



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH

Bulletin for the Twenty-Third Sunday
of the Ordinary Season - 4th September 2022

APOSTLE TO THE SLAVES, SAINT PETER CLAVER

Friday of this week is the feast day of the missionary Priest, Saint Peter Claver. If the name 'Peter Claver' is familiar to you, I am not surprised: the Sisters of Saint Peter Claver, who continue to work in his name, inspired by his life and example, are based in Motherwell Diocese, in Bellshill, to be precise. Who was Peter Claver and why is he honoured as a saint of the Church?

Peter was born in 1580, in the village of Verdú, about fifty miles to the west of Barcelona. A gifted child, he was given a solid upbringing in the faith by his parents, and was drawn, in his late teens, to study Law at the University of Barcelona. Here he underwent a deep conversion experience there, and would write at the time in his diary: "I have decided to dedicate myself to the Lord's service, even until death. I see myself as the Lord's slave."



He entered the Jesuit Order as a novice when he was twenty years old in Catalonia and completed his time of formation on the island of Majorca. Here, he crossed paths with another Saint, the Jesuit brother, Alphonsus Rodriguez. Rodriguez was known for his gift of 'prophecy', and he told Peter that he would spend most of his life in the Spanish colonies in the 'New World' - South America.

In 1610, mindful of the prophetic words of Rodriguez, Peter volunteered to go to the New Kingdom of Granada (modern-day Colombia). He completed his studies for the Priesthood there and was sent to the port town of Cartagena. Here he was deeply disturbed by the excessively harsh treatment of the black slaves who were brought across the Atlantic from West Africa to work in the plantations - an estimated ten thousand men and women were shipped to Cartagena, which was a kind of 'clearing house' each year. This trading in slaves had been condemned by successive Popes of the time, but it continued to flourish.

In 1620, having made his Final Profession, he dedicated himself to caring for the slaves: he went on board the ships, which were filthy and full of disease after the long voyage and tended as best he could to the terrified men and women. Peter then joined the slaves in the holding pens on shore, before they were sold, treating them with dignity and respect, giving them medicine and food.

For several months each year, when no ships arrived in Cartagena, because of the rough seas, he would visit the plantations where they had been sold to work. Ministering to their basic human needs, he fought for their civil rights too, and he would, with the help of interpreters, give them basic instructions in the faith: it is estimated that he personally baptised more than three hundred thousand people!

Peter would preach in all the towns and villages he travelled to, pleading with European slave traders and plantation owners, to be respectful at all times, and to ensure that these men and women were treated humanely. He would avoid staying with the plantation owners, preferring to eat and sleep in the slave quarters. Through all his efforts, the situation of the slaves slowly began to improve.

Towards the end of his life, Peter was bedridden. Worse still, was the treatment he received from the ex-slave who was entrusted with his care: he was starved and physically abused at his hands. He never complained about his lack of care, saying that it was a just punishment for his sins. He died on the 8th of September 1654.

When the people of Cartagena heard of his death, they flocked to his room to pay their respects. Such was his reputation for holiness that they stripped away anything to serve as a relic of the priest. The city authorities, who had previously considered him a nuisance because of his persistent advocacy on behalf of the slaves, ordered a public funeral. In 1888, Peter was canonised by Pope Leo XIII who stated: "No life, except the life of the Lord Jesus, has moved me so deeply, as the life of Saint Peter Claver." What an accolade!

Father McGachey

THIS COMING WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

My sincere apologies, but I will be missing on two days this week. On Monday I have a Requiem Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes for a close family friend. On Friday I have a longstanding medical appointment in London. On Monday and Friday, a Eucharistic Service will take the place of Holy Mass. There will be no Holy Hour or Confessions on Thursday evening because of my journey to London. Again, my sincere apologies!

Tuesday is the World Day of Prayer for Creation.

Holy Mass will take place at 10am on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

On Wednesday at 10am we will have the Requiem Mass of Mrs Martha Stark, with the Reception of her Remains on Tuesday at 6pm, followed by the Rosary.

On Monday next week, 12th September, we will have the Requiem Mass for Mr Daniel Graham at 10am. His remains will come to Church on Sunday evening at 6pm.

I would like to have Confessions on a Saturday morning from 9.30am to 9.50am.

DIARY DATES

The **Motherwell Lourdes Day**, with the Motherwell Lourdes Hospitality and the Knights of Saint Columba, will take place at Carfin this afternoon with Holy Mass at 3pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated during Mass. All welcome.

The **National Pilgrimage to Carfin** will take place on Sunday 25th September with Mass at 3pm. The Pilgrimage will mark the Centenary of Carfin Grotto and will be in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, whose Relics will arrive at Carfin the day before.

CALENDAR

As well as **Saint Peter Claver**, whose feast is on **Friday**, and about whom we have written on the front cover, on **Thursday** the Church keeps the Feast of the **Nativity of Our Lady**. This is one of three 'birthdays' marked by the Church's calendar: the Birth of Jesus (25th December) and the Birth of Saint John the Baptist (24th June) are the other two. All three

were born without original sin, although Mary and Jesus were *conceived* without original sin, Saint John was *cleansed* of original sin while in the womb Saint Elizabeth at the Visitation of Our Lady at Ein Kareem. We rejoice in Our Lady's birthday, as the Church has done since the earliest times.

