

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Second Sunday of Advent
4th December 2022

SAINT AMBROSE OF MILAN

On Tuesday of this week, the Church remembers one of the great saints, Ambrose, who was bishop of Milan.

He was born in 340 at Trier, known then by its Latin name of *Treveris* - part of modern-day Germany. He was descended from an ancient Roman family, whose early members included some Christian martyrs. At the time of his birth, his father held one of the most important posts in the Roman Empire - he was Prefect of Gallia: the combined territories of France and Spain.

Ambrose was the youngest of three children. When their father died in 354AD, the family moved back to Rome. It is said that one day, while he played in the family garden, a swarm of bees settled on Ambrose, without harming him. Those who saw this interpreted it as a sign of his future eloquence - "His words will be as sweet as honey" - the servants said. This is the reason for the bees and the beehive on the Saint Ambrose High School, Coatbridge, badge, pictured on the left.



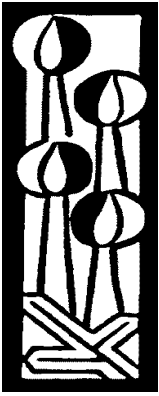
After completing his schooling, Ambrose studied Law. The brilliant young lawyer attracted the attention of the Emperor, who invited him to become Governor of Milan in northern Italy. Upon his arrival there, he found the city in a state of turmoil - the Bishop of Milan

was dead, and no-one could agree on his successor. In the interests of public-order Ambrose urged calm, but his pleading was interrupted by a voice shouting: "Ambrose for Bishop!" The cry was gradually repeated by the entire crowd, and Ambrose, to his dismay, was unanimously acclaimed bishop.

Reluctantly he agreed, and on 7th December 374AD, he was consecrated. His first act as bishop was to give away all his wealth. His sound judgment and sincerity meant his fame spread far and wide. He ate sparingly, and often spent a large part of the night in prayer. His hard work and methodical habits explain how such a busy man found time to write so many books - he wrote extensively on the Sacraments, and penned a number of liturgical hymns still used today, including the much-loved Easter hymn *At the Lamb's High Feast we sing...*

Every Sunday his sermons drew huge crowds. One particular week, a young man from Tagaste in modern-day Tunisia, was attracted inside the Basilica by the sound of singing. Little did he know this visit would change his life! After the singing concluded, Ambrose got up to speak; the young man eventually began to weep. This was the beginning of the conversion of the great Saint Augustine. Ambrose would baptise Augustine two years later, in the presence of his mother Saint Monica, and the two became friends of Ambrose, staying on in Milan for eighteen months. Hence the reason that in Coatbridge today there is parish dedicated to Saint Augustine, a daughter parish dedicated to Saint Monica, and when the High School came to be named, over sixty years ago, Saint Ambrose was the name chosen.

For twenty-two years Ambrose served God and the Church as Bishop of Milan. He died at the age of 57 on Holy Saturday 397AD. **Father McGachey**



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

6pm

Many of us will have grown up going to devotions and Benediction on Sunday evenings. Unfortunately, many parishes have lost this tradition. This Sunday and next, 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.

CALENDAR

Were today not the Second Sunday of Advent, we would be remembering two saints, **Saint John of Damascus**, the eighth century theologian and composer of hymns, and **Saint Barbara**, a third century virgin and martyr, who is patron saint of miners, amongst other things. It is also the fifty-seventh anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. **Tuesday**, as well as being the anniversary of the death of the former Bishop of Motherwell, Francis Thomson, is the memorial of **Saint Nicholas**, a Bishop of the fourth century, around whom many picturesque legends built up, and whose name is the origin of *Santa Claus*. The Bishop of Milan, **Saint Ambrose** is honoured on Wednesday - see the front cover. Thursday is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady**. We celebrate our belief that even before she was born, Mary was free from sin from the moment of her conception. The idea of Mary's complete sinlessness was first expressed in the earliest Christian centuries and in 1854 Pope Pius IX proclaimed it a Dogma of Faith. On **Friday** we celebrate **Saint Juan Diego** (pictured), the Mexican Indian to whom Our Lady is said to have appeared in 1531 near the village of Guadalupe.



