

# NEWSLETTER



To the greater glory of God  
**St ALOYSIUS CHURCH**  
a parish of RCAG founded in 1858

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year (29<sup>th</sup> August).

Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Church Year

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

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year (5<sup>th</sup> September)

Sunday Morning Masses at 9.30am & 11.00am

Open for registration & Confessions at 9.00am and 10.30am

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## NEW TIMETABLE

### Begins 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 12.15pm & 5.00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 10.00am, 12noon & 9.00pm

(Confessions: 30 min before each Mass)

### Then from 13<sup>th</sup> September

Monday-Friday:

8.00am & 12.15pm Masses

Church Open in Mornings



## The Week Ahead...

A quiet week for Saints... But the headline act is **Pope St. Gregory the Great**.

Gregory was born in Rome around 540 AD, the son of a Roman Senator. Following his father's death, he embarked on a political career and rose through the ranks to become Prefect of Rome. In 574 he left all that behind and entered the monastery. However, in 590, on the death of Pope Leo, Gregory was elected to succeed him – the first monk ever elected as Pope. Gregory really wanted nothing more than to be a simple monk and struggled profoundly before finally accepting his election as the will of God.

At this time the affairs of both the Church and Roman state were in chaos. Gregory brought his administrative abilities to bear on both. He took over the civic and spiritual leadership of Italy, appointing governors of the various Italian cities. He did much to relieve the sufferings of the poor and was a great evangelist.

He wrote abundantly, more on a spiritual and practical level than doctrinal or theoretical. He also wrote about the life of his master **St Benedict** and other saints of the period. He was devoted to the Liturgy of the Church and promoted sacred music. The plainsong that comes down to us from this era is famously known as the “**Gregorian Chant**”. He was the Apostle of England, as he sent monks from his former monastery, led by St Augustine of Canterbury, to convert the Anglo-Saxons... see the map to the right!



Please remember...

Our parishioners who have health problems, especially...

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

## Finding God in All Things...

### The World in Transition...

A few angles on the **Afghanistan story** which you might have missed from the mainstream media...



### Afghan Women

On Thursday **Pope Francis** met with Nobel Peace Prize winner **Nadia Murad**, a human rights advocate who has been speaking out on behalf of women and girls in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nadia (a Yazidi survivor of ISIS enslavement herself) was the inspiration for the Pope's visit to Iraq. In her recent meeting (her third with the Pope) she expressed concern for the future of Afghan women under Taliban rule. She said “I know what happens when the world loses sight of women & girls in crises. When it looks away, war is waged on women's bodies. This must not happen in Afghanistan.”

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/248781/pope-francis-meets-nadia-murad-as-nobel-prize-winner-advocates-for-afghan-women>

### Sisters & Orphans safe...

Sisters from the **Missionaries of Charity** and 14 disabled children from an orphanage in Afghanistan arrived safely on Wednesday at Rome's international airport. A Catholic priest and five sisters from the order (founded by Mother Teresa) arrived on one of two evacuation flights from Kabul that landed in Rome on Wednesday carrying a total of 277 people. Fr. **Giovanni Scalese**, the ecclesiastical superior of the Catholic Mission in Afghanistan, also arrived on the flight. He spent eight years in Kabul, offering daily Mass for foreign residents in the city at the only Catholic church in Afghanistan, located inside of the Italian embassy. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/248779/missionaries-of-charity-and-14-disabled-children-from-afghanistan-arrive-at-rome-airport>



### Catholics in Afghanistan

Catholics have been pivotal in helping many Afghans over the last two decades without ever infringing on their beliefs. These men and women were a force for good, helping the poor and doing work with help from charitable donations from abroad. The history of the Catholic church in Afghanistan is a long and important one. This remains a largely untold story by the mainstream press over the years... **Clement Lisi** on the **GetReligion** website tries to fill some of the gaps...

<https://www.getreligion.org/getreligion/2021/9/22/afghani-catholic-hidden-believers-and-the-underreported-work-of-the-church>



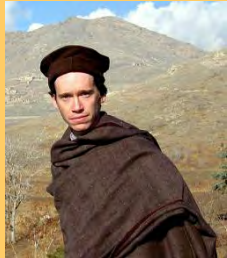


## Bruce Kent reflects on War & Peace

“One of the criteria for deciding whether a nation is embarking on a ‘just war’ is that there must be a reasonable chance of success: the establishment of lasting peace. Could we have predicted that in Afghanistan? It was Pope **John XXIII** who said ‘it no longer makes sense to maintain that war is a fit instrument with which to repair the violation of justice’. (Pacem in Terris #127) So how should we rethink our strategy, and what can we be doing now to avoid repetition of such disasters? The short answer is that we must work for the abolition of war as a response to conflict. This is not as naïve as it sounds. There are innumerable steps we could be taking...”



<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42886>



## “The Great Game”

The BBC are replaying two remarkably prophetic programmes where **Rory Stewart** (left, who knows his stuff) tells the story of foreign interventions by Britain, Russia, & the United States in Afghanistan from the 19th century to the present day. It rightly won the BAFTA Scotland award for best Factual Series in 2012. It's back now on the iPlayer but also on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a7bF49chkQ>



## HOME NEWS

### SCIAP's Wee Box, Big Thanks

The **Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund** thanks its generous supporters for helping to raise more than £2.8m to assist people in some of the poorest countries in the world. This includes £1.3m of match funding from the UK government. The charity also thanks all schools and parishes involved for their fantastic fundraising efforts. This includes St Andrew's & St Bride's High School in East Kilbride where pupils raised over £11,600.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42902>



## A Disability Strategy?

**Bernadette Meaden**, who has written about political, religious and social issues for some years has a piece for the **Independent Catholic News** where she reflects on the gulf between the UK Government's rhetoric and its actual behaviour concerning disabilities - and why the long-awaited **National Disability Strategy** has turned out to be such a damp squib. The lack of input from actual disabled people probably meant that a failure to engage with many of their real concerns was inevitable. In the words of the Disabled Children's Partnership for example: **"the strategy doesn't reflect the full lives of disabled children or their families..."**

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42901>



## A Million Gestures of Kindness

Launching its Awareness Month campaign, the **St Vincent de Paul Society** is seeking a million gestures of kindness to address the trail of poverty and loneliness left in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. SVP President, Helen O'Shea says: "Acts of compassion and kindness don't always have to be grand, more often they are seemingly insignificant, something most people would view as 'ordinary'; a chat with a housebound older person, picking up some shopping or medication for a neighbour, sending a card, or even telephoning someone just to say 'hello'. It's through a million gestures of kindness like these that we can start to address the enormity of the mountain we must all climb."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42900>



## Life & Death (1)...

In Northern Ireland this week, the funeral took place in Derry of **Samantha Willis**, who died with Covid-19 after giving birth to her fourth child. During the requiem at St Columb's Church, her daughter **Evic Grace**, born two weeks ago, was also baptised. A poignant report on the BBC...

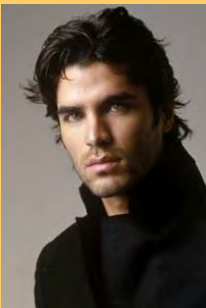
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-58109740>



## Life & Death (2)

The producer and star of the wonderful little film **"Bella"**, **Eduardo Verastegui**, recently recalled a moment where he realized his movie helped save a life. The 2006 film which, in part, tells the story of a woman who is considering having an abortion, and as preparation for the role, to better understand his character in the film, Verastegui visited an abortion clinic. "I wanted to understand exactly the pain that any woman that is pregnant who sees abortion as her only exit," he said. At the clinic, he recalled seeing girls of ages 14 and 15. One girl recognized him from his previous soap operas in Mexico. They began to chat...

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/248748/an-encounter-at-an-abortion-clinic-changed-catholic-actor-eduardo-verastegui-life>



## Too little water?

Access to clean drinking water is a human right, but as the global population grows and the planet heats up, can we rely on this resource we take for granted? The oceans cover 70% of our globe but only 3% is fresh... and increasing pollution is compromising both the salt and fresh water.

Deutsche Welle have a very good resume of the needs, the hopes the fears and the possible solutions. <https://beta.dw.com/en/water-scarcity-whats-the-big-deal/a-58840373>



## Tame Activists?

"In the past, activism was risky business. By definition, it disrupts lives, threatens chaos, causes disorder and often ends in violence. It should, at the very least, get you in trouble with your boss. But these days, as others have noted, being an activist is simply another part of one's career, one's social life, one's brand. It's something you perform on Twitter and brag about on LinkedIn. The risk has evaporated and that begs the question: what does real activism actually look like?"

A sparky little piece by Niamh Mulvey about Catholic activist **Dorothy Day** (left) on the Unherd website.

<https://unherd.com/2021/08/activists-arent-what-they-used-to-be/>

I REALLY ONLY  
LOVE GOD AS  
MUCH AS I  
LOVE THE  
PERSON I LOVE  
THE LEAST.

Dorothy Day

## Sheep...

**Video of the Week!** Like so many families separated during the pandemic, **Ben Jackson** an Australian farmer, wasn't able to say goodbye to a loved one. So when his Aunt Debby lost her two-year cancer battle in Queensland he was stranded on his sheep farm 400km (248 miles) away in New South Wales and not allowed to travel to her funeral. He let the sheep show his love... read the story and see the wonderful short video on the BBC... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-5858661>



## Goats...

**Captain** is the name of an Anatolian Shepherd dog responsible not only for protecting his master's herd of goats - he's also indirectly causing fewer cheetah deaths by deterring them from even considering an attack. The Smithsonian explains this ecological win-win in their short video...

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/science/the-anatolian-guard-dog-protects-both-lives/>



## PSALM 8 verse 3

### (1) Pluto

Is Pluto (left) a planet? A few years ago astronomers officially downgraded it to become a 'Dwarf Planet' (in the centre of the picture on the right shows British Jesuit Astronomer **Fr Chris Corbally SJ** who helped chair that meeting!) but people still have strong views either way. On Science recently, Lisa Grossman gave an entertaining summary of the continuing debate. She writes:

"For 76 years, Pluto was the beloved ninth planet. No one cared that it was the runt of the solar system, with a moon, Charon, half its size. No one minded that it had a tilted, eccentric orbit. Pluto was a weirdo, but it was our weirdo..."

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/pluto-planet-vote-status-definition-denouement>



### (2) Carolyn S. Shoemaker

One of the great hunters of comets died in recent days. She became famous in July 1994 when one of her comets (the **Shoemaker-Levy 9**), travelling at 60 kilometres per second, collided with Jupiter, resulting in the most dramatic explosion in the Solar System ever witnessed by humanity. The dark spots left by the impacts were visible for almost a year.

As her obituary reads: "...She was a forthright person, gifted with inordinate patience and a fine sense of humour. Before the Jupiter impacts, a reporter asked her what would happen if all the comet's fragments were to hit Earth instead? "We would all die," she answered. The interviewer explained that this was for a children's programme, then posed the question again.

Carolyn's second answer: "We would all be very uncomfortable." <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02345-3>

☺ ...and an interview with the woman herself on the BBC... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p072w12p>



### (3) The Dark Lord

How do you get rid of offensive statues? In the Ukraine they faced the same question when in 2015 they tried to strip away the signs of the old Soviet Union. What to do with a rather sturdy statue of Lenin? Pull it down? Or transform it into a statue of **Darth Vader**?

The **Atlas Obscura** shows you the statue... and even how to talk yourself past the guards when you get there!

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/darth-vader-statue>

