



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Thirty-Third Sunday  
of the Ordinary Season - Remembrance Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

**O** this Remembrance Sunday, we remember all those who died in the wars and conflicts of the Twentieth Century. I have been able to spend some free time this week reading about the heroic work of Roman Catholic chaplains during the Great War, and the comfort they brought to so many men. I would like to share with you three of their stories.

When conscription was introduced in 1916, the clergy remained exempt. They must have been aware, however, that across the Channel, many French priests had already been



conscripted - some worked as chaplains but the majority were expected to go off to fight at the front, where they were forbidden from carrying out their priestly duties. It is estimated that around four and half thousand French priests and religious were killed in action between 1914 and 1918.

About one hundred and seventy British chaplains, of all denominations, were killed in action during World War I, and a high proportion of these were Catholic. The first chaplain to be killed was in fact a priest of

the Diocese of Middlesbrough, Father William Finn. He had been ordered to stay on the landing craft but seeing the casualties he said: "the priest's place is beside the dying soldier; I must go." He was caught in the fire and killed.

One of the most famous chaplains was the Irish Jesuit, Father William Doyle. He was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Like Father Finn he was attached to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Finn left many unforgettable descriptions of his experiences, including this very moving one of Mass in the trenches:

"By cutting in a trench, I was able to stand in front of my tiny altar - a biscuit tin supported by two German bayonets. God's angels, no doubt, were hovering overhead, but so were the shells, hundreds of them, and I was a little afraid that when the earth shook with the crash of the guns, the chalice might be overturned. Round about me on every side was the biggest congregation I ever had: behind the altar, on either side, and in front, row after row, sometimes crowding one upon the other, but all quiet and silent, as if they were straining their ears to catch every syllable of that tremendous act of Sacrifice - but every man was dead! Some had lain there for a week and were foul and horrible to look at, with faces black and green. Others had only just fallen. While I held in my unworthy hands their Creator and their Judge and prayed to Him to give rest to their souls."

Another was Father Francis Gleeson. He was an Irish priest who served as a British Army chaplain during Ireland's involvement in the First World War. Gleeson was ordained in 1910, and worked at a home for the blind, before volunteering for service at the outbreak of war: he was attached to the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and he served with

them at the First Battle of Ypres. Whilst moving forward to the trenches on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1915, in preparation for the Battle of Aubers Ridge, the Commanding Officer ordered the battalion to stop by a shrine of Our Lady. Father Gleeson addressed the men and gave them general absolution from his horse. The men then sang the hymns *Hail, Queen of Heaven* and *Hail, Glorious Saint Patrick*. The battalion then moved off to the trenches from which they launched their attack early the next day. They were cut down by machine gun fire before they had advanced more than a few yards - there were around three hundred casualties. Gleeson attended to the dying, comforting them with the Last Rites, despite German shells falling all around him. Father Gleeson's absolution was the subject of a painting (see above) by Fortunino Matania called *The Absolution of the Munsters* that was done at the request of the widow of the Commanding Officer.

The War, it seems, did much to dispel the prejudices that were around in those days: were deeply impressed by the piety of chaplains and appreciated the work done by them, and eagerly accepted gifts of medals and rosaries. **Father McGachey**

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## SUNDAY DEVOTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



Devotions for the Month of the Holy Souls, with the recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Litany for the Holy Souls and traditional prayers for the dead, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, tonight at 6pm. Please use this opportunity to pray for your beloved dead.

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## REMEMBRANCE MASS FOR THE PARISH - THIS THURSDAY

Will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. This Mass is especially those who have died over the past twelve months, as well as our own beloved dead, the dead of the Parish since its inception, priests and people alike. During the Mass everyone will have an opportunity to light a small candle and place it in front of the altar.

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## CALENDAR



**Tuesday** is the memorial of **Saint Albert the Great** (+1280), son of a German nobleman, who was studying at Padua when the Master General of the Dominicans, succeeded in attracting him to that Order: he was to become one of its greatest glories. Saint Thomas Aquinas was among his pupils. His knowledge was encyclopaedic! **Wednesday** is the Feast of **Saint Margaret of Scotland** (+1093). The great-niece of Saint Edward the Confessor, she was born and raised in Hungary in exile. Margaret returned to England, only to have to flee again after the Battle of Hastings, to the court of King Malcolm of Scotland, whom she would later marry. She proved to be a model mother Queen and Mother. **Thursday** is the memorial of **Saint Elizabeth of Hungary** (+1231). She was famed for her great kindness and inexhaustible charity towards the poor and the sick. **Friday** is the Memorial of the **Dedication of the Basilicas of Saint Peter's** at the Vatican and **Saint Paul-Outside-the-Walls**. Saint Peter's stands on the site of Peter's execution where Nero's Circus once stood. Saint Paul-Outside-the-Walls, situated at the other end of the city on the Ostian Way, is built near the place Saint Paul was martyred. It was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1823 and was rebuilt in 1854. Next **Sunday** is the last Sunday of the liturgical year - the Feast of Christ, the Universal King.

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## THIS COMING WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

**Sunday Holy Masses** - Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am.

**Sundays of November** - Devotions with Benediction at 6pm.

**Rosary** - Monday-Friday 9.40am.      **Weekday Holy Masses** - Monday-Saturday at 10am.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am until 10am, except on days when there is a funeral.

**Confessions** will take place on Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 9.50am and after the Vigil Mass.

The **Thursday Coffee Morning** after the 10am Mass. All welcome.

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### SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

To support the work of Catholic Education, a Special Collection will be taken up on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, the First Sunday of Advent.

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### EAST KILBRIDE FAIRTRADE GROUP

The EK Fairtrade Group is holding a Festive Event in the Arts Centre at 7pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. St Kenneth's choir and Calderglen Saxophone group will be performing. also available are FT stalls, Christmas cards and local Coop free tastings. Admission free.

The Traidcraft stall will be open at the Thursday coffee morning. Charity Christmas cards, gifts etc will be on sale. Orders welcome.

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### YOUNG ADULTS' ADVENT RETREAT EVENING

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, for all 16 to 35 year-olds at St Bride's Hall, Motherwell. Inspirational talks, prayer, social & pizza! Free entry! For more information, email [mishal@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:mishal@rcdom.org.uk) or see poster for more details.

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### CLUB 200

This week's winner is Anne Marie Dickson. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

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### UKRAINE APPEAL

The next collection date for the Appeal is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, from 11am to 2pm. We wish to extend a huge thank you to all who have donated. It is much appreciated.

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### DIARY DATES

**SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - MASS OF COMMITMENT** - For the *Confirmandi* of Primary 7 at Saint Kenneth's Primary School at the 9.30am Mass.

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** - Mass with the **Sacrament of the Sick** at the 10am Mass to anyone who would wish to receive it.

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### A GENTLE REMINDER - ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

Notices, as well as names, for inclusion in the Bulletin, should arrive by 4pm on a Thursday. Anything that arrives after that time will be included the following week's edition.

## CONTACT US

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
**EMAIL** [frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk)  
**ADDRESS** Saint Bride's Parish, Whitemoss Avenue, East Kilbride G74 1NN  
**TELEPHONE** 01355 220005  
**WEBSITE** [www.sbek.org](http://www.sbek.org)    **TWITTER** @StBrideEK    **FACEBOOK** @StBrideEK  
**HALL BOOKINGS** Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan [hall@sbek.org](mailto:hall@sbek.org)  
**BULLETIN NOTICES** Contact Fr. McGachey or [bulletin@sbek.org](mailto:bulletin@sbek.org)

## 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, John Kennedy, 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** - Dougal Campbell, Mary Nolan, Mary Donaghy, Archbishop Mario Conti, Betty Barbour, Eileen Price.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - James McGowan, Madge Curran, John McCole, Mary Boyle, Francis Leonard Moran, Paul Joseph McCabe (6 November), James McCabe (14 November), Helen Hendry, John McGinley.

### FUNERALS

**Dougal Campbell** - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Requiem Mass at 10am.

**Betty Barbour** - Vigil and Reception, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10am.

**Mary Nolan** - Vigil and Reception, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 10am.

**Eileen Price** - Requiem Mass Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 10am.

## WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022, was £2521. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £221,000. 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.