

NEWSLETTER



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

7th WEEK OF EASTER

7th SUNDAY of EASTER 16th May

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

7th Week of Easter

Mon – Sat open for registration & Confessions at 11.45am with Mass at 12.15pm

PENTECOST SUNDAY 23rd 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

Website: www.staloysiusglasgow.org

Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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

This Week...

On the fortieth day of the Easter Season, we celebrated **The Ascension of Jesus** into heaven (Acts 1.8-11). Ten days later, the Easter season culminates in Pentecost Sunday when we commemorate the Holy Spirit coming down upon the disciples of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2). For Christians, Pentecost is second only in importance to Easter (more important than Christmas!) and it is seen as the birth of The Church and the beginning of its mission to go out to all nations and proclaim the Good News.

Like Passover, **PENTECOST** is also a Jewish celebration – known originally as ‘The Feast of Weeks’ (7 weeks of 7 days) it was an agricultural festival giving thanks to God for the harvesting of the first fruits of the land. The name ‘Pentecost’ comes from the Greek meaning ‘50’ and, for Jews and Christians, marks 50 days after the Passover/Easter.

The Ministry of Catechist

Following on discussions with the various parts of the Church, **Pope Francis** has now decided to continue a development of formal ministries in the Church, looking in particular at the large spectrum of lay Catholics across the world who are engaged in teaching the faith and carry responsibility for **Catechising**. In some parts of the world, especially in Asia and South America, the Catechist is the **ONLY** minister in the local community. In the **northern Amazon**, for example, some communities are so deep into the forest that they get a visit from a priest once a year, so the faithfulness and energy of a local Catechist might be the key tap-root of the Holy

Spirit. As the Vatican observed this week the role of Catechist is **“a service with ancient roots that looks to the future.”** The **National Catholic Reporter** gives some reflections on the move. <https://www.ncronline.org/news/quick-reads/long-line-holy-catechists-have-served-church-pope-notes>

The painting above is “The Catechism Lesson” by Jules-Alexis Muenier, 1890

Jesuit Online Ministry

Firstly, the **British Jesuits** have a brand **new website** which went live on Ascension Thursday. ‘T is very swish.... Explore! <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/>

Secondly, on the Jesuit website **‘Thinking Faith’** there are many articles on Bible, culture, theology and spirituality to explore. It being **Mental Health Week** they have flagged up a series on psychology and spirituality which might be of interest... <https://www.thinkingfaith.org/tags/mental-health>

Taboo: the Power of Pigs

The week’s international news has been dominated by the upsurge in violence across Palestine/Israel. Taking a step back, this thoughtful piece by Max Price uses the appearance of **Wild Boar** in the streets of **Haifa** to reflect on the way that pigs can be a lens in understanding the underlying religious & cultural similarities and tensions between Jews and Muslims in the modern Middle East...

<https://blog.oup.com/2021/05/the-power-of-pigs-tension-and-taboo-in-haifa-israel/>



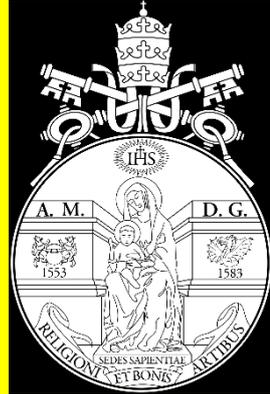
Building Blocks for Moral Education



On 21st June the American Moral Theologian, Fr Jim Keenan SJ, (left) is giving an online lecture the Gregorian University in Rome on ethical decision-making in education. **The Pontifical Gregorian University** is the international Jesuit university in Rome that educates priests, seminarians, religious and laypeople from all over the world for service in the Church.

NB: the Greg's advertising tag-line: "It is where the Church does its thinking." ©

To register go to <https://gregorianfoundation.org/lecture/>



"Everywhere there is Pain..."

In the out-of-control COVID disaster engulfing **India**, six Catholic sisters describe their experiences as health workers, as tribal citizens, as compassionate caregivers and as victims of the virus themselves.



Despite the pressures grace continues to shine through. As **Sr Dorothy Fernandes** right (Congregation of the Presentation of Our Lady) writes:

"An 83-year-old man in Nagpur in the state of Maharashtra who tested positive was being treated in a hospital. A young woman came in crying, looking for a bed for her husband, 40, who had tested positive. Hearing this, this elderly man was moved. He said, "I have lived my life. This lady needs her husband. I will give him my bed." He signed the papers and agreed to move out. Three days later, he breathed his last at his home." Read more...



<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/coronavirus/news/everywhere-there-pain-indian-sisters-life-covid-19-hotspot>

Things to Ponder..?

How Hitler killed the Devil

Historian and author, **Tom Holland**, reflects on the fact that in a world without God, the Führer became the ultimate benchmark of morality. <https://unherd.com/2021/04/how-hitler-killed-the-devil/>



Philosophy with Children.

In a thoughtful essay on the Aeon website, **Jana Mohr Lone** reflects on the fact that, playful and probing, children can be closer to the grain of life's deepest questions than adults. Lone is director of the Center for Philosophy for Children and affiliate associate professor at the University of Washington.

<https://aeon.co/essays/how-to-do-philosophy-with-not-for-children>

Wellness?

In a provocative short piece, journalist **Elizabeth Oldfield**, writes "Spirituality which just equips us to be better foot soldiers in a market society characterised by desperate consumption and expressive individualism is not spirituality at all." <https://unherd.com/the-post/wellness-is-no-replacement-for-religion/>



Spem in Alium

Bat-eared listeners in St Aloysius in the last few weeks might have caught the echoes of **Thomas Tallis's** composition **Spem in Alium** (*Hope in any other*) which is one of the most complex pieces of choral music ever written. Scored in 1570 for 40 individual voices, the piece creates an extraordinary wall of sound. In an episode of the **BBC Soul Music** series, author Michael Morpurgo is just one of the contributors who discuss the history of the remarkable piece's spine-tingling effect on both performers and listeners. An absorbing, prayerful programme... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008tn7d>



Laudato Si'

CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

On the evening of 26th May you are invited...

to join a Zoom gathering (hosted jointly by SCIAF and Justice & Peace Scotland) to mark the sixth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical. There will be hear from a range of speakers about their hopes and prayers for the year ahead and how their faith inspires them to take action to respond to the climate crisis.

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/events/600-everything-and-everyone-is-connected>



"The Candles of Stritennya"

This solidarity initiative is promoted by the **Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's** Office for Ecology. It aims to feed the poor of the Eastern European nation, by making and selling the characteristic **candles** (see right) used at this time of the year in the liturgy. The initiative stems from a deep-rooted need to respond to the call of Pope Francis in "Laudato Si'". This is a short little video telling of the project...

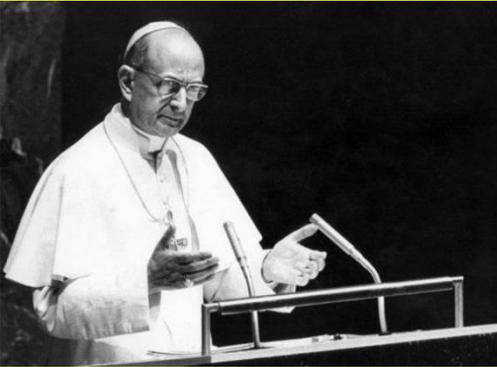
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KwWNqmZ9Q>



Fifty years ago...

'*Octogesima Adveniens*' was published. In it, **Pope Paul VI** (shown on the right speaking to the UN) spoke about "**flagrant inequalities**" between nations, the exodus toward the large urban centres, about the dignity of women and the pluralism of political options. Pope Paul criticized ideologies from all sides of the political spectrum and defended the right of the Church to express itself regarding social matters. There is a "kind of fatalism which is gaining hold even on people in positions of responsibility" he wrote. Pope Paul spoke also of the environment and warns that through "*an ill-considered exploitation of nature*"; we "*risk destroying it and becoming in our turn the victim of this degradation*". The **Vatican News** recalls the publication in May 1971 and the prophetic nature of the document in the light of our present world.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/the-pope-s-duty-to-be-an-advocate-of-the-poor.html>



Polluter Pays?

There are already examples around the world where the manufacturer helps to pay for the safe disposal of waste from their goods once used - such as electronic items or bottles. **But what about the carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels?** Where would all that carbon dioxide go? How much storage space would we need for it? How can this be done creatively? This episode of "**39 Ways to Save the Planet**" reflects on the issue...<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v8wm>



And finally... Mel & Mark

Mark Wahlberg, who went through a profound change to return to the practice of his Catholic faith, has been wanting to film the life of **Father Stuart Long** for a number of years; and now with backing from **Mel Gibson** (*another Catholic... if perhaps a little more eccentric in his re-engagement... ☺*) it seems to be moving forward. **Stuart Long** attended Catholic schools but he turned away from the faith. While attending college he found a release in boxing. When that proved unsuccessful, he went to Hollywood to try his hand in the movie industry. That, too, wasn't working out when one day, his motorcycle was hit by one car and he was badly injured. While he was in the hospital, he rediscovered his faith and set out to pursue the priesthood, going to a Benedictine Abbey in Oregon. He was soon diagnosed with a rare degenerative muscle disease. At the time of his ordination, he was using crutches. Eventually, he ministered in Montana using a motorized wheelchair. **Stuart died in 2014.**

<https://thecatholicuniverse.com/wahlberg-ready-to-bring-fr-stus-brave-story-to-the-big-screen/>