THE VIGIL MASS IS AT THE NEW TIME OF 4.30pm

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER - THIS THURSDAY

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 welcome.



STALL

The December edition of the *Flourish* newspaper is available - priced £1.00. There is a wide selection of modestly priced Christmas cards and some calendars. Please place all monies in the wall-box *Papers and Magazines* - it is more secure!

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Apologies for forgetting about this on Saint Andrew's Day. Because of a funeral this Wednesday, we will have the Novena on Tuesday at the end of 10am Mass.



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 7pm. Please make a special effort to attend.

CANON RYAN'S CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Christmas gifts and toys for less fortunate children in the East End of Glasgow can be left in the Library, adjacent to the sacristy, or at the back of the Church. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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., Christmas items like cakes, table crackers... If you can help, please bring the items on the Second Sunday of Advent - a week today. They can be left in the Library, adjacent to the sacristy.

UKRAINE APPEAL

It was intended that donations for the Ukraine Appeal would continue till December 2022. However, an early time slot became available to transport much needed donations to Ukraine. As this is now underway it will not be possible to receive further donations. Meantime, the Ukraine Support Team, at St Bride's Church, will stand down until early spring 2023, by which time it will be determined whether there is a need for the team to reconvene. Monies donated by parishioners from St Bride's, East Kilbride (£810) and St Vincent's East Kilbride (£400), has funded much needed thermal wear, required by the Ukraine Military. This has been included in our present delivery which is currently on route to Ukraine. Once again, a thank you to everyone who contributed to this Appeal.

CLUB 200

This week's winner: Elizabeth McEntaggart. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

SVDP BULLETIN INCLUSION

Our Conference has prepared a report which can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this Bulletin.

FROM SAINT HILARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saint Hilary's Christmas Fair is on Saturday 10th December, from 11-1. There will be a festive mix of stall holders: Tombola, Face Painting, Christmas Crafts, a visit from Santa himself and amazing raffle prizes to be won on the day. Please come along and support Saint Hilary's PC fundraise for outdoor toys and activities! If you would like to help out or have a donation to make to the raffle, our email address is sthilarysparents@gmail.com.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AND SAINT JUAN DIEGO

“Hear me and understand well, my son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear sickness, or any other anguish. Am I not here? I am not your Mother? Are you not under my protection? What else do you wish? Do not grieve or be disturbed by anything.” — *Our Lady to Juan Diego*



In the winter of 1531, a poor, 57-year-old Aztec Indian, living five miles outside of Mexico City, encountered a miraculous happening on his way to morning Mass. Firstly, he heard strange music coming from Tepeyac Hill, and then he heard a woman's voice calling his name. Juan Diego climbed the hill and found a young woman - she like his own people in physical appearance and dress. The woman identified herself as the Virgin Mary and told Juan Diego to ask the bishop of Mexico City to build a church on the hill, which would be a help in the conversion of the Mexican people, and a source of consolation for the people.

Juan Diego obeyed the request, but the bishop was sceptical about the message, even though he could see that Juan was a humble man and a well-meaning Catholic. Juan Diego reported the bishop's doubt to the Lady at Tepeyac Hill, and she asked him to return to the bishop once again, with the same message. The bishop once again heard the story and told Juan Diego to ask the Lady for a sign that would prove that she was the Mother of God.

When he returned to Tepeyac, the Lady gave Juan Diego such a sign. Miraculously, roses appeared on the hill in the middle of winter, and Juan gathered them in his *tilma* or cloak. The Lady arranged the roses with her own hands, and Juan returned to the bishop's residence. When Juan laid open the *tilma*, the flowers fell to the ground, and an image of the Lady was seen on the inside of his *tilma* (see above).

The bishop immediately fell to his knees and believed Juan Diego's message. A church was built on the spot of the apparition, as Mary had requested, and 8 million people converted to Catholicism in a short period of time upon hearing of or viewing the miraculous image of Our Lady.

Juan Diego's *tilma* has been the subject of exhaustive modern research. Woven out of coarse cactus fibre, it should have disintegrated after twenty years, and although more than five hundred years have passed, the *tilma* is still in perfect condition.

The pupils of Our Lady's eyes reflect the Indians and clergy who were present at the time of the first apparition. No paint was used, and chemical analysis has not been able to identify the source of the colours. Moreover, studies have revealed that the stars on Our Lady's blue cloak, match their position in the sky above Guadalupe in December 1531.

The *tilma* is displayed above the high altar in the Basilica at Guadalupe today, and the shrine there is visited each year by around six million pilgrims.

The Feast of Saint Juan Diego is on Friday of this week.

Father McGachey

FINALLY...

I begin this week a period of school Confessions - around 250 - at Saint Kenneth's Primary. This will take-up a lot of my time in the next couple of weeks.

I am conscious that I have only visited around twenty of the sixty or so sick of the parish - so much of my time has been taken-up by large number funerals (around twenty-five) and all the associated meetings etc. which I have had since arriving in the parish. I send the sick, who may be reading this Bulletin, my good wishes and prayers, as well as the promise that I will try to visit as many of them before Christmas as I can. If anyone, who has a car (I don't drive), could give me an hour each afternoon, Monday to Thursday, after 3pm, to take me around over the sick, over the next few weeks? It would be a great help. Please speak to me after Mass or contact me by email.

A number of parishioners have asked me recently if they could make some money donations to help to decorate the Church for Christmas, with flowers and Christmas trees etc. Given the recent bills we have had two face - almost £7000 for water charges from last year that went unpaid; another £7000 for our annual insurance costs; £3500 for the last instalment of our Diocesan levy for this year; a considerably larger Church heating bill for the last month, not mention the thousand pounds we pay every Monday on the loan for the work that was carried out on the roof - any contributions would be most welcome, no matter how small! It would allow us to decorate the Church tastefully for the coming Christmas Season. If you are able to help, please speak to me at any point. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

People are anxious to know the Christmas schedule - it is below!

Father McGachey, Parish Priest

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Saturday 24th December - Vigil Mass 4.30pm

Mass of Christmas Night 8.00pm

Dawn Mass of Christmas 9.30am

Mass of Christmas Day 11.30am

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday 31st December - 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

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sunday 1st January - Feast 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

SAINT BRIDE'S SVDP CONFERENCE

The members of the Saint Bride's Saint Vincent De Paul Conference are extremely grateful to our parishioners for your generosity and support.

Throughout the pandemic, when the Church was closed or attendances restricted, we still received many generous donations and transfers to our bank accounts. We still receive a very generous amount of donations in our collection boxes at the exit door of our church. We wish to offer our sincere expression of gratitude on behalf of those who benefit from these donations.

The accompanying chart is a summary of our activities:

Our financial year runs from the 1st April each year, and to date our parishioners have donated £6245. In the same period, we have spent £6664 - reducing our opening balance by £415.

We try to assist a charity known as **The Space**, also called The Louise Project, of Sisters of Charity in Govanhill with children of refugees.

We assist two local charities **Loaves and Fishes**, who are well-known in the town and who are currently distributing 150 food parcels every week and **ShareAlike**, based in our town centre. They have a drop-in centre where people can have a cup of tea, a bite to eat and pick up or exchange items they need such as clothing, footwear, toys and push-chairs etc.

The **Dementia Group** which is a charity set up by the Archdiocese of Glasgow and who have recently been stretched for resources.

We also try to augment the parcels donated by our parishioners for **Father Ryan for the Children of Easterhouse and District** by donating funds for the purchase of necessary items for the children.

