

NEWSLETTER



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

The Assumption of Our Lady (15th August)

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

20th Week of the Church Year

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

Wednesday 18th: St Alberto Hurtado SJ.

Friday 20th: St Bernard of Clairvaux .

Saturday 21st: St Pope Pius X.

21st Sunday of the Year (22nd August).

Sunday Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

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Archive of Sunday Masses on YouTube

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



The Assumption

From the **Thinking Faith** archive, a useful history from **Dr Sarah Jane Boss** who was **Director of the Centre for Marian Studies** at the **University of Roehampton**. She opens her essay in this way...

"For many centuries, the Feast of the Assumption was celebrated in the Catholic Church without any formal definition of the doctrine. In most places, it was the principal feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and it is the patronal festival of many of Europe's great Marian cathedrals, such as Notre Dame de Paris. **But that Mary 'was assumed, body and soul, into heavenly glory', was made an official teaching of the Catholic Church in 1950, when Pope Pius XII promulgated the Bull 'Munificentissimus Deus'. Many people believe that he was motivated to do this by the horrors of the Second World War, in which so many human bodies were tortured and desecrated.** The doctrine proclaims the precious nature of the human body, which, in a way we cannot yet understand, is destined for heavenly glory and deserves to be treated with the highest respect..."



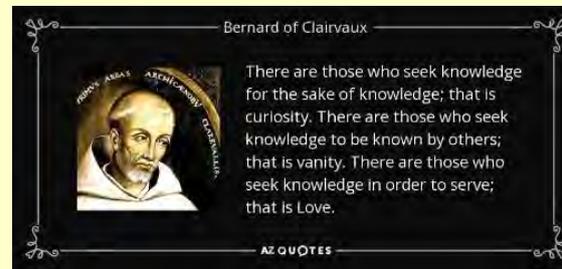
This week...

Up first is **St Alberto Hurtado**, a Jesuit from Chile who in his short life was a remarkable apostle in Chile... a guide of the youth, a creator of trade unionism, a challenge to the elites and a friend to the poor. His legacy in modern Chile is still strong... See the stamps – centenary of his birth (to the left) and his canonisation (to the right.) https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturg/saints/ns_ls_doc_20091023_cmhaga_en.html

https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20130814_1.htm



St Bernard of Clairvaux is somewhat lost to our eyes, but in the 12th Century he was the prime mover-& shaker in the Church. He was dynamism behind a renewal of religious life with the **Cistercians**, a explorer of the spiritual life, an effective writer and preacher, and he even organised a few **Crusades**. **Dante** chose him as a guide in the **Divine Comedy** because of his mysticism, his devotion to **Mary** and his eloquence. Bernard probably also wrote the original to '**O Sacred Head III Used**'.



Sitting calmly in the Vatican Garden is **Pope St Pius X** from the early 20th century. He was someone who resisted some of the modern movements of the world, but had a tremendous devotion to the liturgy and the studies in this he prompted and inspired led to a rich welling-up in the knowledge of the Church's worship in history and it was this preparation that led to the deep discussions and changes at the **Second Vatican Council** in the 1960s.

As mentioned in the Newsletter last week, **John Hylands** died unexpectedly on Thursday 5th August. He was strongly connected to both **St Aloysius Church and College**. He lived in **Falkirk** and his funeral will take place at **St Francis Xavier Church, Falkirk** next Saturday morning. **Archbishop Leo Cushley** (Archbishop of **Edinburgh & St Andrews**) will be the principal celebrant. Remember **John & The Hylands** family in your prayers.



Please remember also our parishioners who have health problems, especially...

Frank Bell ... David Chadwick... Joe O'Donnell... Alison Stewart... John McGivern...

Finding God in All Things...

An Afghan Cosmonaut?



Indeed – there was one! In these days of turmoil in that country, it is important to remember some of the other dimensions. In 1988, during the Russian occupation, **Abdul Ahad Mohmand** was chosen to fly to the **MIR space station**. He has lived for 30 years in **Germany** and he was recently interviewed. He said "**From space, you see things from a very different perspective. You look at the planet and your mind is flooded with new feelings: you see no countries or borders, you only see the Earth, and the whole of it is your home.**" While in orbit, he spoke on the phone the then Afghan president. The message of the first Afghan in space to the people back home? "**Take your neighbour by the hand, lay down your arms. Let's solve our problems through dialogue.**"

<https://www.dw.com/en/meet-an-afghan-who-returned-from-space-with-a-message-of-peace/a-58759267>

For a short radio documentary...

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2014-10-24/only-afghan-ever-fly-space-almost-didnt-make-it-back-earth>



St Aloysius Church Extra Masses...?

In September, we hope to add a **Saturday evening Vigil Mass** at 5pm and on a **Sunday Night Mass** at 9.00pm. To be sustainable, given the Covid restrictions still in place, this will require volunteer-help to welcome & register people coming to those Masses and then help to clean the Church after those masses. Could you volunteer? Speak to one of the Jesuits!

Murdered in the name of hospitality...

Catholics across France are mourning the death of **Fr Olivier Maire**, (right) who appears to have been murdered by a Rwandan immigrant whom he had been assisting. The Catholic Bishops and religious of France have expressed their "immense sadness and horror" at the murder of Father Olivier Maire, Provincial Superior of the Montfort Missionaries.



