

# NEWSLETTER



To the greater glory of God  
**St ALOYSIUS CHURCH**  
ALSO KNOWN AS ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH

## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (12<sup>th</sup> September).

### SATURDAY

Vigil Mass at 5.00pm

(Church opens for registration & Confessions: 4.30 pm)

### SUNDAY

Morning Masses 10.00am & 12 noon

(Church opens for registration & Confessions: 30 min before each Mass)

Night Mass 9.00pm

(Church opens for registration & Confessions at 8.30pm)

## 24<sup>th</sup> Week of the Church Year

### Monday - Friday

Church open at 7.30am for Mass at 8.00am

(Church then open for private prayer 8.30am – 11.45am)

Registration & Confessions at 11.45am, with Mass at 12.15pm

Church closes at 12.45pm

### Saturday Morning

Church open for private prayer 10.00am – 11.45am

Registration & Confessions at 11.45am, with Mass at 12.15pm

Church Closes at 12.45pm

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (19<sup>th</sup> September)

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## The Week Ahead...

**Monday** is [St. John Chrysostom](#) was one of the great scholar/bishops of the early Church. At a turbulent time in Church history he steered the Patriarchate of Constantinople through treacherous waters filled with competing political and theological parties. He died in political exile, but his reputation as a preacher gave him his Greek nickname "Chrysostom" – the Golden Mouth.

**Tuesday** is the feast of [The Holy Cross](#) a memorial going right back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century when the Christian Emperor Constantine dedicated the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, while the next day his mother (St Helena) started the veneration of the fragments of the Cross of Jesus that were said to have been found on that site.

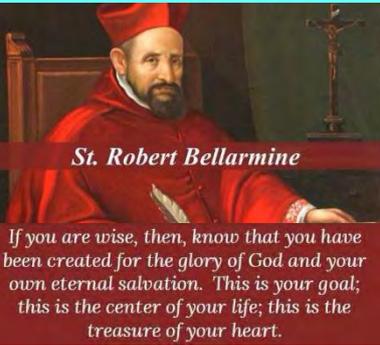
**Wednesday** is the feast of [Our Lady of Sorrows](#) which dates to the 1200s and was a remembrance of the tradition of the 7 Sorrows in the life of Mary <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/our-lady-of-sorrows-593>

On **Thursday** there is a battle between competing saints – in Scotland we celebrate [St Ninian](#) (right), the Apostle of the Southern Picts who lived in Lowland Scotland; outside Scotland the Church will be remembering [Sts Cornelius & Cyprian](#), friends and early martyrs in Rome.

On **Friday** the Jesuits celebrate [St Robert Bellarmine SJ](#) – scholar of the Reformation and Bishop, who (as a Cardinal) was drawn into many of the disputes of the time – most notably with King James I/VI and with Galileo.

When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving (all these are attributes of God), to be generous, to love their fellow men, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them.

~ Saint John Chrysostom



### Please remember...

[Hannah & Ryan-Josh](#) who were married in St Aloysius this weekend!

& our parishioners who have health problems, especially...

[Frank Bell](#)... [David Chadwick](#)... [Joe O'Donnell](#)... [Alison Stewart](#)... [John McGivern](#)...



## Finding God in All Things...

### "Victim 0001"

The photo to the left shows the body of the first official victim of the 9/11 Trade Tower attacks in 2001: "Victim 0001" He was [Fr Mychal Judge](#), a Franciscan priest, who served as a much-loved chaplain to the New York City Fire Department. That morning, as word spread of the explosions, he rushed to the scene, eager to support his NYFD colleagues. "After learning people were trapped in the wreckage, Mychal made a beeline for the north tower. Mychal was killed during the collapse of the south tower and subsequently classified as "Victim 0001", a fateful first in a day of tragedy. The photograph of the retrieval of Mychal's body, carried out by the very men he served, is akin to a modern-day Pietà - a corpse cradled tenderly in the arms of those who loved him." A thoughtful piece on the [National Catholic Register](#)

With another piece by [Aleteia](#) on other priests involved

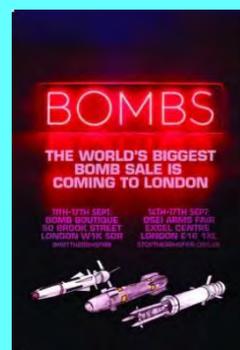
<https://www.nrzonline.org/news/opinion/20-years-after-9-11-remembering-legacy-fr-mychal-judge>  
<https://aleteia.org/2021/09/10/the-priests-of-9-11/>



### Bombs R Us

As [one of the world's largest arms fairs prepares to begin in London](#), the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales and of Scotland, together with a host of faith-based and Justice & Peace organizations, have voiced their **opposition to the arms trade**, echoing Pope Francis' appeal for an end to the lucrative but lethal commerce. In a statement, the Bishops from across the UK and their partners recall Pope Francis' appeal emphasizing how conflicts fuelled by the trade "harm the world's poorest communities, force people to flee their homes as refugees, and have devastating consequences for our environment." The wider invite list is a who's-who of human rights abusers, last time including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, & Bahrain... all countries on the UK governments own list of "countries of concern".

