

NEWSLETTER



To the greater glory of God
St ALOYSIUS' CHURCH
a Jesuit church founded in 1505

14th Sunday of the Year (4th July).

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

14th Week of the Church Year

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

Tuesday 6th July: St Maria Goretti

Friday 9th July: Our Lady of Aberdeen
& St Leo Mangin SJ

15th Sunday of the Year (11th 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

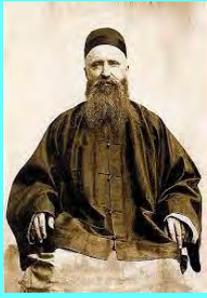
Tel 0141 332 3039

Email: Staloysius.garnethill@rcag.org

Website: www.staloysiusglasgow.org

Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube

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



This week...

St Leon Mangin SJ (see left) died in 1900 in the Chinese village of Zhujiaye, in the parish church with the people who refused to forsake their Christian faith during **The Boxer Rebellion**. The Boxer movement was a loose alliance of political and cultural groups keen to rid China of foreign influences, especially Christianity. Many were practitioners of Chinese martial arts, such as Kung Fu, so the Westerners referred to them as "Boxers". The persecution which began in 1898 claimed the lives of an estimated 30,000 people.

<https://www.jesuits.global/saint-blessed/saint-leon-ignace-mangin/>



Your prayers for...

Weddings recently from St Aloysius...

Stephen McDevitt & Emma Thomson... Elyse McGeady & Jonathan Burns... Robyn Howie & Eoin Logan

May their lives together be blessed and full of joy!

Please remember to pray for those of our parishioners who have health problems, especially...

Frank Bell... David Chadwick... Bernadette Donaghue

Three Urgent Life Issues?

UK Assisted Suicide debate re-ignites



Actress and disability rights campaigner **Liz Carr** (left) has spoken out against the latest effort to legalise assisted suicide in the UK. In a **letter** to The Sunday Times, Carr, who starred in the BBC crime thriller series **Silent Witness**, urged MPs to reject assisted suicide following the introduction of Baroness Meacher's **Assisted Dying Bill** in the House of Lords. The UK Parliament last considered assisted suicide in 2015, when it was strongly rejected by MPs, by a significant margin of 330-118. Carr believes that nothing has changed in the intervening years and says, "then, as now, the majority of doctors who would be licensed to provide the lethal drugs do not want a bill passed." Carr also argued that disability groups are still opposed to assisted suicide and that for her, and others with degenerative conditions, the idea of an assisted law is terrifying.

See: <https://repolitics.org/silent-witness-star-liz-carr-urges-mps-to-reject-assisted-suicide/>

An earlier interview for the **Shrewsbury Diocese Newsletter** is also well-worth reading.

<http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/news/latest-news/everything-disability-interview-wiral-born-silent-witness-actress-liz-carr-subject-assisted-suicide>



Stealth Abortion Law?

An extreme amendment to the **Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Bill** to introduce abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth (including sex-selective abortion) to England and Wales, has been tabled by Dame Diana Johnson MP. MPs will debate and vote on the amendment (NC55) this coming week. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world.

Read more on the **Independent Catholic News...** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42540>



Overseas Aid

The Catholic Peer, **David Alton**, speaking to the House of Lords: "My Lords, this country's word should be its bond. In breaking our word, we have broken trust and probably broken the law. It's a bad decision which needs to be reversed."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42543>



Off-Shore Asylum processing?

Following the failed attempts by the **Home Office** to detain refugees in Glasgow recently, it is good to be aware of the latest plan for processing Asylum Seekers being considered by **Priti Patel** and her team. According to a government source (quoted in **The Times**), Home Office ministers and officials have discussed proposals with the Danish government, which passed its own law this month to process asylum seekers outside Europe. In **Rwanda??** The **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)** has condemned plans for similar offshore processing as cruel, ineffective and impractical.

<https://www.jrsuk.net/news/jrs-uk-condemns-proposal-for-offshore-detention-of-asylum-seekers-as-gratuitously-cruel-and-impractical/>



LEBANON: 'Five minutes to Zero Hour'

Lebanon is very fragile at the moment. With millions of refugees from the civil war in neighbouring Syria, with a dysfunctional and corrupt political system, the country is stressed and the Christian community is under pressure. Beirut's **Christian Quarter** bore the brunt of last year's harbour blast (right), which killed more than 200 people, injured more than 6,000 and left in excess of 300,000 homeless. Regina Lynch, director of projects at **Aid to the Church in Need**, described the extent of the crisis facing the Christian community thus: "The Catholic schools are in danger of closing. The Catholic institutes like hospitals and clinics are struggling to survive, even to find the funds they need to buy important medicines and important medical equipment." See <https://acnuk.org/news/lebanon-five-minutes-to-zero-hour/> and a report from the Vatican website <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2021-07/unicf-report-lebanon-crisis-children-families.html>



