

NEWSLETTER



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

4th WEEK OF EASTER

4th SUNDAY of EASTER 25th April

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

4th Week of Easter

Monday 26th April – Saturday 1st May

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

5th SUNDAY of EASTER 2nd May

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

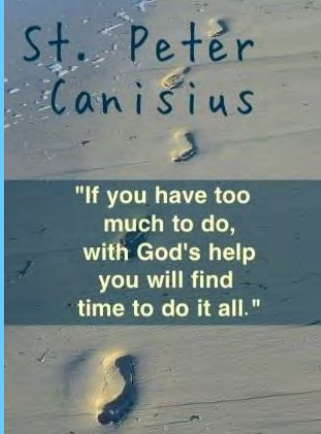
Tel 0141 332 3039

Email: Staloysius.garnethill@rcag.org

www.staloysiusglasgow.org

Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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



This Week...

Although Easter is still the dominant theme, one or two feast days can be glimpsed in the liturgical undergrowth... On **Wednesday**, for example, it is the anniversary of the [Dedication of the Cathedral in Glasgow](#). We also celebrate two great reformers in the Church: On **Tuesday** 27th April Jesuits remember [St Peter Canisius SJ](#), a Jesuit who through his tireless research, teaching and evangelisation became a key-player in the 16th Century resurgence of European Catholicism known as

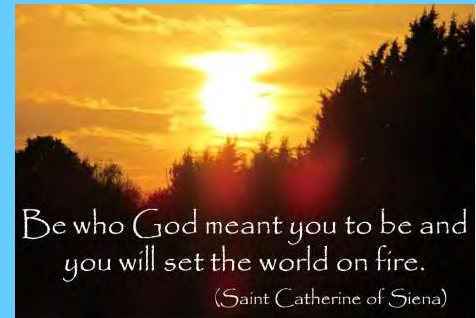
'The Counter-Reformation'. Then on **Thursday** it is the Feast of the remarkable Dominican, [St Catherine of Sienna](#), who through her dedication & persistence managed to hold together the 14th Century Church by encouraging weak Popes, negotiating between cities at war, uprooting corruption, reforming the training of priests, nuns & monks and still managed to author several books on faith and the spiritual life...

She died when she was only 33. Makes you feel like an under-achiever... ☺

Church Regulations Update

From Monday 26th April the upper-limit of numbers to attend **Mass at St Aloysius will be 75 people**. We will be re-arranging the white squares ■ around the central body of the Church to expand to the natural limit. We are still required to observe 2m distancing, wearing of face-masks, with the regime of registration at the door & cleaning of the Church after each service etc... The **Side-Chapels**, the **Ogilvie Centre** and the **Toilets** remain off-limits until further notice. [Weddings](#), [Baptisms](#) & [Funerals](#) can all now technically have an upper limit of 50 people; but because of the associated regulations & cleaning requirements a lower number than 50 might be required.

Our sincere thanks to all those who have been volunteering for the reception and cleaning details – your efforts have kept us open! If you can help with reception or cleaning, please let us know. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**



Death Squads in Guatemala

Although the struggle for human rights in El Salvador is well documented – and produced martyrs like **St Oscar Romero** – less well known is the similar conflict in neighbouring **Guatemala** between its military regime and various left wing groups during the years 1960 to 1996. During that period over **200,000** people were killed, often by Government death-squads. As in El Salvador, around the 1980's the Church began to undergo systematic persecution for its role in the defence of the dignity and rights of the poor.

On Friday last week, ten such martyrs from Guatemala were Beatified (the step before canonisation) for their faith. You see a painting of them below right. One of the ten was **Juanito** who was twelve years of age when he died, but he was deeply dedicated to the Church – soldiers raiding his village tortured him and then hung him on a tree and shot him.

The Bishop of their diocese explained. "Our martyrs were truly missionaries on the move. They went from house to house, keeping the faith alive, praying with their sisters and brothers, evangelizing, imploring the God of life. They were men of great faith, of great trust in God, but at the same time of great dedication to bring about a change, a different Guatemala."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-04/beatification-ten-martyrs-quiche-guatemala.html>





Dead Sea Scrolls meet A.I.

In a new study, highlighting the use of A.I. in the study of ancient documents, researchers at the University of Groningen's **Qumran Institute** have put together a robust investigation into the palaeography – “*the study of old handwriting!*” – of one of the original scrolls – an early text of the **Book of Isaiah**.

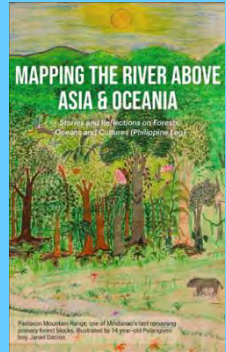
Through a series of painstaking processes including digitisation, machine reading and statistical analysis, the team propose that two scribes, with very similar handwriting, probably wrote the two halves of the manuscript.

<https://theconversation.com/dead-sea-scrolls-two-scribes-probably-wrote-one-of-the-manuscripts-159169>



A River Above Asia?