<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42814>

... but giving Life in response to Hospitality

However, Fr Maire would be the first to point to the other side of the coin. Perhaps to look at the alternative case of **Dr Maya Shahsavari**, left, who was working on the NHS frontline when the Covid pandemic was at its toughest? The 37-year-old, who sought asylum in the UK from Iran when she was 13, works in Scotland as an ear, nose and throat surgical registrar. **Based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee**, she finally feels at home for the first time in more than 20 years... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-57900670>



Belarus crack-down on Christians

Amid a continuing crackdown on civil society in Belarus after the August 2020 falsified presidential election, Aleksandr Lukashenko's regime is pressuring religious communities to support it. At the same time, the regime has sought to change prayers for Belarus' future – which many communities have organized since regime violence following the election – into pro-regime prayers. **The regime has also sought to ban prayers for political prisoners and has banned a popular hymn.** An depth investigation from the ReligionUnplugged website...

<https://religionunplugged.com/news/2021/8/6/belarus-regime-crackdown-on-orthodox-church-is-altering-prayers-purging-clergy>



Vatican Scientists (continued!)

Last week Pope Francis appointed **Donna Strickland**, the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018 to the Pontifical Academy of Science. This week he appointed the co-inventors of the **CRISPR** genome-editing technology to the same Academy. Their discovery sparked research into new treatments for cancer and other diseases, earning the two female scientists the **2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**. **Jennifer Doudna & Emmanuelle Charpentier** (left) are among five female scientists and one man who have been appointed by Pope Francis to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the last two weeks. South African anthropologist **Pearl Sithole** (right) and Dutch astrophysicist **Ewine Fleur van Dishoeck**, a pioneer in astrochemistry, were also appointed to the pontifical academy this month.



Taiwanese epidemiologist **Chen Chien-jen** was named to the academy in July.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/248667/inventors-of-crispr-gene-editing-appointed-to-pontifical-academy-of-science>

Environmental BAD News...

The UN Report on the health of Planet Earth last week was grim reading, making the significance of the **Glasgow COP26 Meeting** in November all the more important. Where are the key problems? The BBC has a helpful, simple guide...<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24021772>



But there's some GOOD news, too...

With the health of the ocean under threat in many ways, a rallying cry for marine conservation goes global. From Knowledgeable, here are some of the good-news stories from the Oceans.... <https://knowablemagazine.org/article/food-environment/2021/the-case-ocean-optimism>

A virtual tour around Capernaum?

A virtual pilgrimage to **Capernaum**, the ancient Galilean village where Jesus lived, is now available online thanks to the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land. The **Franciscans** have served as caretakers of holiest sites in the history of Christianity since the 14th century, when Pope Clement VI assigned them the role of official custodians. Archaeological discoveries have apparently revealed the site of St Peter's house because of the discovery of an early octagonal Church among the ruins. **Aleteia** shares the links...

<https://aleteia.org/2021/04/29/take-a-virtual-pilgrimage-to-capernaum-site-of-jesus-miracles/>



The Epic of Gilgamesh

In 2014, the US craft retailer **Hobby Lobby** purchased a rare cuneiform tablet (right) inscribed with a portion of the Epic of Gilgamesh, one of the oldest known works of literature and a very important work to seek roots of Old Testament ideas. The artefact was acquired for display at **The Museum of the Bible**, a Washington, D.C. institution funded by the family of Hobby Lobby founder, David Green. But last week, the US Department of Justice ordered the tablet's forfeiture on the grounds that it was illegally imported into the United States and sold to Hobby Lobby under false pretences. Known as the "**Gilgamesh Dream Tablet**," the artefact is inscribed in the Akkadian language and details a dream sequence from the ancient epic. It is around 3,500 years old and originated in modern-day Iraq.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-57992957>



The Sky at Night

Left: in Valensole, France, fields of lavender stretch to the horizon. Light from the Milky Way galaxy arcs overhead. In the distance, a glow of light from far-off towns marks the boundary between land and sky. This picture, captured in June last year by German photographer **Stefan Liebermann**, has made the shortlist for the **Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition**, an annual contest run by the **Royal Observatory Greenwich** and the **BBC Sky at Night Magazine**. See more top contenders, selected from roughly 4,500 submissions, of sights near and far — including a brilliant aurora over Iceland and the galaxy NGC 3981, a wispy star system about 65 million light-years from Earth.

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum/astronomy-photographer-year-2021-shortlist-images>

Buffoons, drunken Germans & dwarfs.

“...One especially famous early modern case of **Catholic policing of art** was likewise an exercise of local authority. In 1573, a tribunal of the Venetian Holy Office, loosely affiliated with the Roman Inquisition but formed and largely controlled by local civil magistrates, interrogated at length the Italian painter, **Veronese**. A painting of **The Last Supper** he had produced for the refectory of a **Dominican friary** caused a scandal. The problem was that Veronese had portrayed Christ and the Apostles supping in the presence of “**buffoons, drunken Germans, dwarfs, and other such scurrilities**,” as one incredulous inquisitor put it — that is, as if the first Mass had taken place at the kind of party frequented by the young and restless rich of Venice. Veronese was lightly reprimanded and ordered to fix the painting at his own expense. His ingenious solution was simply to change its title. It was no longer ‘**The Last Supper**’, he decided, but rather ‘**The Feast in the House of Levi**’. The unaltered painting was now taken to depict the well-heeled tax collector Levi, before he became a disciple, entertaining all manner of sinners and buffoons — the very reason Christ’s visit, in the Gospel account, had scandalized respectable opinion. Satisfied, the inquisitors let Veronese’s painting hang.”

Read the thoughtful and informative essay of Bronwen McShea's ...

<https://www.firstthings.com/article/2021/08/when-rome-policed-art>

