

MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

VOLUME 5 / ISSUE 7 (JULY 2021)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Chinese pastor charged with terrorism for possessing religious literature: The leader of an unregistered Protestant church in China has been formally arrested on charges of 'unlawfully possessing items that advocate terrorism or extremism,' in possibly the first such case involving a church leader in the country. Mr Zhao Weikai is a leader of Xuncheng Reformed Church in Taiyuan, Shanxi province, in north China. His wife Li Xin received a notification of his official arrest on 20 July under charges that those close to him describe as "beyond imagination."



Dear Parish Family:

I spend a lot of time driving. I also do not like to waste time while I am doing it. As a result, I tend to listen to podcasts. Now, I have to admit that most of them tend to be theological. Some of them are really lectures while others are discussions. Most of them are informative, but I take issue with others and wind up arguing with the speakers. Some are just for fun.

Here is a brief list of some that you might find enjoyable on a long drive:

Informative and Edifying:

1. *The C.S. Lewis Podcast with Alister McGrath*: The Rev. Dr. Alister McGrath is just an all-around smart man! You can read his biography at <http://alistermcgrath.weebly.com/biography.html>. McGrath started out as an atheist who studied biology at Oxford earning his doctorate, only to go to Cambridge to study to become a priest where he earned his doctorate in theology. He eventually became Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, which is a seminary. He has written more books than I can count.

2. *Word on Fire with Bishop Robert Barron*: Robert Barron is a bishop in the Roman Catholic Church. He, too, is one smart man who knows how to engage with modern society as a Christian.

3. *White Horse Inn*: The podcast is named after a pub in Cambridge, England, where the Reformation came to the English-speaking world. It features regular round-table discussions on faith, culture, and apologetics. Michael Horton (a graduate of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford) and Shane Rosenthal aim each week to equip Christians to “know what they believe and why they believe it.” The broadcast regularly features interviews with leading thinkers, “on the street interviews,” that help show popular convictions among either Christian or non-Christian groups, and frequent interaction with quotes from movies or music lyrics that help us analyze American culture. Sometimes, I argue with them.

4. *The Living Church*: It is a fairly wide ranging view of the Anglican Communion covering a variety of topics with each show featuring a different speaker.

5. *Carl Trueman Lectures from Reformed Theological Seminary*: You can get them here: https://rts.edu/resource_authors/dr-carl-trueman/

6. Any podcast with N.T. Wright. Need I say more? He writes books faster than I can read them.

For fun:

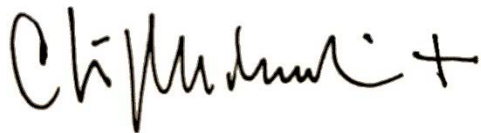
1. *The Babylon Bee*: Just plain funny!

2. *Anglican Unscripted*: Fr. George Conger and Kevin Kallsen bring you news stories from around the Anglican Communion, although some might consider it “too much inside baseball.” If you are a Church geek (aka “Church mouse”), you will enjoy it. They also have a website with the latest news in the Anglican Communion: <https://anglican.ink/>.

3. *The Mockingcast*: It is a bi-weekly podcast, by Mockingbird Ministries, hosted by RJ Heijmen, Sarah Condon and David Zahl. They seek to connect the Christian faith with the realities of everyday life in fresh and down-to-earth ways.

Happy listening!

Your servant in Christ,



The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector



August Birthdays

- 8/01 Charles Juhasz
- 8/08 Kaiden Klock
- 8/10 Jay Potter
- 8/12 Jeanet Iles
- 8/13 Norman Tucker
- 8/25 Sarah Ege
- 8/28 Dr. Jimmy Smith
- 8/29 Teresa Castelli
- 8/30 George Parks

