

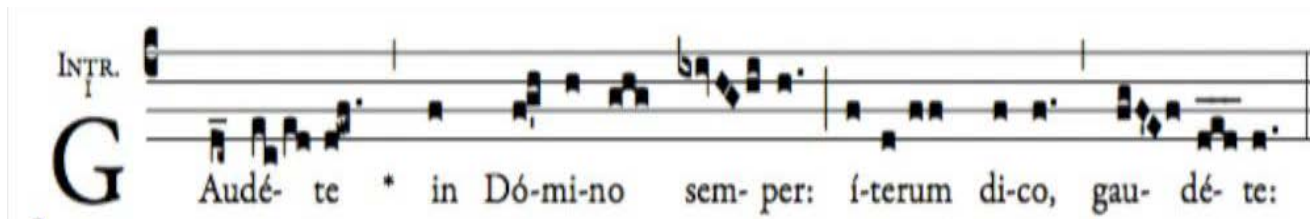
SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete
Sunday 11th December 2022

GAUDETE SUNDAY

In the days when Mass was celebrated in Latin, certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year took their names from the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon - in our own time, this Antiphon, although still found in the Missal, has largely been replaced by a processional hymn, at least on Sundays and major feasts.

Two well-known examples of this would be: the Sunday after Easter (often referred to as 'Low Sunday' in Britain because of its contrast to the high solemnity of Easter Sunday) was known as '*Quasimodo* Sunday' from the First Letter of Saint Peter chapter 2, verse 2: "*Quasi modo geniti infantes...*" ("Like newborn babes..."). The Fourth Sunday of Lent was known as '*Laetare* Sunday' because the Introit began "*Laetare Ierusalem...*" ("Rejoice, Jerusalem...").

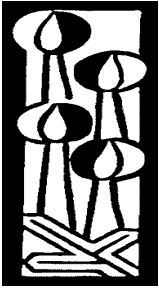


This Third Sunday of Advent is often still known as '*Guadete* Sunday', taken from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, verse 4: "*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete*" (Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice). I have printed an excerpt from the sung Antiphon found in the book of liturgical chants for the Church's Year called the *Liber Usualis* (*The Common Book*).

'*Gaudete*' means 'rejoice' - it is the imperative or command form of the Latin verb '*Gaudere*', that is, 'to rejoice'. The reason for our 'rejoicing' is that we have now passed the mid-point in Advent, and we are asked not so much to focus on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time, but rather to turn our minds to celebrate the feast of his First Coming at Bethlehem - Christmas.

You will notice that the mood lightens somewhat in the readings and prayers of today's Mass. This is also reflected in the use of rose-coloured vestments today - the royal purple of Advent is left to the side. The third candle of the Advent wreath on this *Gaudete* Sunday is traditionally rose-coloured. In the purple floral arrangements before the altar and pulpit, some roses have been added - another sign of rejoicing and the proximity of Christmas.

Father McGachey



CANDLELIGHT SONG EVENING PRAYER WITH *LUCERNARIUM* AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - TONIGHT 6pm

This Sunday we will have Candlelight Evening Prayer (Vespers), which will begin with an Evening Thanksgiving for Light (*Lucernarium*) and conclude with Benediction. We invite you to join us for this beautiful service.

THE VIGIL MASS IS AT THE NEW TIME OF 4.30pm



SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER - AN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Motherwell Diocesan Choir have asked to come to Saint Bride's, with their Organist, John Pitcathley and Conductor, Des McLean, to perform an Advent/Christmas Concert of Carols and Readings at 7.30pm. Please make a special effort to attend, it should be a wonderful evening.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop Toal will be in parish on Wednesday evening to confirm the children of Primary 7 from Saint Kenneth's Primary School.

GENERAL ABSOLUTION SERVICE



Bishop Joseph Toal has given me special permission this year to celebrate Rite 3 of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) with **General Absolution**. I would propose to hold this service on the **Thursday 22nd December** at 7pm. The service will last around 30 minutes.

Please consider making a new start with God and with those around you, by coming and taking part in this **General Absolution**.

It may be a long time since you were last at Confession...you may not find it easy to go to Confession, or saying you have made a mess or things or got things wrong... Come along and enjoy a new beginning this Christmas time!

Please encourage those members of your families and other parishioners who have not been to Church for a long time to come along and experience the forgiveness of God.

CLUB 200

This week's winner: Mary McLaughlin. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

RAFFLE FOR UKRAINE

The Raffle of the knitted dolls for Ukraine over the past few weeks, raised £200.00. Sincere thanks to all who took part.

UPDATE

I have visited almost half of the seventy people on the Sick List of the parish this past week. A number of them have not been visited for some time! Can I ask the Eucharistic Ministers who take Holy Communion to the sick, to take a Bulletin to give to each of them - so they know what is happening in the Parish. I intend to visit the remainder of the sick, please God, this coming week. Thank you to those who volunteered to drive me around - I really appreciate this. In addition to these visits, I have heard around 240 Confessions of the children in Saint Kenneth's Primary. I will attend two Nativity Plays this week in Saint Kenneth's Primary and Saint Hilary's Primary.

STALL

The December edition of the *Flourish* newspaper is available - priced £1.00. As well as that, the new edition of the bi-weekly *Scottish Catholic* is available, priced £2.00. There are some copies left of *The Western Calendar* - most of them were sold during the week. It is priced £3.20. There is a wide selection of modestly priced Christmas cards, Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards and some calendars.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

In some parishes in Scotland, it is traditional for the Priest to offer the Masses he says on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for our dead relatives and friends. I will do this at the four Christmas Masses here at Saint Bride's this year. Their names will also be included in a special Christmas Day edition of the Bulletin. These are called 'Christmas Remembrances'. If you like to have your loved ones remembered in this way, then please hand-in their names to the Sacristy or the Chapel House by Friday 23rd of December.

CALENDAR

Saint Lucy is remembered on **Tuesday**. Born at the end of the Third century in Syracuse, Sicily. She was brought up as a Christian by her mother. Lucy's vow of virginity, along with her lavish giving to the poor, angered the young man to whom she had been promised in marriage. He subsequently denounced her to Paschasius, the Roman Governor. Lucy was put to death by the sword. Her name means 'light' is Latin, and she is the patron saint of those who have problems with the sense of sight. On **Wednesday** we celebrate the **Dedication of Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral** in Motherwell. The Spanish mystic, **Saint John of the Cross**, is honoured on **Thursday**. Born into a poor family in Fontiveros in Central Spain, he joined the Carmelite Order. Saint Teresa of Avila persuaded him to help her reform the Order, for which he suffered many trials.

THURSDAY HOLY HOUR

I think it is time to pause the Thursday Holy Hour along with Thursday Confessions, until the beginning of Lent in February. Thank you to those who have been attending regularly.

THANK YOU...

Belated thanks to the Bereavement Group for organising the Memorial Mass at the end of November. Thank you, too, to all those who came to the Mass for the Immaculate Conception last Thursday - around 200, I reckon - and to the ladies who prepared the hot food and refreshments in the Hall afterwards. Finally, sincere thanks to those who have given donations to help us decorate the Church for Christmas. I am very grateful.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER IN THE MORNING

There will be no 10am Mass or Eucharistic Service today at Saint Bride's to allow the Church to be prepared for the Christmas Feast

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The *Vigil* Mass of Christmas - 4.30pm
The *Midnight* Mass of Christmas - 8.00pm

SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The *Dawn* Mass of Christmas 9.30am
The *Day* Mass of Christmas 11.30am

The titles in italics, are those given to these Masses in the Roman Missal

MONDAY DECEMBER 26th - FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

There will be no 10am Holy Mass or Eucharistic Service today at Saint Bride's

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27th - SATURDAY 31st

Holy Rosary 9.40am (Each day, except Thursday). 10am Holy Mass each day

SATURDAY 31st DECEMBER - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God - 4.30pm

A Service of Thanksgiving for the old year and to ask for God's blessing on the New Year, with Night Prayer (Compline) and Benediction - 11.30pm

SUNDAY 1st JANUARY - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - World Day of Prayer for Peace
Festal Holy Masses at 9.30am and 11.30am

After Mass today bottles of Holy Water, blessed during Mass, for you to sprinkle your home, will be distributed to those present

MONDAY 2nd JANUARY - FEAST OF SAINTS BASIL AND GREGORY

There will be no 10am Holy Mass or Eucharistic Service today at Saint Bride's

TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY - SATURDAY 7th JANUARY

Holy Rosary 9.40am (Tuesday-Friday) 10am Holy Mass each day

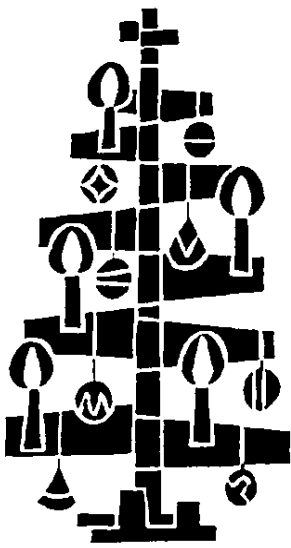
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY - THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Vigil Mass Saturday 4.30pm. Sunday 9.30am and 11.30am

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

It is sometimes said that the Christmas Tree is a pagan Winter tradition which has got mixed up with the Christian celebration of Christ's birth at Bethlehem. The real story of the Christmas Tree, however, is a good deal more interesting than that.

It is true that the pagan tribes of Northern of Europe held evergreens in special regard - they were seen as the preservers of life in the dead time of the year. But as early as the Eleventh century a fir tree, hung with apples, was a standard part of the so-called Christmas 'Mystery Plays'.



Called the 'Paradise Tree' it represented the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, which Adam and Eve ate of after being tempted by the Serpent in the Book of Genesis - which would lead to their expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The Paradise Tree was carried in solemn procession at the beginning of Mystery Play by the actor who was to play 'Adam' and remained in full view throughout the Play. With the passage of time, the Paradise Tree became a symbol of Christmas itself. As late as the Nineteenth century little figures of 'Adam' and 'Eve' were placed below an illuminated Tree in some German households.

Over the centuries the Tree became one form of the 'Christmas light' which people put in their windows on Christmas Eve - people still light candles to put in their windows; alternatively they use the small pyramid-shaped candelabra.

The first record of a domestic decorated Christmas Tree as we know it was noted by a visitor to Strasbourg in 1605. It remained very much a German and Austrian tradition until the Nineteenth century, though evergreens, like holly and mistletoe, were commonly used in homes and Churches, where they frequently remained in place until the Feast of Candlemas on the 2nd of February - the official conclusion of the ecclesiastical Season of Christmas.

People who read Charles Dickens' famous 'A Christmas Carol' nowadays are sometimes puzzled by the absence of any mention of the Christmas Tree from the various scenes of seasonal jollity. But the tradition only began to make headway in Britain after the young Queen Victoria married Prince Albert and German customs came into vogue.

So, the Christmas Tree has a long and honourable Christian tradition, and can indeed be seen as symbolic of Christ himself, the Tree of Life and the 'Light of the World, the Light no darkness can overpower.' **Father McGachey**

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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM and THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Baptisms are celebrated most Sundays of the year at 1pm. At least six months' notice must be given of intention to marry. Please speak to Father McGachey after Mass or telephone or email him to make an appointment for a face-to-face meeting.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Samantha Beach, Lorraine O'Donnell-Browen, Richard O'Donnell, Ray O'Donnell, Joanne Barrett (England), Brian McKenna, Eileen Biggins, Satya B Metha, Patricia McCormack, Helen Walton, Fiona Docherty, Margaret Deehan, Patricia Williamson, John Lang, Francis and John Reilly, Terry Cassidy, May McLaughlin, Theresa Fleetwood, Bailey Barnes, Liam Greig, Nicholas Oakes, Gillian Congdon, Liz Knight, Rita Baxter, Jean O'Neill, Ann Dillon (Dublin), Gerard Kennedy, John Thompson, Sarah Collins, John Thomson, Nora Houston, Catriona Slorach, Michael Tracy, Liz Nicol.

RECENTLY DEAD - Maria Conway, Phyllis McCluskey, Jane Ann Lochrin, John Harkins, Peter Doherty.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Danny McQuade, Mary Berry, Peter Berry, Patrick McBride (Auckland), Elizabeth Burns, Clive Dowie, Frank Armstrong, Joseph McPheely, John Francis Keenan, Catherine Boyd, Danny McQuade, Susanne Mair, Charles McCartney, Chris Roberts, Mary Pirie, Dennis Guigly, Jean Meehan, Jan and Frank Milligan, John Keenan Snr, John Keenan Jnr, Matthew Lormier.

FUNERALS

Phyllis McCluskey - Vigil and Reception Sunday 18th December 2pm (*sic*). Requiem Mass Monday 19th December 10am.

Maria Conway - Vigil and Reception Wednesday 28th December 6pm. Requiem Mass Thursday 29th December 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 4th of December 2022, was £2457.10. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £217,000. You may wish to make a one-off donation to the Parish or take out a Standing Order in favour of the Parish. Offerings can be made by Bank Transfer, the details of which are as follows: Stbrides, Sort Code 82-62-24, Account Number 40500017.