River Above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Network (RAOEN) seeks to sustain dialogue and collaborative engagements among the Church, indigenous, and local communities, youth, and other faith-based organizations within and beyond Asia and Oceania, as we work towards an understanding of what is possible in the care for our forests, oceans, and peoples. They have various items (*like a piece about some Sisters and their attempts at organic gardening.* <https://www.raoen.org/2021/04/05/organic-gardening-as-a-work-of-heart/>) Most intriguing, however, is their short meditative video on **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8qPkM-1Ijo> which over a few minutes shows the atmospheric changes that took place over Asia & Oceania over a single year... with the clouds and typhoons forming and dispersing. And THAT, my dear people, is the river that runs above Asia... ©



10,000 Years ago...

...Human beings had already touched 75% of the earth's land. An interesting report from the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)** on a study modelling human history that indicates that now only 19% of the Earth's land could still be classed as 'wild' or untouched. A multidisciplinary team of researchers from several universities looked at human impact on the planet and the study reveals that it's not the presence of people *per se* that sends biodiversity on a downward spiral, but it's

the **over-exploitation of resources** when we get there. <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/04/just-19-earth-s-land-still-wild-analysis-suggests>

The Park Ranger Nun

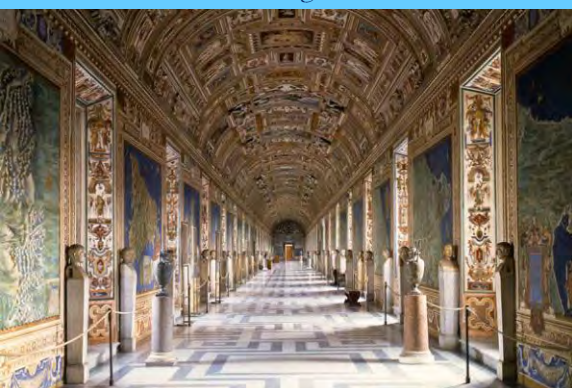
American environmentalist **Molly Burhans** (on the right) calls herself a "park ranger nun". She is a devout Catholic, who is also a ground-breaking **cartographer** who is trying to map all the land holdings of the global Catholic Church so that they can be used for environmental and social justice purposes.

Initially Molly thought that the Church would know how much land it has stewardship of – but when she was invited to the Vatican (despite the fantastic **Gallery of Maps** – see below left!) it was clear that it didn't! Molly uses G.I.S. software, which organizes complex data and presents it geographically (see <https://good-lands.org/>) so it's easier to analyse and understand, to build a clearer picture of all the assets of the Church.



She calculates in the various dioceses, congregations, colleges and organisations steward **177 million acres of land** – which is larger than the land-area of France – and makes the Catholic Church probably the **world's largest non-state landowner**.

Molly sees this as an incredible opportunity for the Church to be at the forefront of climate action, putting its land to better use and protecting vulnerable populations from the effects of global warming. This link explains more of her work <https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/articles/bringing-digital-transformation-to-the-catholic-church/> She was interviewed by **BBC World Service's 'Outlook'** last week (go to the 26 minutes 30 seconds mark to find it) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/wxt1k2w>





The Floating Church

Lutheran Deacon **Mark Moeller** of Hamburg, Germany, offers spiritual guidance to the seaport's ship-bound workers. He serves his congregation from one of Europe's few floating churches.

Haikai Magazine caught up with him to ask about his work... <https://www.hakaimagazine.com/article-short/coastal-job-port-deacon/>

The Washing Machine Project



Nav Sawhney (on the right) is an Engineer from Bath in Somerset. While on a sabbatical in India he was inspired to create a simple washing when he saw women and children "enduring many backbreaking hours", washing clothes by hand. He turned his mind to the design (see the blue barrel on the right) and with some help from **Oxfam** he piloted it in the refugee camps in Iraq. It could be a real life saver for the health and hygiene of the poor and vulnerable. See this report on the BBC...



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-56859828>



European Super League?

In 2016 **Pope Francis** (to the left being taught to spin a basketball by the Harlem Globe-Trotters!) addressed the 1st Sports for Humanity Conference during which he said:

"...and I desire to point out also a task and a challenge for you, representatives of sport and of the businesses that sponsor sporting events. The challenge is that of maintaining the honesty of sport, of protecting it from the manipulations and commercial abuse. It would be sad for sport and for humanity if people were unable to trust in the truth of sporting results, or if cynicism and disenchantment were to drown out enthusiasm or joyful and disinterested participation. In sport, as in life, competing for the result is important, but playing well and fairly is even more important!"

<https://sportforhumanity.com/>



Gold Medal Olympian

Dominique Dawes from the USA is a three-time Olympian, an Olympic gold medallist and now a successful coach.



However in 1996, she was a teenage girl feeling the weight of the world on her shoulders...

"Before the **1996 Olympic games** in **Atlanta**, all of us, we were known as **The Magnificent Seven** being the first women's team to win gold. And I felt, and I'm sure my other six teammates felt that as well, a great deal of pressure. It was in the Georgia dome, with 50,000 people watching. 3.4 billion people, I've been told, watching worldwide. Prior to marching out...I broke down emotionally. It was just like, 'Oh my gosh, this is too much for me. What if I make a mistake now? I'm not ready.' And this is something I had prepared for, for my whole childhood."

Dominique was interviewed earlier in this month by the **Catholic News Agency** in the US and she tells of the road which led to her becoming a Catholic...

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/247259/three-time-olympian-shares-her-conversion-story>