August Anniversaries

- 8/29 Jimmy and Helena Smith
- 8/29 Bill and Jeanet Iles



Ministry Schedule

FOR AUGUST

	1 ST	8 TH	15 TH	22 ND	29 TH	
CHALICE	Sandra Wood Nancy B	Margaret L Richard S	Thelma B Nancy B	Monya L Margaret L	Sandra W Thelma B	
SERVER	Sandra W	Margaret L	Nancy B	Monya L	Thelma B	
LECTORS	Mary S George W	Sandy G Wes A	Michelle S Tom B	Kay A Bill I	Flo C George W	
CRUCIFER	Richard S	Sandra W	Margaret L	Wes A	Monya L	
TORCHES	None Scheduled					
INTERCESSOR	Nancy B	Thelma B	Sandra W	Thelma B	Nancy B	
HEALING						
USHERS	Charlie T Wes A	Tom B Jim L	Darrell A Jerry T	George W Tom B	Charlie T Jim C	
GREETERS	Deanna Gibson and Naomi Creech					
LEV	Thelma B	Nancy B	Flo C	Margaret L	Susan T	Sandra W
ALTAR GUILD	Margaret L	Naomi C	Annamarie N	Nancy B	Susan T	
ALTAR FLOWERS	Susan Tullos					

Please be on time. Arrive by 10:15 so that you can be robed and ready to serve.

THE OASIS AT ST. LUKE'S

Our Oasis does so much for the community. Not only is it the place for the best bargains in Polk County, but the Oasis honors vouchers issued by other churches in the community to provide items free of charge to those in need. This is a tremendous benefit to our community. The Oasis also provides clothing items for newborns free of charge to the Grace Pregnancy Outreach. The Oasis is in need of additional volunteers to do the work that it does in the larger community.

The review generated by the Oasis supports the grants that we give to the Community to assist other ministries. It also helps to support the general revenue of the Parish.

Please speak with Thelma Barry about service opportunities at the Oasis. You will be glad you did.



***FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF
THE MONTH
IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA
July 31
By James Kiefer***

Iñigo de Recalde de Loyola, youngest of thirteen (one of my sources says eleven) children of Don Beltran Yáñez de Loyola and Maria Sáenz de Licon y Balda, was born in 1491 in the family castle in the Basque province of Gipuzkoa, in northeastern Spain, near the French border. As befitted a boy from an aristocratic

family, he spent some time as a page at the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, the rulers of Spain. Here, by his later testimony, he was involved in gambling, wenching, and duelling. He got into trouble with the law, but escaped punishment because he was technically a cleric. (This does not mean that he was destined for the priesthood. In those days someone becoming a priest went through seven steps: doorkeeper, reader, exorcist, acolyte, subdeacon, deacon, and priest. The first four were called Minor Orders, and did not involve any serious commitment, but they did make one technically a cleric, which was useful if one got arrested for anything less than murder or treason. Probably many young noblemen took the first step simply as a precaution. Later the law extended the definition of "cleric" to anyone who could read. See the BIO notes on Thomas a Becket, 29 December.) He then entered military service, but fought in only one major battle, the defense of Pamplona against the French in 1521. The professional soldiers knew that their position was indefensible, and proposed to surrender. Iñigo (or Ignatius, to give him the Latin form of his name) had visions of military glory, and urged his comrades to fight. He was promptly hit in the leg by a cannon ball, the town surrendered anyway, and the French sent him home on a stretcher.

The leg was badly set, and did not heal properly. It had to be rebroken and reset, and again it healed crookedly and left him with a permanent limp. Meanwhile, he was bedridden for many months, and spent the time reading. He asked for tales of knightly adventure, but instead was given a *Life of Christ*, written by a Carthusian monk. He read it, and his life was transformed. He went on pilgrimage to Montserrat (near Barcelona), where he hung up his sword over the altar, and then spent about a year at Manresa near Montserrat first working as a nurse and orderly in a hospital there, and then retiring to a cave to live as a hermit and study *The Imitation of Christ*, by Thomas a Kempis, a book urging the Christian to take Christ as example, and seek daily to follow in His footsteps. It is probably during this year that he wrote his *Spiritual Exercises*, a manual of Christian prayer and meditation. He directs the reader to begin with an event in the life of Christ, and to imagine the scene in detail, to replay the episode in his mind like a movie script, and to try to feel as if he had himself witnessed the event, and then to use this experience as a motive for love, gratitude, and dedication to the service of God. The book is available today in hardcover and paperback. It has been much used by Christians of all varieties--John Wesley was enthusiastic about it. Ignatius then made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see with his own eyes the scenes of Our Lord's life and

death. He wanted to stay and preach to the Muslims, but the Franciscans stationed there advised him that he needed an education in order to preach effectively.

