

NEWSLETTER



To the greater glory of God
St ALOYSIUS' CHURCH
a Jesuit church founded in 1905

13th Sunday of the Year (27th June).

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

13th Week of the Church Year

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

Monday 28th June: St Irenaeus

Tuesday 29th June: St PETER & St PAUL

Saturday 3rd July: St THOMAS

14th Sunday of the Year (4th July)

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

Email: Stalloysius.garnethill@rcag.org

Website: www.stalloysiusglasgow.org

Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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

This week

We celebrate **St Irenaeus** and **St Thomas** in the coming seven days, but the heavy-duty solemnity is

Sts Peter & Paul

It is normally a **Holy Day of Obligation** in Scotland, Wales and England, but Covid restrictions continue and so please notify anyone you know who might be both shielding and worried, that it is not an Obligation this year.

Sts Peter and Paul were so different in their backgrounds – **Peter** was skilled in the craft and economics of fishing around the Sea of Gennesaret and understood the dynamics of tightly entwined rural village politics of Galilee and was at ease in the role of leadership; **Paul** was the cosmopolitan Roman citizen, born in modern-day Turkey, highly educated in his Jewish faith as a Pharisee in Jerusalem, with the cultures of Greece and Rome at his fingertips.

Peter would have had enough Hebrew to understand the language of the sabbath synagogue services, but likely spoke Aramaic at home and in the boat; his Greek would have been rough-&-workmanlike – enough to answer the challenge of a Roman auxiliary soldier, or to sell some catfish to a passing Gentile. **Paul** likely had excellent Greek and Hebrew, a working knowledge of Aramaic and Latin that improved when in Rome.

What else can we learn from the scriptures? **Peter** at some point had been married (because we know he had a Mother-in-Law whom Jesus healed); **Paul** was a professional tent-maker, who used these skills to make money to keep him from living on the charity of the Corinthians. Peter and Paul knew each other, but as **Acts of the Apostles** and the **letters of Paul** indicate, although they respected each other but probably weren't close friends.

Yet it is their differences that we should celebrate because it is their diverse backgrounds and gifts and characters which allowed the Spirit of God to reach out through the variety of human beings and, in the decades that followed the death of Jesus, to touch all corners of the known world with the message of the Resurrection.

Prayers for...

Please remember to pray for those who are sick and in particular a number of our parishioners who have had health problems:

Frank Bell... David Chadwick... Mary Coyle... Bernadette Donaghue



Around the World...

'The Universe' Closes

Sadly two Catholic Newspapers have had to close due to the uncertainties for the print media – **The Universe** (the regular paper at the back of many Churches parishes in the UK including St Aloysius) and **The Catholic Times**. **Cardinal Nichols** led the tributes... "I receive this news with great sadness. It is an historic moment which comes as a 'sign of the times'. The Universe has served the Catholic community devotedly since 1860. But now no more..."

Read more on the **Independent Catholic News** website...

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42395>



Catholic
universe

A Safeguarding Update

The **Catholic Bishops of England & Wales** (CBEW) have announced the creation of a new **survivor reference panel** made up of victims of clerical sexual abuse so to ensure that their voices are heard and learnt from. The processes of review in Scotland have been different to England & Wales and the Vatican web-site does a helpful summary of the recent reports south of the border...

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-06/england-wales-bishops-survivor-reference-panel-against-abuse.html>



'Home is a feeling not a place'

'Home is a feeling not a place', is a compilation of creative writing from the refugee friends of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). The short paperback volume is the first published work of **JRS UK's Open Writing Space**, featuring poetry and prose written by eight refugees and asylum seekers. The volume explores themes including lockdown, the meaning of 'home', the climate emergency, and

peace. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42431>



The **JRS Legal Project**, will be speaking on next Wednesday evening series. Entitled '**Supporting Fresh Claims**' this webinar is part of an Accompaniment in Action series and will take a closer look at their legal work offering support and advice to destitute asylum seekers, and people experiencing the effects of immigration detention. For more information about the online Legal Project session see

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42494>

European Foundations...