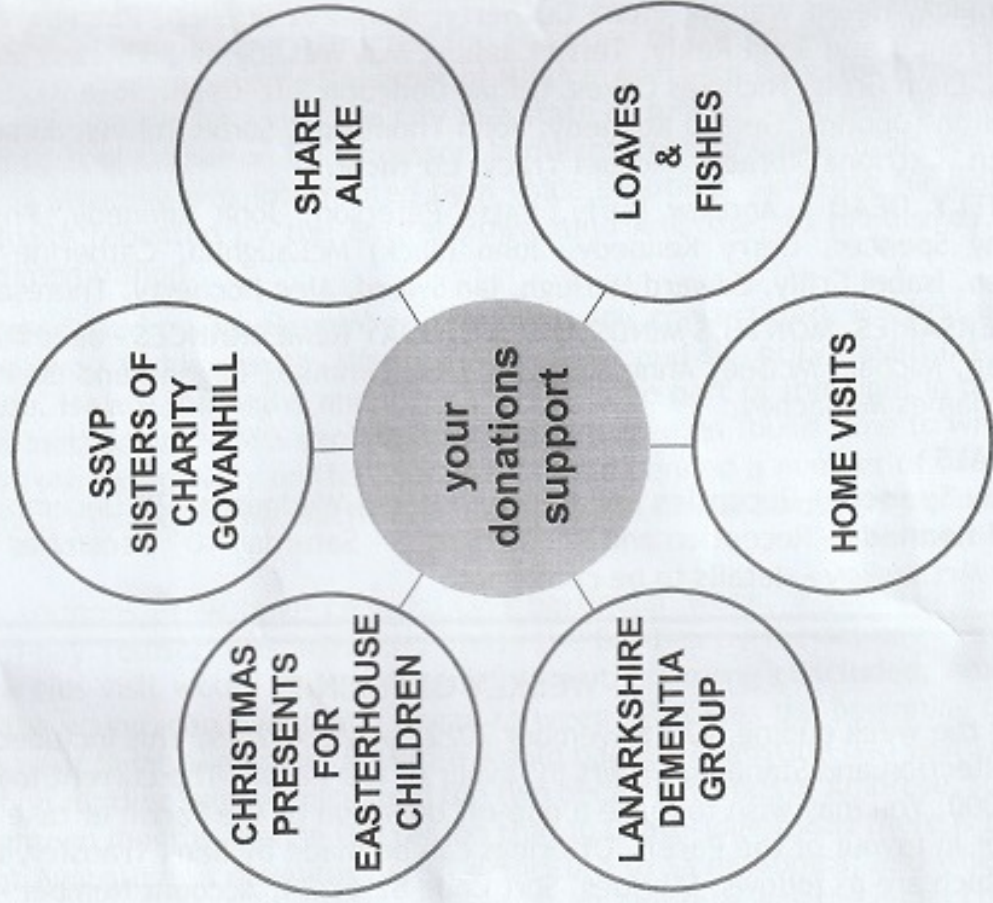
Home visits of course, are still our priority, responding to emergency situations of those in our parish who may be need, deprived or forgotten. In the past 12 months, we have visited many homes, delivered many food parcels, acquired and delivered furniture, bedding etc., and on Christmas Eve last year, two of our members spent more than five hours delivering turkeys that had been donated by supermarkets.

So many people have benefited from the immense generosity of our parishioners.

It is hoped that you will continue to use our wooden SVDP boxes as you leave our Church on a Sunday.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

St Bride's, East Kilbride



“Thank you for your continued donations. We never stop giving”

If you would like to help, please speak to John Henvey after 9:30 Mass on Sunday or call 07708 917174.

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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HALL BOOKINGS Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org
BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or 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, 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 - Andrew Duffy, Patsy Paterson, John Kennedy, Phyllis McCluskey, Anthony Spencer, Gerry Kennedy, John (Jack) McLaughlin, Catherine Robertson, Jim McLaren, Isabel Crilly, Edward McHugh, Ian Sword, Alec Docherty, Theresa Milligan.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Jane McNamara, Nancy Corrigan, Michael McGee, Anne Mooney, John Timmins, Eugene and Jean Meehan, Eddie Garry, James McGachey, Chris Roberts, Susanne Mair, Charles McCartney.

FUNERALS

Anthony Spencer - Reception and Requiem Mass - Wednesday 7th December

Gerard Kennedy - Reception and Requiem Mass - Saturday 10th December 10am

Phyllis McCluskey - details to be confirmed.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 27th November 2022, was £2422.19. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £218,000. 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.