

NEWSLETTER



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

12th Sunday of the Year (20th June)

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

12th Week of the Church Year

Mon-Sat: open for registration & Confessions at 11.45am, with Mass at 12.15pm

Monday 21st June **ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA SJ**

Tuesday 22nd June: St John Fisher & St Thomas More

Thursday 24th June **THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

13th Sunday of the Year (27th June)

Sunday 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

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Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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



This Week

A number of significant memorials in this week's liturgy – beginning with the Patronal Feast of our Church – St Aloysius Gonzaga SJ whom we remember on Monday 21st June – note the ferocious coat of arms of the Gonzaga family to the right.



In times of political turmoil and ambiguity it is always good to remember St John Fisher & St Thomas More (Tuesday 22nd June) who stood firm against King Henry VIII and were martyred for their integrity in 1535.

As in the above cases, the Church normally celebrates a saint's death (as it is their day of entry into heaven) but on Thursday 24th June the Church celebrates the solemnity of The Birthday of John the Baptist, one of only THREE birthdays in the Church's liturgical year.... I'll now leave you to work out the other two...

Prayers for...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catriona Malone, her funeral & burial took place on Tuesday. May she rest in Peace



Please remember a number of our parishioners who have had health problems recently: Frank Bell had a stroke during the week and is recovering in hospital; David Chadwick is awaiting heart surgery later this month; Mary Coyle has been unwell; while Bernadette Donaghue continues to recover from her operation. Please remember them all in your prayers.



Around the World...

Hong Kong

Agnes Chow, left, a Catholic pro-democracy activist, has been released from prison in Hong Kong after serving more than 6 months for attending an "unlawful" assembly in 2019. A good piece on this brave lady from The Pillar...

<https://www.pillaratholic.com/p/catholic-pro-democracy-leader-released>

In 2019 she gave an interview where she stated: "I'm a Catholic. I do think that my participation in social movements is affected by my religion. When I was young, my dad brought me to the church. We need to learn, we have to care, about the people who are being oppressed and people who are weak and need help. Not only Christianity and Catholics, many of the religions in the world, the basic lesson is that we need to learn how to care about people who need help and people who are weak. So that's why I care."

<https://religionunplugged.com/news/2019/8/19/hong-kong-activist-agnes-chow-faith-gives-us-belief-and-courage-to-fight-for-freedom>



Tigray

Somewhat off the UK media radar, yet in the midst of a rolling genocide and on the brink of starvation, please keep in mind Tigray which is a northern region of the ethnically diverse country of Ethiopia.

A couple of years ago there was much optimism in that part of Africa when the new President of Ethiopia made a historic peace deal with the traditional enemies in Eritrea – they even gave him the Nobel Peace Prize. Since then though, the President has engaged in a civil war with his own people in Tigray – and has enlisted the brutal help of the new allies in Eritrea, catching the people of Tigray in a military pincer from north and south. As always it is the poor and voiceless who suffer.



Mary's Meals have been trying to assist <https://twitter.com/marysmeals/status/139691252283503616> and the BBC World Service flagship programme 'Newshour' conducted an illuminating interview with Professor Alex De Waal (right) a specialist in the conflict's complexities.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/a172w44mb00ykd> (join the programme at 18.12)





Myanmar

Myanmar's military raided a Catholic parish house in the western state of Chin and arrested a priest suspected of supporting a civil resistance group. Around 8 am on 16th June **Father Michael Aung Ling** (right) was arrested in the compound of St. Michael's Church in Kanpetlet town, the parish under the Diocese of Hakha, the state capital. After finding rice bags stored in the parish house, soldiers suspected the priest of supplying food to the Chinland Defense Force (CDF). After questioning him for 11 hours and making him sign a commitment letter, the army released the priest. The Vatican takes up the story... <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-06/myanmar-priest-arrested-kanpetlet-church-attacks-military-coup.html>



US Supreme Court ~ Fostering

In a rare show of unanimity, all nine justices on the **US Supreme Court** ruled on Thursday in favour of **Catholic Social Services** (CSS) in a case related to the City of Philadelphia's refusal to renew a contract for CSS to continue its mission of providing foster care services. Philadelphia had failed to renew CSS' license due to the agency's refusal to allow unmarried couples and same-sex couples to act as foster parents. CSS, which is run by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, sued on the grounds that the city's refusal violated the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. **In a 9-0 decision** released on Thursday, the Justices of the Supreme Court sided with the Catholic agency, saying Philadelphia was forcing CSS to violate its religious beliefs in order to operate. The Vatican website reports... <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-06/usa-supreme-court-fulton-philadelphia-catholic-marriage.html>



Vaccines

Pope Francis has been unambiguous on the topic of vaccines, suggesting that a refusal to take the vaccine is "suicidal." For these efforts, the head of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, **Dr Francis Collins**, interviewed by the **National Catholic Reporter** in the US, praises the Vatican's leadership in the push for vaccine acceptance as extremely helpful. **"Having a leader in the Catholic Church who has been so outspoken, and so willing to lay out the facts and not be dissuaded by a lot of the myths and even conspiracies, has been really helpful. I'm really delighted the Vatican has taken on this role."** Collins, who is a practicing Christian and, in 2009, was appointed by **Pope Benedict XVI** to the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences, says he agrees with Pope Francis' assessment and *"...not just because he and I have the same name."* ☺ <https://www.ncoonline.org/news/coronavirus/dr-francis-collins-vaticans-covid-19-vaccine-push-extremely-helpful>



Jonah 2021

On June 11, a commercial lobster diver, **Michael Packard**, was nearly swallowed whole by a **Humpback whale** off the coast of Provincetown, Massachusetts. The encounter only lasted about 30 seconds before the whale resurfaced and belched him out. Except for serious bruising and a dislocated knee, Packard escaped virtually unscathed. The once-in-a-lifetime encounter occurred while Packard was about 45 feet deep into the water searching for lobsters. Then, he felt a huge push, almost like a "truck hit me and everything just went dark." Humpbacks are not aggressive animals and reports of whales attacking humans are very rare. **As one expert said, the Whale was probably as surprised as Mr Packard.** On a live chat show afterwards, Mr Packard said that if Hollywood ever make the film, he'd like to be played by Matt Damon... ☺ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cape-cod-lobster-diver-was-swallowed-whale-and-then-spit-back-out-18097398/>



The Sea of Galilee Storm Heist

On 19 March 1990 at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** in Boston, two men posing as police officers made-off with treasures by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Delgas and Manet in one of the biggest unsolved art thefts in history.

The walls of the office of Anthony Amore, the chief of security since 2005 are covered with reproductions of the 13 works stolen. At Amore's home, drawings by his daughters of **Rembrandt's The Storm on the Sea of Galilee**, (detail right) one of the works that was taken, hang on the door of his refrigerator. "I'm still wildly obsessed, more than ever," he says. "I constantly think about those paintings." <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/strange-tales-from-the-gardner-museum-heist>



Finding the Mother Tree

Laudato Si'
CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

In **'Finding the Mother Tree,'** a book by forest ecologist **Professor Suzanne Simard,** (below right) tries to illuminate the complicated and intimate world of trees. Her academic results showed (for example) that birch and fir trees communicate: It was, she said, **"like intercepting a covert conversation over the airwaves that could change the course of history."** The communication happens through a network of dozens of fungi that connect the roots of the trees, and it's a finding that Simard made repeatedly in her experiments. Simard writes that our recognition that forests have **"elements of intelligence helps us leave behind old notions that they are inert, simple, linear, and predictable."**

Two recent pieces on Simard's intriguing book – one from **The Undark** website and one from **The Observer.**

<https://undark.org/2021/06/18/book-review-finding-the-mother-tree/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/24/suzanne-simard-finding-the-mother-tree-woodwide-web-book-interview>



The Disciples of Jesus

In **Mark's gospel,** Jesus is never alone; he is always accompanied by disciples who were appointed, **'to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and to cast out demons'** (3:14-15).

Jesus told them that it was to them that the mystery of the kingdom of God was being given (4:11). Sometimes they are *examples* to the reader, as in their ready response to the call of Jesus by the lakeside (1:16-20) and in their going off on mission on his behalf (6:12-13). On their return, they gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught (6:30). They continued to follow him even when they were amazed and afraid (10:32). They readily obeyed his instructions to prepare the Passover meal (14:16).

Yet their behaviour at other times reveals cause for disappointment and alarm. Three times they failed when in a boat with Jesus: they panicked during the storm (4:38); and again when he came to them walking on the water (6:50); and yet again when they failed to grasp his warning about the leaven of the **Pharisees** (8:21). On the road to Jerusalem, they three times refused to heed his warning about his coming suffering (8:32; 9:34; 10:37).

In Jerusalem, when agitated and distressed in Gethsemane, he appealed to them to keep awake; they fell asleep (14:37) and when the mob that came to arrest him, & seized him, they all ran away (14:50). **Peter,** the first name in the list of the Twelve (3:16), denied three times that he ever knew Jesus (14:68, 70, 71). There is no mention of the disciples in the account of the death of Jesus, and whereas the disciples of **John the Baptist** had been at hand to bury John after his being put to death by Herod (6:29), the disciples of Jesus played no part in his burial.

Yet if we feel ourselves justified in condemning these disciples for apostasy and infidelity in their following of Jesus, we are brought up short when we read the message of the young man speaking to the women at the empty tomb, **'Go and tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee'** (16:7).

If we condemn them, Jesus did not.

Words: Fr Peter Edmonds SJ on ThinkingFaith
Images: 'The Gospel of John' (Film 2003)

And F*nally

From **Lapham's Quarterly** (just in case you cancelled your subscription) a wonderful history of the symbol first encountered 5000 years ago in **Sumerian Cuneiform,** (left) and which was used in the early editing of **Homer** and was important in the development of the **Bible.** Derived from the Greek word meaning "little star," Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you – the **Asterisk.**

<https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/star-born>