The [Vatican](#) website has picked up the story <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-09/uk-bishops-justice-peace-organizations-oppose-arms-trade.html> and there is a piece on the [Independent Catholic News](#). <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/43008>



## New UK Ambassador to the Vatican

In an interview on the Vatican website, the new Ambassador to the Holy See, Christopher John Trott, describes his hopes for his new mandate, bringing thirty years of experience as a British Diplomat to use as he looks forward to collaborating with the Pope and the Vatican in tackling global issues.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-09/british-ambassador-holy-see-chris-trott-interview.html>



## SYNOD

Synod is a word that Catholics will hear a lot of in the coming months. **Synodos** is a Greek word which means "an assembly" (from **SYN** "together" & **HODOS** "a way".) Last week the Vatican released the preparatory document and a 'handbook' for dioceses as part of the global church's preparation for **The 2023 Synod of Bishops**, which will be discussing the theme, **"For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission."** Although the Synod will take place in October 2023, it will officially start next month, with a process of listening, dialogue & community discernment in local churches.

A short simple introduction from our Jesuit colleagues in South Africa... <https://www.indiatheologynews.com/news/43006> and the more official announcement from the Vatican! <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-09/cardinal-grech-bishops-to-engage-all-the-faithful-in-the-synod.html>



## Getting cosy...

When early farmers first sowed barley and wheat 7700 years ago in the rich soil of the near the Danube River, they changed more than their diet: they introduced a new way of life to the region. From being semi-nomadic, they crowded together in mud huts, living cheek by rump with cows, pigs, and goats in settlements that eventually swelled to thousands of people.

**Togetherness brought a surge in diseases such as influenza, tuberculosis, and other maladies spread from animals to people and through early farming communities.** A recent study reported in Science suggests that in Europeans, evolution favoured genes that diminished inflammatory reactions to pathogens like influenza, restraining the hyper-alert inflammatory response that can be deadlier than the pathogen itself. **"This study does a great job of showing that our immune system has continued to evolve in response to pathogen pressure."** When people first encountered new pathogens, some overreacted and died, like we see with COVID today. The children of the people who survived became more resistant."

A fascinating piece <https://www.science.org/content/article/how-ancient-farmers-throttled-their-immune-systems-survive>



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## Getting too cosy...

(1) A cold snap in Texas? (2) A fish in China that survived the extinction of the dinosaurs, but succumbed irreversibly to humans last year? (3) A locust-swarm in East Africa (right)? Though separated by borders and oceans, and affecting individual species or entire ecosystems and communities, disasters like these have more in common than people realise or plan for. This is a key finding of **a report published Wednesday by the United Nations University (UNU).** The scientists found some of the worst disasters over the past two years overlapped to make each other worse. In many cases, they were fuelled by the same human actions. **"When people see disasters in the news, they often seem far away, but even disasters that occur thousands of kilometres apart are often related to one another."**

An article on Deutsche Welle <https://www.dw.com/en/multiple-disasters-together-climate-covid/a-58092327>



## The Bear Necessities of Life will come to you...

Because of global warming animal species are being crowded together. Would a Ox try to kill a Polar Bear? Biologist Joel Berger (left) braves freezing temperatures off the coast of Russia and tries to find out. **"I dressed as a polar bear, pulling a bear head on and placing a cape over a range finder, camera and data books. I was cold and nervous. I didn't want to be killed by a charging musk ox – or by anything else. If some oxen charged, I'd throw off my costume and stand up straight, as I'm doing here. So far, that had stopped them."** Don't try this at home...

