



# STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

JULY 2021



Welcome to the Summer '21 news sheet and my first one as the new  
Chair of the Association.

We have a number of exciting events coming up that we felt could not wait for the September newsletter. Our President, Dominic Hartley OS86, (the first President younger than me – sad milestone!) describes Thirst Fridays and his plans for the annual dinner next February in his piece below. Given our collective, restricted experience over the last 18 months, I anticipate that people will be keen to book their places at a great new venue in the City for what will be a really wonderful evening.

Our immediate past President, Tim Livesey OS77, has again arranged some fascinating seminars in our “Towards a Better Politics” series. Two of these will be online: Canon Dr Angus Ritchie, executive director of the Centre for Theology and Community will speak on Tuesday 28th September and Jonathan Tonge, Professor of Politics at Liverpool University, will speak on Tuesday 26th October. Dr Ritchie is an Anglican priest who has ministered in inner city parishes and has been involved in community organising since 1998. Pope Francis has praised his ideas, saying they are about finding the means to guarantee a life for all people that is worthy of being called human, a life capable of cultivating virtue and forging new bonds. Professor Tonge is a specialist in Northern Ireland matters and his topic is the highly topical “Towards a Better Politics in Northern Ireland”. Both events will start at 6pm and will last an hour. These events are not restricted to Association members and we encourage you to invite your friends and colleagues from around the world to attend. They do need to register separately for the event however.

We hope to arrange an in-person or possibly hybrid event in November. Further details will be circulated when available.

In the Autumn the College will be hosting the first reunions to take place for quite some time. There are currently more requests for reunions than the College is able to accommodate, so we ask for a little patience while the backlog is reduced.

John Browne, the Headmaster of Stonyhurst, and Stephen Withnell OS95, Deputy Head (External), have generously given up their time to attend all the recent Association Committee meetings and it has been immensely cheering to hear how well the College has addressed the Covid pandemic and the many other challenges that inevitably arise. If current planning and Covid assumptions hold firm, then the number of students attending the College and SMH in September may be the highest since the closure of Beaumont and the Stonyhurst Foundation is putting a Stonyhurst education within reach of more and more families.

I record my enormous thanks to my predecessor, Simon Andrews OS68, for his sterling contribution to the College and Association over several decades. I will struggle to fill Simon's shoes but will try to promote the Stonyhurst Association as a progressive, outward-looking force for good in the world in addition to its important role in supporting the College. I welcome all ideas to this end and can be contacted via the Association office.

On behalf of the Association Committee I offer my thoughts and prayers to the whole of the Stonyhurst family.

**Brendan Roche OS82, Chairman of the Stonyhurst Association**

## Forthcoming Association Events

**July 30th** - Feast of St Ignatius Mass at 6.00pm, Farm Street, London

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and the parish council invite you to 6.00pm Mass followed by a drink in the Mount Street Gardens (regulations and weather permitting), London W1K 3AH to celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius with Jesuit alumni/ae from schools and colleges across the UK and around the world.



**July 31st** - Feast of St Ignatius Mass at St Peter's, Stonyhurst at 11.00am.

**August 6th** - the first of our 'Thirst Fridays' will be in Brighton at 6.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

**August 20th - 27th** - Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage, the programme for the week can be accessed from the Association website.

**September 3rd** - the second 'Thirst Friday' in London at 6.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

**September 28th** - the third in our series of webinars, 'Towards a Better Politics'. Tim Livesey OS77 in conversation with Angus Ritchie, Director of the Centre for Theology and Community in east London ([www.theology-centre.org](http://www.theology-centre.org)).

**October 26th** - the fourth in our webinar series, featuring Professor Jonathan Tonge in conversation with Tim Livesey OS77. Jonathan Tonge is an academic based in the Department of Politics Studies at the University of Liverpool.

**December 9th** - Association Carol Service at Stonyhurst, 7.00pm in St Peter's.

**February 26th 2022** - Association Annual Dinner, at the Pan Pacific Hotel, London. A booking form will be emailed to all shortly



## From Dominic Hartley OS86, Association President 2021-2022

It's the last day of term at St Mary's Hall, July 1st, and an outdoor Mass on the front lawns of the school is about to begin. It is one of those gloriously still summer days, Mr Mann is playing On Eagle's Wings on the piano as the Ruds' leavers take their seats. I am enjoying all of it, a tear in my eye as my son Oliver reads. I'm tuning in from 200ft below ground as I take the Jubilee line heading into central London. And that seems to sum up what a year it has been, a year in which we've missed out on so many rites of passage, but with technology being called upon to keep us all somehow connected. It has been one rollercoaster ride!

Taking over the helm from Tim Livesey (thanks for your extra year Tim!) my overriding thought as the new President of the Association is of the need to move away from Virtual Event land. I work in this field, but am passionate about the need to get back to face-to-face interaction. Enjoying other people's company is one of the greatest gifts in life and online will only get you so far. So, my priority is to help organise as many opportunities for us to meet once again!

We start with Thirst Fridays! From August 6th, these informal monthly gatherings are aimed at all OS living nearby to a bar in a designated City. It is a call to come down to the local pub, have your first drink on the Association, meet other OS after work and go from there. The first will be in Brighton on August 6th with London on Friday September 3rd. Put these dates in your diary for a really relaxed opportunity to catch up with other OS who live in your area both the young and less young. There will be more destinations to come, I've persuaded my brother Jules OS84 to help organise a Thirst Friday in Edinburgh at some point too, so watch this space.

Next to the Association Annual Dinner, which of course was cancelled last year. The thinking is we go BIG this year to make up for it! We are going to have a huge celebration of all things Stonyhurst on February 26th 2022 at the brand new Pan Pacific Hotel in London. It's going to be a wonderful evening in one of London's most sumptuous hotels thanks to calling in a few favours from my cousin CJ OS86. There will be a drinks reception, three course meal and much more, and we've managed to line up an inspirational speaker Jimmy Nelson OS86, from my year. Jimmy has travelled the world documenting 35 lost indigenous tribes and is an incredible photographer and Ted Talk pro. The ballroom will have the most advanced screens in the industry where we'll be able to show his award-winning photography as well as showcasing many of the charitable works that OS are involved with. Then 29 Fingers, the band I founded with Tommy Lorimer OS86 on the drums, will take to the stage for a gig into the early hours – so come prepared to party! For those wanting to make this a special occasion, the hotel has a fine spa, infinity pool, gym and is in a stunning Plaza so shopping is also on the cards. There will be a mass at Farm Street the next day followed by an informal Sunday pub lunch for those that are not clapped out on the sofa!

It also occurred to me that the OS would like to be more informed about events and people in the Stonyhurst Community. As a filmmaker I've started a Face-to-Face video series whereby I'll be meeting some of the personalities that keep the Stonyhurst Community alive. My first stop was the current Headmaster, John Browne, so look out for that edit film. Next, I am planning on visiting Paul Chitnis OS79 to understand more about the wonderful work of the Jesuit Missions and how we might be able to support them.



For those of you who have enjoyed the Association Webinar series Towards a Better Politics, Tim has two more live discussions in store for later this year.

Finally, I will be passing the baton on to a new President in May 2022 and have a very exciting announcement to share! We are delighted that Julie Macfarlane OS78 has accepted the nomination of President-Elect and will be the first Lady President in the history of the Stonyhurst Association.

In the meantime, thanks so much to Simon Andrews OS68 who not only inspired me as a playroom master, but also worked tirelessly as the Association Chairman for many years, before handing over to the highly capable Brendan Roche OS82.



Julie Macfarlane OS78, is married to Niall OS75, they have three OS children, Ailsa OS04, Jessica OS05 and Alasdair OS08. Ailsa is married to Alastair Robertson OS04 and Julie is pictured here with their daughter Alice.

## Wanted - OS News!

We would love to hear of your wedding, your degree success, a special achievement, a new baby, voluntary and charitable work!

The next full printed edition of the Newsletter will come out in September, copy needed by Friday 13th August.

Please send any news to our Newsletter editor: Michael Hargreaves at: [m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



Sunlight over the pond, Thursday 15th July

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