As a number of media outlets have reported the official road to possible sainthood has begun for **Robert Schuman**, left, a devout Catholic layman, and one of the architects of the post-WWII European reality. **Schuman Square** to the right...

See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/19/eu-founding-father-robert-schuman-moves-a-step-closer-to-sainthood> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-57524918>



Something in the present reality of Europe which would have worried Schuman is some of the permissive deregulation of abortion legislation, and the **European Catholic Bishops** have responded to a controversial report before the European Parliament last week that referred to abortion an "essential health service" and a "human right". The Vatican website reports... <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-06/comece-eu-parliament-bishops-abortion-matic-report.html>

Across the Atlantic the **US Bishops** are getting into stormy waters as they have been having a semi-public discussion on the Eucharist and who can receive it – the Vatican website pours some cooling balm onto proceedings...

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-06/ua-bishops-ata-in-favour-of-drafting-document-on-eucharist.html>

You might not think it possible to write a thoughtful piece weaving **all** of the above items together, so a round of applause for **Mary Harrington**, writing on the **Unherd** website, who has done so! <https://unherd.com/the-post/a-battle-of-faiths-liberals-clash-with-catholics-on-abortion/>

Lawyers in Pakistan

Do you remember the **Asia Bibi** case? A Christian woman condemned to death in Pakistan because she was accused by someone in her village of speaking against Islam? Fortunately the higher courts released Asia Bibi and she went to live abroad. Behind this and many other such blasphemy cases are a number of brave lawyers who have stood up to the injustices in the Pakistani courts. Asia Bibi's lawyer, **Saif ul Malook**, (see right) continues to face for death threats. He spoke to the BBC...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-57516630>



Uyghurs in China



Injustice against Muslims in China (in the shape of the Uyghurs) has been a growing tragedy in the last couple of years; where the Chinese Government has forced over a million people into incarceration. Journalists like the BBC's John Sudworth have done some startling on-the-ground investigations showing the scope of the quiet genocide against the Uyghurs. Such accusations have been vehemently denied by the Chinese, but in a careful piece of investigative research the ProPublica website in the US carried out a useful piece of primary analysis on the 'spontaneous' Chinese social media criticisms of the accusations... This is a useful summary BBC video on the situation. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-china-55919787> And the ProPublica piece is <https://www.propublica.org/article/how-china-uses-youtube-and-twitter-to-spread-its-propaganda-version-of-life-for-uyghurs-in-xinjiang>

Loggers & Miners in Brazil

Illegal Miners and wild-cat gold diggers in the Amazon region continue to threaten indigenous land and its peoples, polluting and destroying areas in search for goods. A report from the Vatican on how some of the political leaders (especially the right wing populist President Bolsonaro, who is a climate change sceptic) are supported by powerful agricultural business leaders and considers these reserves to be "too big" for the number of people who live there and therefore an obstacle to development.



Laudato Si'
CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

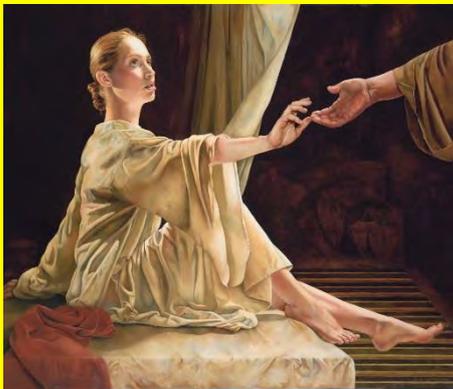
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2021-06/brazil-amazon-region-mining-deforestation.html>

Talitha Kum

Although Greek is the language in which the New Testament was written, as you will see in this week's Sunday Gospel, St Mark sometimes quotes the original Aramaic phrase likely spoken by Jesus – in this case Talitha Kum... which translates

as "Little girl – rise up". Interestingly Talitha Kum is the name of an international Catholic network against trafficking in Persons.