LGBTQ Ministry

Pope Francis sent a letter to Fr. James Martín, SJ, who carries out a pastoral ministry among the LGBTQ community in the United States. In the letter encouraged him to be near to everyone with God's compassionate "style". Pope Francis wrote, "God comes close with love to each one of his children, each and every one. His heart is open to each and every one. He is a Father." Pope Francis penned those words in a brief, handwritten letter (in Spanish) sent to Jesuit Father James Martin last week. Interestingly, this was released on the Vatican website... <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-06/pope-francis-letter-james-martin-lgbtq-ministry.html>



BELLINGCAT?

In a world of half-truths & fake news, the work of Bellingcat is a tonic. Founded by Eliot Higgins, Bellingcat is the umbrella for a co-ordinated group of researchers who use open-source technology to painstakingly track down the facts behind the untruths of everyone from drug cartels to warlords. They first came to international prominence when they identified the two Russian agents (right) responsible for the Novichok poisoning in Salisbury. Working with the BBC one of their areas of interest at present is an Ethiopian massacre in disputed region of Tigray...



<https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2021/06/24/tigray-conflict-vidcos-provide-new-details-of-malbere-dego-massacre/>

The Vatican reports on further hardship in Tigray... <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2021-07/ethiopia-tigray-instability-famine-humanitarian-aid.html>

Peter's Pence



He's come a long way since I taught him English 40 years ago. Fr. Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves SJ (left) is the Jesuit recently appointed by Pope Francis to oversee the financial systems of the Church. As Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, he explained in a Vatican interview how Peter's Pence funds are used. "People have the right to know how we spend the money," he says. "It is important to collaborate because we cannot think that the mission of the Church can be sustained without the contribution of the faithful. The proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world, with all that it entails, presupposes a support structure."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-06/guerrero-peters-pence-economy-holy-see-vatican.html>

STOPTRESS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-5770618>

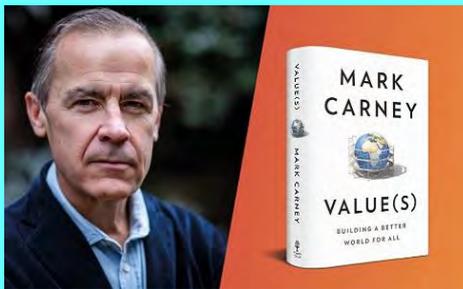
Mercy Ships



If you haven't been scanning the Sea Trade news websites, you might have missed the launch of the world's largest non-military Hospital Ship. It has just been built in a shipyard in China for the Christian-inspired group known as Mercy Ships. "Global Mercy" (right) is a 12-deck, 37,000 ton vessel is equipped with six operating theatres, hospital beds for 200 patients, a full laboratory and simulation training areas. Mercy Ships say in their vision statement that they follow the model of Jesus by "bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor, helping people of all faiths and none." For the new launch see <https://www.sectrade-cruise.com/shipbuilding-refurb-equipment/tianjin-singapore-delivers-hospital-ship-global-mercy-dream-come-true> and for their overall ministry see <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>



VALUE(S)



The Canadian Mark Carney, (left) who is the former Governor of the Bank of England is a practicing Catholic. He recently published a book called 'Value(s): Building a Better World for All'. As Fr Pat Riordan SJ indicates in his review on the website ThinkingFaith it "is a very welcome contribution to the public debate about how we wish to live." In a wide-ranging analysis, Carney invites an extended consideration of the values we will require in the recovery, and that he would wish us to adopt. He makes the case for solidarity, fairness, responsibility, resilience, sustainability, dynamism and humility. See <https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/values-building-better-world-all>

St Napoleon?

"Though not a believer himself, Napoleon was well aware that religion was a vital tool for any ruler, especially when many of his subjects were believers. As he said to his secretary, Emanuel Las Cases, on St Helena at the end of his life: "from the moment that I had power, I hastened to re-establish religion. I used it as foundation and root. It became the support of good morals, of true principles, of good manners." The Catholic religion had been suppressed in France during the French Revolution and was still anathema to Republicans but, during his time as First Consul three years before becoming emperor, Napoleon reinstated it."

Thus says Professor Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly in a short, fascinating essay on how politicians try to manipulate religion to project their power.

<https://blog.oup.com/2021/06/saint-napoleon-how-napoleon-used-religion-to-bolster-his-power/>



The lost art of Letter-Locking...



On 8th February 1587, an imprisoned **Mary, Queen of Scots** composed her last ever letter to her brother-in-law. "Tonight, after dinner, I have been advised of my sentence: I am to be executed like a criminal at eight in the morning," she wrote. **"The Catholic faith and the assertion of my God-given right to the English crown are the two issues on which I am condemned."** After Mary had finished writing, she then began to fold up the letter to secure its contents. She didn't want her captors snooping – and particularly not her cousin **Queen Elizabeth I**. Envelopes were not used in the 1500s – not least because paper was expensive – and there was no trustworthy postal service at the time. She used the art of **Letter-Locking**. How did she do it...? BBC Futures shows us how... <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210616-how-the-forgotten-tricks-of-letterlocking-shaped-history>



A landmark report by the world's most senior **climate** and **biodiversity** scientists argues that the world will have to tackle the climate crisis AND the species extinction crisis **simultaneously**, or not at all. That's because Earth's land and ocean already absorbs about half of the greenhouse gases that people emit. Wild animals, plants, fungi and microbes help maintain this carbon sink by keeping soils, forests and other ecosystems healthy. <https://theconversation.com/four-ways-to-tackle-the-climate-and-biodiversity-crises-simultaneously-162631>

Biodiversity

Laudato Si'
CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

Jesuit Schools & God's Creation:

Professor Nancy Tuchman, (left) Dean of **Loyola Chicago's School of Environmental Sustainability**, says directives from **Pope Francis** and the **Society of Jesus** on caring for God's creation make it critical that Jesuit schools put those principles in practice on their campuses and in their curricula. That includes joining the Vatican's new ecological action initiative and making environmental sustainability a core class for all students. <https://www.ncsuonline.org/news/earthbeat/jesuit-schools-must-be-environmental-justice-leaders-dean-says>



Food Waste: how can we change it?

Food waste is a huge problem for the environment. Making and getting rid of excess food accounts for around **8-10% of greenhouse gas emissions**. In fact, if global food waste were a country, it would rank third in the world for greenhouse gas emissions after China and the US. Globally, we throw away around a **THIRD** of all food we produce. Some thoughts... <https://theconversation.com/the-uk-wastes-millions-of-tonnes-of-food-every-year-heres-how-we-can-change-that-162783>



The Gull Next Door

Garnethill at this time of year is patrolled by the seagulls. **Sarah Keartes** writes a thoughtful and informative piece in **Hakai** magazine on the changing environmental role of the Gull. **"There are in fact around 50 species, ranging from the dainty Little Gull, not much heavier than a large lemon, to the great Black-Backed Gull, a bruiser by comparison whose wingspan is about as wide as most women are tall.... By 1970, around 1,300 pairs of Herring Gulls and lesser Black-Backed Gulls were recorded nesting on British Isle rooftops. In 1994, that number had grown to at least 13,000, and by 2004 it had topped 100,000."** <https://www.hakaimagazine.com/features/the-gull-next-door/>



Talking to yourself?

Nana Ariel writes an interesting piece in **Psyche** magazine about how 'self-talk' can have advantages over inner speech. **"This week, a woman was strolling in my street, walking in circles and speaking out loud to herself. People were looking at her awkwardly, but she didn't particularly mind, and continued walking vigorously and speaking. Yes, that woman was me..."** <https://psyche.co/ideas/talking-out-loud-to-yourself-is-a-technology-for-thinking>



Psalm like it Hot

I was charmed to notice the **Universalis** liturgical instructions for the **Scripture Readings at Mass** on the 1st July:

"The first psalm shown here (Psalm 114(116):1-6,8-9) is used in the whole world except the USA; and the second one (Psalm 113B(115):1-6,8-9) is used in the USA because of a clerical error."

'Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.'

I was reminded of the above quote (from the great theologian **Karl Barth**) when I read a recent review of one of my favourite films – **Bringing Up Baby** <https://lithub.com/hepburn-and-grant-on-the-funniest-comedy-and-comedic-heroine-of-hollywoods-golden-age/>

Starring **Cary Grant & Katherine Hepburn** it is a sparkling screwball comedy which ages like a fine wine. It is a hidden fixture on the **BBC iPlayer**, so at some point perhaps grace or spiritual uplift might be needed...? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0078ddk/bringing-up-baby>

"Laughter is the best medicine - unless you're diabetic, then insulin comes pretty high on the list."

Jasper Carrott

