

# NEWSLETTER

## 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

This week:

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November *Feria*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November **Presentation of Our Lady**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November **CHRIST THE KING**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November **Blessed Miguel Pro SJ**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November **The Vietnamese Martyrs**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November **St Catherine of Alexandria**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November **St John Berchmans SJ**

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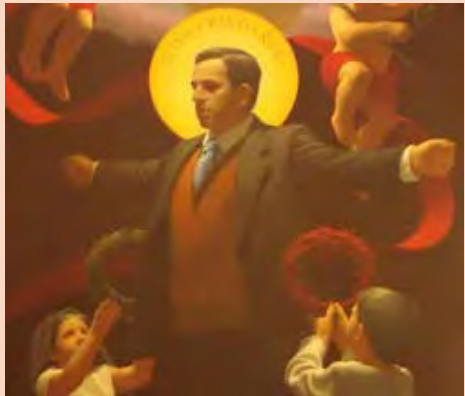
In 1909, twenty-year-old **Miguel Pro** joined the Jesuits as a novice in Mexico. A year later a revolution erupted and by 1914 the Jesuits were forced to flee. Via Texas, California, Nicaragua, and Spain, Miguel received his priestly training en route to Belgium, where he was ordained in 1925.

The Jesuits sent Padre Miguel to Mexico City in 1926, hoping a return home might relieve the priest's chronic stomach illness. Just twenty-three days after Miguel arrived, President Calles intending to outlaw the Catholic Church, banned all public worship. Since he was not known as a priest in Mexico, Miguel now went about clandestinely – sometimes in disguise (*see left!*) celebrating Mass, distributing communion, hearing confessions, and anointing the sick.

*"I see God's hand so palpably in everything that almost – almost I fear they won't kill me in these adventures. That will be a fiasco for me who sighs to go to heaven and start exchanging arpeggios on the guitar with my guardian angel."*

In November 1927, a bomb was tossed at Calles's car from a car previously owned by one of Miguel's two brothers. All three brothers were rounded-up and condemned to death. The youngest was pardoned, but Padre Pro and his brother Humberto were executed by a firing squad. Calles had news photographers present, expecting the Pros to die cowardly. But Padre Pro refused the blindfold and welcomed the bullets with his arms extended in the form of a cross, crying out, "**Viva Cristo Rey!**" ("Long Live Christ the King!") Although Calles outlawed any public demonstration, thousands of Mexicans defiantly lined the streets, honouring the martyr as he was carried in procession to his grave.

Quick-witted and naturally light-hearted Miguel played practical jokes all his life. He also played them in death. President Calles thought executing Padre Pro publicly would demoralize Catholics, but it had the opposite effect. Miguel even promised to joke in heaven. "*If I meet any long-faced saints there,*" he said, "*I will cheer them up with a Mexican hat dance!*" Miguel Pro – pray for us!



## Saints Andrew Dũng-Lạc & the Vietnamese Martyrs

The evangelization of Vietnam began in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The growth came about partly from the fact that since the earliest times the seed of the Faith has been watered by the blood of the martyrs of Vietnam – the missionaries, the local clergy and the lay women & men. They all shared the labour of apostolic work and together faced death to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel.

From 1625 to 1886 no less than 53 purges launched persecution after persecution, each one more savage and brutal than the last. Over the whole territory of Vietnam about 130,000 Christians were killed in these persecutions. Over the centuries the names of many have been lost, but their group memory is still alive in the Vietnamese Catholic community.

Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century 117 of these martyrs, whose lives and sufferings were best documented, were beatified in four groups. They were all canonized together by Pope John Paul II on 19 June 1988.



Each one of them was a soul individually created and loved by God, with a life and gifts uniquely his or her own; but with such a huge crowd one can only classify broadly. By nationality, there were 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spanish and 10 French. By role, there were 59 laymen & women, 8 bishops & 50 priests. By mode of death, 75 were beheaded, 22 strangled, 6 burned alive, 5 were torn to pieces while still alive, and 9 died of torture in prison. There are now about **six million Catholics** in Vietnam today – about 10% of the population.

## Temporary Timetable (Tier 4)

*\*No Sunday obligation\**

*\*20 people per Mass\**

*\*Only attend one mass a week\**

**Weekly Sunday Mass on YouTube**

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

## Monday - Saturday

**Mass at 12.15 pm**

*(Church opens for all at 11.45am for  
Confessions & Prayer 11.45-12.10pm  
Church closes at 1.00pm)*

## Sunday

**Mass at 9.30 & 11.00am**

*(Church opens for all at 9.00am for  
Confessions & Prayer before each mass  
Church closed for cleaning 10 - 10.30am)*

**Further information on Facebook or  
The Parish website**

[www.stalloysiusglasgow.org](http://www.stalloysiusglasgow.org)

**St Catherine of  
Alexandria**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Century African Martyr**

**& Scholar**

**inspired many, including**

**St Joan of Arc**