See some of their ministry ... <https://www.talithakum.info/>



St Luke recounting the bringing back to life the seamstress, Tabitha (in Acts 9:36-4) obliquely references the story of Jairus' Daughter when St Peter (now powerfully imbued with the healing power of Jesus) leans down and says to her, "Tabitha – rise up."



Professor Robin Gallaher Branch draws a richly textured meditation on Tabitha in her piece in the Biblical Archaeology website which might be good for spiritual reading!

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/tabitha-in-the-bible/>

The Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta

Scottish women played a pivotal role in India in the 19th century, in particular in Calcutta.

The wives & daughters of numerous merchants, engineers, ministers, doctors and architects came to India and not only supported their husbands and families, but took on what they saw as humanitarian roles where they felt they could be useful in the community.

But (as Sayan Day writes) you wouldn't know this from reading any European colonial histories of Bengal, because the stories of these women have largely been ignored... An interesting piece in The Conversation website

<https://theconversation.com/how-a-scottish-graveyard-in-kolkata-revealed-the-untold-stories-of-colonial-women-in-india-161782>



The Resurrection of the Date Palm



There are multiple references to the 'Palm Tree' in the Bible. These were the **Date Palms** and forests of Judean date palm trees once covered ancient Israel, from Lake Galilee down to the Dead Sea. The fruit of the tree symbolised life & prosperity and was praised in ancient literature for its unique medicinal properties and unusually was even found on some ancient coins (see left). But the dates of Judaea were becoming extinct by the Middle Ages and the last Date Palms in Palestine were killed off by the Crusaders. Until, that is, about 15 years ago... when a team of scientists succeeded in germinating some 2000 year old Date Palm seeds found at the fortress of Masada. This short BBC video tells the story...

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p09m0vtx/extinct-tree-from-the-time-of-jesus-rises-from-the-dead>



The Little Apple of Death

While on the subject of **trees**... Try this fascinating item on the AtlasObscura website says something about the remarkable **Manchineel Tree** (see right). In an Anti-Matter universe this would probably have been the tree at the centre of the Garden of Eden...

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/whatever-you-do-dont-eat-touch-or-even-whale-the-orn-around-the-manchineel-tree>



Fatima - The Movie



The movie website tells it thus...

"In 1917, outside the parish of Fátima, Portugal, a 10-year-old girl and her two younger cousins witness multiple visitations of the Virgin Mary, who tells them that only prayer and suffering will bring an end to World War I. As secularist government officials and Church leaders try to force the children to recant their story, word of the sighting spreads across the country, inspiring religious pilgrims to flock to the site in hopes of witnessing a miracle. What they experience will transform their quiet lives and bring the attention of a world yearning for peace."

The **Independent Catholic News** website has the story and the links for the film...

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42470>

Cruella de Nice?

Leora Hadas, a professor of film studies in Nottingham, reflects on the recent film – spinning off from 1001 Dalmatians – telling the back-story of **Cruella de Vil**. Entertaining in its own way, but as Leora writes "notably missing are any actual evil deeds on Cruella's part... This version of Cruella isn't apologism or revisionism: it's practically a movie about a different character." Which raises the question as to whether demonising or humanising a person changes our attitudes to evil? Discuss... <https://theconversation.com/cruella-why-disney-and-other-studios-are-trying-to-invite-sympathy-for-devilish-characters-162364>



And finally...



The person whispering in the ear of the Pope might be trying to persuade Francis that the man in red & blue is an exotic Cardinal from the East – but I'm sure that the Pope knows **SPIDERMAN** when he sees him. In the costume is a 27-year-old Italian man by the name of **Mattia Villardita**. Mattia was in the VIP section of the general audience in the Vatican last week because of his work with sick children. For years, he has been going around hospitals all over Italy dressed as superheroes in an attempt to cheer the younger patients up. "When you're in a hospital, you see the world through a different lens and appreciate small things in life," he told Italian reporters. Well done, Sir! More on BBC's **Newsround** – where else?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/57594145>

'With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility'