



Stay Home & Stay Safe



Welcome to our new readers joining us for the first time to Issue 5 of "Keeping in Touch". We've popped previous issues on our [website](#) if you'd like to catch up.

Some countries are lifting restrictions and allowing limited gatherings, but life in the UK continues in Week 6 of lockdown . . .

We may not be able to leave our homes, but you can escape to Rome this week by watching BBC iPlayer documentary, "Priest School", with a special appearance by OA, Monsignor Charles Burns OBE, former Vatican Archivist.T

This week, thanks to Professor Bart McGettrick, we also have a special view of Life in the Holy Land at Easter.

If you have news or views (including the view from your window!) from around the world, please send it to: alumni@staloysius.org

This Easter in the Holy Land



Professor McGettrick is pictured at The "Separation Wall" separating Israel from Palestine and the Expectant Madonna is weeping as she overlooks Bethlehem

During this Easter season there has been some media attention given to Easter in The Holy Land. The Holy Land is a rapidly changing area, now with only 1.2% of its population being Christian. Emigration is constant and the pressures on Christians is severe.

There are areas where persecution is a daily threat. In Palestine there are currently significant restrictions on movement of people especially in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The Coronavirus has had the impact of virtually shutting off much Palestinian land. The impact on the economy has been devastating since many Christians are dependent on pilgrimages and tourism. That has simply collapsed. So this Easter services in 2020 were held in empty towns; in empty streets; in empty churches; with people at home with empty hearts. For the first time in living memory the Basilica of The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was locked.

Indeed The Tomb was empty! Yet, He is Risen!

As so often happens there are unexpected consequences of crises and in The Holy Land there is a resurgence of the spiritual life of Christians. As in other areas of the world there is a greater understanding of what really matters: family, friends, clear air, silence, birds singing; community. There is an awareness that humanity is not saved by material wealth and celebrities, but by faith and good works. The Church cannot survive as a virtual church but a real community.

So not all is disaster and gloom. When in that land one quickly realises how crushing the politics and social conditions of Christians can be, but that Jesus went to Jerusalem not only to die – but that He would rise for us and be Our Saviour. That is why the Christian institutions stand as beacons of hope.

(Professor Bart McGettrick (OA 1963) is Chairman of The International Board of Regents of Bethlehem University; and President of The Holy Land Commission of The Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He serves on several other committees in The Holy Land.

He is a very frequent visitor to The Holy Land. He was a pupil, teacher, Governor and Chairman of Governors of St Aloysius' College. He lives in Glasgow.)

Worth A Look

Inspiration, Celebration, Ordination: A Year at Priest School

Now available on [BBCiplayer](#) - a documentary providing rare access to the inner workings, personnel, seminarians and history of the oldest Scottish institution abroad - Il Pontificio College Scozzese (The Scots College in Rome.) (58 mins)

(Apologies to our OAs abroad who don't have access to BBCIPlayer)

Brainteaser

Last week's answer was: 8. Golf umbrellas will be on their way (once we're back in school) to 2 joint winners whose emails arrived at the same time! Well done to Professor Andrew McGettrick (1962) and Mr Ken Nicholson (1959).

This week's brainteaser is one for all you Latin scholars. Translate the Latin, and tell us which verse of the Bible it comes from.



Answers as usual to alumni@staloyisius.org. This week's prize is a St Aloysius' mug!

On This Day ...

Happy birthday to any of our OAs who celebrate their birthday today, 29 April. Other eminent Taurean personalities who share the same birthday are Lonnie Donegan and Hirohito.

Did you know that, on this day, in the year:-

- 1852 First edition of Peter Roget's Thesaurus published
- 1940 Norwegian King Haakon & government flee to Britain
- 1967 'Respect' released by Aretha Franklin
- 1975 The Fall of Saigon
- 1990 Wrecking cranes began tearing down the Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate
- 1997 43rd British Academy Television Awards: "Only Fools and Horses" Best Comedy


Jokes of the Week

"I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."	Did you hear about the mathematician who was afraid of negative numbers? He will stop at nothing to avoid them.
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Laugh of the Week

[Breakfast with the Stripper](#)

Reflections



*Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.
Gerard Manley Hopkins*

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Aloysian Community; those who are alone, are ill or have been bereaved, those caring for the sick, or are involved in scientific research and those in positions of leadership around the world.

AMDG

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