Back in Spain, he spent ten years (1524-1534) getting an education at Barcelona, Alcala, Salamanca, and Paris, beginning by going to elementary school to learn Latin grammar, and ending with a Master of Arts degree from the University of Paris. In Salamanca, he often preached to groups of people assembled by chance; but in those days a layman undertaking to preach on his own, without a license or supervision, was automatically suspected of heresy. Ignatius was twice imprisoned by the Spanish Inquisition and questioned about his beliefs, an experience that made a deep impression on him. (He was finally acquitted, but forbidden to discuss religious matters for three years.) Today, his followers are aggressively proud of the fact that no member of their order has ever sat on an Inquisitorial tribunal. (It is possible that Ignatius already had doubts about the Inquisition. He was a Basque, and I am told that the Inquisition was never active in Biscay because the Basques, although thoroughly orthodox Christians, would not tolerate it.) In 1534, he and six fellow students formed a group who vowed to travel to Jerusalem and there preach the Gospel to the Muslims. (The most famous of the six is Francis Xavier, who went to India and China as a missionary, and who is commemorated on 3 December.) This group later took the name, "The Society of Jesus," and were nicknamed "the Jesuits" by outsiders, a nickname that stuck.

In 1537 the Jesuits (now ten in number) gathered in Venice and (having found that renewed war in Palestine made journeying there impossible) offered their services to Pope Paul III. Ignatius and some of the others were ordained to the priesthood, and they were assigned various tasks. In 1540 they became a formal organization, with the usual monastic vows, plus a fourth vow of personal obedience to the Pope. In order to have more time for preaching and study the order abolished the practice (followed by almost all previous orders) of reciting the monastic Hours in community. Its chief goals were:

- (a) renewal of the Roman Catholic Church through extensive education and the encouragement of frequent use of the sacraments,
- (b) extensive missionary work in non-Christian countries, and
- (c) a suitable response to the growing challenge of Protestantism.

In the remaining fifteen years of his life, Ignatius supervised the Jesuits from Rome and saw the order grow from ten men to a thousand. It was always active in missions, and became deeply involved in education, and in counselling those with

difficult decisions to make, particularly rulers. The Order undertook to win back to the Roman obedience those areas that had recently become Protestant. Ignatius counselled his Jesuits (technically neither monks nor friars, but priests regular) to proceed with charity and moderation, "without hard words or contempt for people's errors." He died suddenly on 31 July 1556. His writing include the following prayer:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest;
to give, and not to count the cost,
to fight, and not to heed the wounds,
to toil, and not to seek for rest,
to labor, and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will.

Let us pray: Almighty God, who called Ignatius of Loyola to the service of your Divine Majesty and to seek you in all things; Give us also the grace to labor without counting the cost and to seek no reward other than knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.



JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL FOR ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION ON SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM WHERE WE ARE STUDYING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN WITH WES AMASON.



Christ tells us: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mt. 6:21. Please remember the Parish for your annual pledge. This Parish is tremendously generous, but 2020 saw a marked downturn in giving since we were not meeting to worship together and were live-streaming our worship services.



HOSPITAL VISITS

Given COVID-19, visitations are restricted by hospitals. Nevertheless, if you know of anyone who needs a home visit because they cannot get to Church, please call the Parish Office, or let Fr. Makowski know. We will see if the hospital will allow Fr. Makowski to call on them. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Makowski at 713.299.7675.

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

Praying is something that we all can do, young and old, rich and poor, tall and short. Please pray for everyone in our Parish, those who have asked you to pray for them and especially those who have no one to pray for them.



***PLEASE BRING PORK & BEANS FOR
MANNAFEST***

***SHOP AT THE OASIS THE HOME OF THE BEST BARGAINS
IN POLK COUNTY***



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

836 WEST JONES STREET
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351
CHURCH OFFICE: 936.327.8467
WWW.STLUKESLIVINGSTON.ORG

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.07, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA PARA EL LIBRE PORTE DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LIBRE PORTE.

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.06, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO.