

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
18th December 2022

'TO GO IN HEART AND MIND, EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM'

For the past thirty years or so, on Christmas Eve afternoon, I have tried to make time to listen world's most famous carol service: the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* from King's College, Cambridge, broadcast live on BBC Radio Four at 3pm.



King's College was Roman Catholic in its origin: it was founded, along with its sister college at Eton, in 1441 by King Henry VI. The King asked that Masses be offered there every day, along with other religious services, and that a boys' choir be formed to sing at these liturgies.

The first *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* was held at King's College on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Rev. Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four had been appointed Dean of the College. Milner-White had experienced the ravages of the First World War, serving as a Chaplain at the Western Front for four years. I don't suppose we can truly imagine the effects of the First World War upon the people of Britain: nine hundred thousand Britons died (three times as many as would be killed in the Second World War); these experiences convinced Milner-White that a more imaginative style of liturgy was needed.

Except for a lucky handful of courtesy ticket holders, everyone in the congregation has waited for hours, or even days, to spend ninety minutes at the Service. . . Around six hundred people are seated in the chapel, with millions listening on the radio around the world.

The service was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928, and has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War. Today, as well as being broadcast here in the UK, the BBC World Service broadcast it via shortwave and the internet. The broadcasts have become part of Christmas for many who live far from Cambridge, with many listening at home, busy about their own Christmas preparations.

Since 1919 the service has always begun with the carol 'Once in royal David's city', with the opening verse being sung by a boy treble. Several choristers train to perform the solo, but the boy who will sing it is only told a couple of minutes before the service starts, so he doesn't get too nervous! The *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* has nine Bible readings (or Lessons), that tell the Christmas story, with two carols between each reading.

The backbone of the service is, as its opening prayer suggests: 'the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'. The true meaning of the *Festival* is still found by those who in faith, 'go in heart and mind, even unto Bethlehem' as the opening prayer concludes, and who allow themselves to be moved once more by the greatest story ever told: that God's Son became one of us, so that we could become God's sons and daughters.

If you get the chance, listen to the *Festival* live on Radio Four. I am sure you will enjoy it.

Father McGachey

TONIGHT - AN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION LED BY THE MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR



The Motherwell Diocesan Choir will be here tonight at 7.30pm, with their Organist John Pitcathley (Cathedral Organist) and Conductor Des McLean to lead us in a Service of Advent and Christmas Music and Readings.

Please, if you can, make a special effort to attend this service - an ideal way to spend these last days of Advent and prepare for the Feast of Christmas. It should be a wonderful evening!

If anyone could give me a hand to move 52 chairs from the choir loft downstairs after the 11.30am, I would be extremely grateful.

THIS THURSDAY - GENERAL ABSOLUTION SERVICE

Bishop Joseph Toal has given us special permission this year to celebrate a **General Absolution Service**. This will take place on **Thursday** of this week at 7pm. The service will last around 30 minutes.

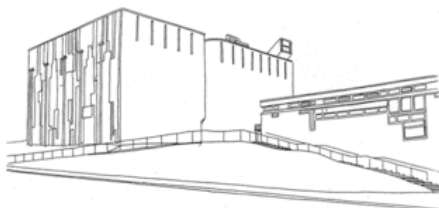


Please consider making a new start with God and with those around you, by coming and taking part in this General Absolution. It may be a long time since you were last at Confession...you may not find it easy to go to Confession, or saying you have made a mess or things or got things wrong... Come along and enjoy a new beginning this Christmas time!

Fr Frank Dougan, at Our Lady of Lourdes, will be hearing Confessions, Tuesday to Friday from 5pm-6.30pm, if you feel you would rather celebrate the Sacrament that way.

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'. Please hand-in their names to the Sacristy or the Chapel House by Friday 23rd of December.



THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

You should find with your bulletin today the traditional 'Christmas Collection' envelope. This income from this Christmas Collection is used to help support the Parish's daily liturgical life, the costs of heating and lighting the Church, as well as looking after the general fabric of the properties. We are lucky not to have a weekly second collection here now, as many other parishes do. Therefore, this the only time, apart from Easter, when we ask for a little extra help. Please be generous, as you always are. Thank you very much! If you are a member of the Giftaid scheme, then please mark as 'Giftaid' and add your envelope number or name on the envelope.

CLUB 200

This week's winner: John Hastings. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

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

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07873 263801

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 Thomson, Sarah Collins, John Thomson, Nora Houston, Catriona Slorach, Michael Tracy, Liz Nicol, Patrick Gahagan, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Maureen Macrae, Kate Milligan,

RECENTLY DEAD - Phyllis McCluskey, John Thomson, John Cassidy, Maria Conway, Peter Doherty, Jonathan Lochrin, Patricia Lardner, Mary Powell, Margaret Powell, Mary Anne McKenna.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Anne Gallagher Goodwin, Patricia Burns, Bonnie McMenamin, Ave Docherty, Joseph McFadyen sen., Joseph McFadyen jnr., Catherine Boyd, John M. Muldoon, Barbara Hepburn, Elizabeth Patrick, John Corrigan, Vincent Corrigan.

FUNERALS

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

John McGuire - Service Monday 19th Blantyre Crematorium 4pm.

John Thomson - Vigil and Reception Tuesday 20th 6pm. Requiem Mass Wednesday 21st December 10am.

Maria Conway - Requiem Mass Thursday 29th December 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 11th of December 2022, was £2432.15. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £216,000. 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.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you wish to donate by Bank Transfer to Saint Vincent De Paul Society, the details are: SSVF, Sort Code 82 - 62 - 24, Account No. 20538417.