



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of Christ the King
20th November 2022

BLESSED MIGUEL PRO SJ

As we come to the end of the liturgical year, and the celebrate of the Solemnity of Christ the King, we remember later this week the life of a young Mexican Jesuit who was deeply devoted to Christ the King - José Ramón Miguel Agustín Pro. He was born in 1891 in Guadalupe, the third of eleven siblings; his father was a mining engineer and his mother a housewife. In 1911, when he turned twenty, Miguel, as he was known, became a Jesuit novice. The same year, the Mexican Revolution took place - the President of Mexico, Porfirio Díaz, was ousted after staging a rigged re-election, and the struggle for power in the country began.

Miguel studied in Mexico until 1914, when a massive wave of anti-Catholicism forced the Jesuits to flee to California. In 1917 the new Mexican Constitution was published. Four articles were particularly aimed at suppression of the Church: there were to be no faith schools; Religious Orders were to be outlawed; public worship outside of Church buildings



was prohibited; and the civil rights of the clergy were revoked: priests were prevented from wearing clerical garb, they were denied the right to vote, and were forbidden from commenting on public affairs to the Press.

Miguel travelled to Spain, Nicaragua and Belgium, where he was ordained to the Priesthood in 1925. He suffered from stomach problems; when after several operations his health did not improve, his Superiors allowed him to return to Mexico.

Plutarco Calles was now President; unlike his predecessors, Calles vigorously enforced the anti-Catholic provisions of the 1917 Constitution. Churches were closed and priests went into hiding. Miguel spent the rest of his life in a secret ministry to Catholics, caring for their spiritual needs and working amongst the poor in Mexico City. He adopted many disguises in order to carry out his work, all the while remaining cheerful in his service of the Lord.

In October 1926, he was arrested, and released from prison the next day, but kept under surveillance. He was subsequently falsely accused of being involved in a failed bombing attempt on the Vice-President-elect, Álvaro Obregón, and became a wanted man. He was betrayed to the police, and sentenced to death, without any trial. On the 23rd of November 1927, President Calles gave orders to have Miguel executed for the assassination attempt.

As Miguel walked from his cell to the firing squad, he blessed the soldiers, knelt, and prayed quietly. Declining a blindfold, he faced his executioners with a crucifix in one hand and a rosary in the other. He shouted out: "May God have mercy on you! May God bless you! You know that I am innocent! With all my heart I forgive my enemies!" Before the firing squad were ordered to shoot, Miguel shouted: "*Viva Cristo Rey!*" (Long live Christ the King!). When the initial shots of the firing squad failed to kill him, a soldier shot him at point-blank range. Calles had the execution meticulously photographed (see above) and the newspapers throughout the country carried photos on the front page the following day.

Calles is reported to have surveyed a crowd of 40,000 people who lined the streets for his funeral procession. Another 20,000 waited at the cemetery, where he was buried without a priest.

Our Catholic faith is rooted firmly in Jesus of Nazareth, who was not a dictator. Worldly kingdoms will come and go; the kingdom of Jesus will never pass away. Together with Blessed Miguel Pro of Mexico, let us acclaim our King: *Viva Cristo Rey!* Long live Christ the King! *Father McGachey*

WELCOME TO THE CONFIRMANDI

To the pupils of Primary 7 from Saint Kenneth's school who join us for the 9.30am Mass today with their parents and teachers for their Mass of Commitment for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Toal visited them last Friday in the school and he will see them again on the 14th December to confer the Sacrament.

SERVICE AT PHILIPSHILL CEMETERY

Takes place today at 2pm to pray for the dead who are buried there. All welcome.

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.

CALENDAR

Monday is the feast of the **Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple**. Although the Bible contains no mention of this event, the extra biblical writing, the *Protoevangelium of James*, states that Saint Anne, the mother of Our Lady, brought her to the precincts of the Temple and dedicated her to God's service. The feast has been celebrated in the Church since the Eighth century. It is also the World Day of Prayer for men and women who serve God in the Cloistered Life, known as *Pro Orantibus*, established by Pope Pius XII in 1953. **Tuesday** is the memorial of **Saint Cecilia**, the third century martyr. Saint Cecilia is one of the most venerated of Roman martyrs. Her body was discovered in ninth century and transferred to the Church that bears her name in Trastevere in Rome. She is the patron saint of musicians. On **Wednesday** we remember **Blessed Miguel Pro** - see front cover. **Thursday** is the memorial of **Saint Andrew Dung-Lac** (+1839), priest, and his 116 companions (pictured) who were martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. We honour **Saint Catherine of Alexandria** (+305) on **Friday**. According to tradition, she was a young Christian from Alexandria in Egypt, who rejected the advances of the Emperor Maximinus. Refusing to deny Christ, she was killed on the so-called 'Catherine Wheel'. This feast was restored to the Calendar in 2002 by Pope Saint John Paul II.



CHANGE OF TIME FOR THE VIGIL MASS

After the consultation at the Vigil Mass last weekend, about the gauging the desire to revise the time of the Vigil Mass at Saint Bride's, the results of the written vote were as follows: to change the time to 4.30pm - 31 votes; to change the time to 5.30pm - 4 votes; to keep the Mass at 6pm - 17 votes. In the interests of fairness and justice, we will go along with the will of the majority, and so change the **Vigil Mass to 4.30pm**. The change will come into effect **next Saturday, the First Sunday of Advent**. I hope that those who did not vote for this time will not be too disappointed and accept the will of the majority. As I said on a number of occasions, I have no personal preference for a time; I have to be here. I am happy to do whatever you ask me to do. We will review the change in the New Year.



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER

On this special feast of Our Lady, we will have a Mass for the Sick, during which the Anointing of the Sick will be given to all those who wish to receive it, at the 10am Mass. The Mass will be followed by rolls and sausage, tea and coffee, in the Parish Centre - no charge. All most welcome.

THIS COMING WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

Sunday Holy Masses - Saturday Vigil 4.30pm, Sunday 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am.

Sundays of November - Devotions with Benediction at 6pm.

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

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Monday and Friday from 9.30am.

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

Holy Hour on Thursday at 7pm. **Confessions** 7pm-7.30pm.

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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

CLUB 200

This week's winner is Norma Waite. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

A SERVICE OF FOR 'ADVENT SUNDAY' -

Next Sunday at 3pm BBC Radio 3 will broadcast the traditional 'Advent Sunday' service live from St. John's College, Cambridge. It is beautiful liturgy of readings and congregational and choral music for the Season of Advent. I am sure you would enjoy it if you get the chance to listen.

CANON RYAN'S CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Following Canon Ryan's appointment as Parish Priest to St Bride's Church in 1989, he established a Christmas Appeal for children in the East End of Glasgow, utilising his contacts from his previous Parish of Saint Mungo's, Garthamlock.

This year's Christmas Appeal will begin on 21st November - this allows us three Sundays for donations, prior to a target delivery date of 15th of December.

Please do not wrap any gifts as Glasgow East End's Womens' Aid need to check them. Donations of wrapping paper, bows and tags would be gratefully accepted. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please do not leave these gifts in the Church, as has been the custom. They can be left in the Library, adjacent to the Sacristy.

DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL EAST KILBRIDE FOOD BANKS

We have been asked at Saint Bride's to see if we can help one of the local foodbanks. They are looking for tinned foods, dried foods like pastas, rice etc., any household cleaning products, and some Christmas items like cakes, table crackers... If you can help, please bring the items on the Second Sunday of Advent - two weeks' today. Please do not leave these items in the Church - they can be left in the Library, adjacent to the sacristy.

THE FEAST OF SAINT ANDREW



The feast of Saint Andrew falls on Wednesday the 30th of November. We will have a festal Mass at 10am, with organ and incense, to celebrate the Principal Patron Saint of Scotland. Please join us at the Mass and pray for our nation of Scotland and its people.

Bishop Toal has been asked by Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School to celebrate Saint Andrew's Day with the school community at a special Mass which will take place at 1.30pm that day in our Church.

A GENTLE REMINDER - ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

Notices, as well as names, for inclusion in the Bulletin, should arrive by 3pm on a Thursday. Anything that arrives after that time will be included the following week's edition.

STALL - CHRISTMAS CARDS

I have been promised by the Stall suppliers, CBC, based in Dundalk, that our Christmas Cards, Christmas Mass Bouquet cards and Calendars will be with us this week. As soon as they arrive, they will go on sale. Apologies for the delay.

CHRISTUS VINCIT, CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT

Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, universal King, and the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As King, Christ claims dominion over all creation and his kingdom of love, justice and peace, grows from strength to strength.

Few of us will remember the Holy Year of 1925, or the political situation which was the background to the teaching of the Pope of those days, Pius XI. In Russia and Mexico the Bolsheviks and extreme left-wing politicians had established atheistic regimes bent on the eradication of all religion, sending priests and believers to death or exile in persecutions as thorough as any since the time of the Romans.



It was three years since Mussolini in Italy had supplanted an admittedly corrupt and ineffective parliamentary government: the potential for evil in a regime which asked unconditional loyalty to the state - things which Pius XI was later to condemn - was recognized, but the main priority was an agreement which would give back to the Church in Italy its rights and standing.

In these circumstances the Pope wrote the letter '*Quas Primas*' (*In the first*) which described the events and successes of the Holy Year and proclaimed as a climax to that year a new feast of the Kingship of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Pope fully realised that the liturgy - for instance in the feast of the Ascension - already celebrated the Kingship of Jesus foretold in the Old Testament prophecies and referred to so often in the Gospels. 'Of his kingdom there will be no end,' Mary is told; Jesus himself will say 'All power has been given to me in Heaven and on earth' and to Pilate, 'Yes, I am a king,' but 'My Kingdom is not of this world'. This kingdom must oppose that of Satan not by material force but with the weapons of prayer and pardon and peace.

Our loyalty to Christ must be first in our hearts, but powers and governments must also accept that they have no claim on people which overrides Our Saviour's commands. In a world where people were being asked to pay exclusive loyalty to their nation or their ruler, the Pope felt it was time to have a special festival to celebrate the King to whom all must bend the knee and the Kingdom of love which all must strive to build.

The icon on one of the Books of the Gospels which we sometimes use here is a fitting image of Christ's kingship: the Greek symbols 'IC XC' mean 'Jesus Christ' and '*Nika*' means 'conquers' (hence the name of the sports brand 'Nike' meaning 'to conquer'). They correspond to the Latin '*Christus Vincit*', and reminds us how a century ago priests and believers in Mexico, Italy and Spain faced death with the cry 'Long Live Christ the King' on their lips. *Father McGachey*

CHRIST REIGNS, CHRIST CONQUERS, CHRIST RULES

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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-Brown, 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 - Mary Nolan, Betty Barbour, Eileen Price, Owen Lochrin, Patricia Carey.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Mark O'Prey, Paul Gallacher and all those who died in the Clutha Disaster, Dominic Butler, Norber Tomkins and the Tomkins Family.

FUNERALS

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

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

Eileen Price - Requiem Mass Thursday 24th November at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 13th November 2022, was £2503.98. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £220,000. 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.