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41584-021-02429-2>



## "The Banality of Evil"

The phrase was coined by **Hannah Arendt** after watching the 1961 trial of Nazi SS officer Adolf Eichmann. In a world that uses 'evil' as a badge for anything not liked, the devil can happily disappear hiding unnoticed in the background. **It can be sobering to remember that true evil often creeps-in when, because of greed or fear, ordinary people fail to do good ...** The BBC Radio has done an excellent docu-drama series of **The Nuremberg Trials (1946)** which illustrates the point chillingly... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09zggwk>



## Greenland Sharks

At first glance, **Greenland Sharks** are strange, but unremarkable. They're sluggish, awkwardly proportioned, and often have long, pinkish parasites dangling from their eyes. They engage in cannibalistic behaviour and dive more than a mile deep and can roam from the icy North Atlantic Ocean to the balmy Gulf of Mexico. About 15 years ago, **Julius Nielsen**, then a doctoral student (and now a scientist with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources) helped lead a study on the bodies of Greenland sharks accidentally caught by local fishermen. Following a technique used by pathologists in a child murder case, they studied the eye-balls of the sharks. **The results were astounding, indicating that Greenland sharks could live anywhere between 272 and 512 years. "There could be Greenland Sharks alive today that were born during the Renaissance."**

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/how-long-do-greenland-sharks-live>



## Codes in a Masterpiece

"Sometimes a flaw isn't a flaw at all but a flourish – a stroke of genius. Take, for example, the tiny fray in the weave of the wicker basket that teeters on the edge of the table at the centre of Caravaggio's early 17th-Century masterpiece, *The Supper at Emmaus* (see left). Though countless eyes have marvelled at the mysterious drama unfolding in the shadowy interior of the inn in which the recently resurrected Christ has just revealed his true identity to a pair of dumbstruck disciples, the significance of an almost imperceptible imperfection has gone unnoticed in the four centuries since the painting was commissioned in 1601. A loose twig, sticking out from the plait of the woven fruit bowl, is a dainty defect from which the work's truest meaning can be unravelled..." On the BBC...

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20210617-the-supper-at-emmaus-a-coded-symbol-hidden-in-a-masterpiece>



## Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

Biblical scholar, N.T. Wright reflects on this great Christian classic book

"I once found myself working closely, in a cathedral fundraising campaign, with a local millionaire. He was a self-made man. When I met him he was in his 60s, at the top of his game as a businessman, and was chairing our Board of Trustees. **To me, coming from the academic world, he was a nightmare to work with.** He never thought in (what seemed to me) straight lines; he would leap from one conversation to another; he would suddenly break into a discussion and ask what seemed a totally unrelated question. But after a while I learned to say to myself: Well, it must work, or he wouldn't be where he is. And that was right. We raised the money. We probably wouldn't have done it if I'd been running the Trust my own way. I have something of the same feeling on re-reading C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. I owe Lewis a great debt..."

<https://touchetuning.com/archives/article.php?id=20-02-028.f>

Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again.

C.S. Lewis

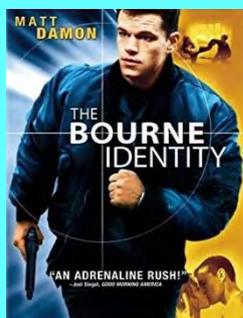
The Beloved Classic on Christian Belief

Mere Christianity  
C.S. LEWIS

## The Jason Bourne Bible

Eugene Bach was brainstorming ways to make a lighter, more portable Bible when he watched Jason Bourne in the movie **The Bourne Identity** who had a digital chip embedded in his back that, when removed, projects a hologram list of Swiss bank account numbers onto the wall. Bach said **"Well, when I saw that, I thought, why can't we make a Bible that will do that?"** He and others came up with what they call The Pill Bible. It is a small electronic device, the size and shape of a vitamin pill that contains the entire Bible. Not only does this device enable smuggling into countries hostile to Christianity, but it can also be safely swallowed if needed. Working best in a dark room, the device manipulates light and projects the text of different books of the Bible in front of the user's face. It can carry the Bible in any written language...

<https://religionunplugged.com/news/2020/04/17/how-the-jason-bourne-film-inspired-a-bible-the-size-of-a-vitamin-pill>



The intrepid editor of the Newsletter managed to catch-up with the reclusive **Fr Dermot** to find out something about his new mission down in the North East of England. "It is a new Jesuit apostolate," he said, "and traditionally the Jesuits have not really worked much in that part of the UK. **The Bishop has asked to look after an old Dominican Church in the centre of the city. There are three of us** (the other two are **Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ** & **Fr Peter Randall SJ**) so between us we hope to help with the evangelisation of the Diocese. It is a ministry which will take shape as we speak to people & the priests about their needs." He added "We were lucky to have found a template for our Newcastle pastoral plan on YouTube..."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fw7p7iAdVjE>

## The Long Goodbye...

AUF  
WIEDERSEHEN  
Pet.