THE BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL I



Today, at an open-air Mass in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Francis will beatify Albino Luciani, better known as Pope John Paul I. Luciani was born in 1912 and died in 1978, the so-called 'Year of Three Popes' (Paul VI who had died and John Paul II who was his successor). His Pontificate was all of thirty-three days - amongst the shortest in history! He was the last Italian Pope after a long line of Italians since Clement VII since the sixteenth century. You

will be able to follow his Beatification Mass on **Vatican Media Live English** or vatican.va or EWTN, sky channel 589 at 9.30am UK time. Recordings can be played back at any time on Vatican Media Live.

FAREWELL FATHER RAFAL...

Father Rafal left this morning (Saturday) to begin a two-month sabbatical period. We wish him well and thank him for all his hard work over the years that he has been Administrator at Saint Bride's. *Ad multos annos!*

Father Rafal's Presentation was held in the Church Hall after 11.30am Mass last Sunday. The party that followed was lively and everyone enjoyed themselves enormously. Father Rafal had a lovely time, and thanks everyone for their generosity. He also wishes to thank the parishioners for making his time here such a happy one. Father Rafal can still be contacted using his email address of frrafal@rcdom.org.uk.

THE DIVINE MERCY PAINTING

The Painting of the Divine Mercy Image that was kindly donated by an anonymous person, has now been hung on a wall in the Side Chapel. A stand has been made to allow the image to be placed on the Altar on Divine Mercy Sunday. The painting is a certified copy of the Divine Mercy painting from the Convent of Saint Faustina in Cracow.

UKRAINE APPEAL

At the back of the church today is a 'Letter of Thanks' to all those who were involved in the Ukraine Appeal. Please take a copy.

FABRIC UPDATE

There is a Parish Fabric update from Father Rafal's tenure printed and published this week. This can be seen at the back of the church and online.

SAINT BRIDE'S THIRD WORLD GROUP

Unfortunately, due to poor response, the Third World Group Sponsored Cycle run has had to be cancelled. We apologise to the 6 people who expressed an interest. Hopefully things

will be different next year. More details will follow later regarding the Quiz Night on Saturday 1st October.

FROM LAST WEEK'S MEETING - THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Ministers will be distributing Holy Communion at each Sunday Mass, together with the Priest. One Eucharistic Minister will be in the Side Chapel and in the Sanctuary, while the other will be next to the Priest at the front of the altar. Please come during the Communion Procession in the line to the priest if you would like to receive a blessing. Anyone wishing a blessing, can go either to the Priest or the Eucharistic Minister who will pray over them. The Eucharistic Minister is able to pray for God's blessing; this blessing always comes from God.

SAINT BRIDE'S PHOENIX CLUB

As Hazel is now standing down, the St Bride's Ladies Phoenix Club is looking for someone with new ideas to take over the running of the Club. Anyone who may be interested should speak to Father McGachey for more information.

'MY DAY BY DAY'

The September edition is now available at the back of the Church, price £1.00.

CLUB 200

This week's £60 winner is Sally Hastings. Please collect your cheque from Fr McGachey.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Donations can be made to St Bride's SSVP by bank transfer. Details: Clydesdale Bank. Account Name: SSVP MW 05015. Account Number: 20538417. Sort Code: 826224.

BULLETIN NOTICES

Anyone wishing to have a notice included in the Bulletin, should send it to bulletin@sbek.org or contact Fr McGachey. Please note that Father McGachey is best contacted via his own email address, printed on the back of the Bulletin, as he does not have access to the Parish email address.

HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact: Mrs Annemarie McMillan email: hall@sbek.org

THE MARIPOSA TRUST

The Mariposa Trust's core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy. With over 258,000 babies being lost yearly in the UK alone, the charity needed to be able to offer not only a comprehensive package of befriending and support, but also national baby loss remembrance services (called Saying Goodbye Services), for people to join together and remember the children they had lost.

2022 will see 20 services across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The service in Glasgow will be held in Glasgow Cathedral on 17th September at 11.00am. To read more on the charity, please see the Saying Goodbye website: www.sayinggoodbye.org

FINALLY...

I am very pleased to come among you as your Parish Priest. I would like to take a few lines to introduce myself.

My name is Father Francis McGachey. I was born in 1973 and baptised in my home parish of Saint Barbara's, Muirhead; here I grew-up attending the local primary school. My secondary education took place in Coatbridge, at Saint Ambrose High School.

At the age of seventeen, Bishop Devine accepted me to study for the Priesthood at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, Spain, where I attended the Pontifical University in the city. I was ordained in my home Parish in July 1997, two days after another priest of the Diocese, from the same parish, Father Stephen Reilly (presently in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell). Our Parish Priest in those days in Muirhead had been a curate at Saint Bride's, whom some of you might remember, Father William O'Sullivan.

My first appointment was to Saint Bridget's, Baillieston, under the care of a former Parish Priest of Saint Bride's, Monsignor John McIntyre. During the eleven happy years I spent there, I served as Chaplain to Saint Ambrose High School for a total of ten years and as Master of Ceremonies to Bishop Devine for nine years.

In 1998, I was sent to Rome to Liturgy with the Benedictine Order at the Pontifical Atheneum of Sant'Anselmo for three years, living at the same time with the students and staff at the Pontifical Scots College on the Via Cassia.

After completing my studies, Bishop Devine appointed me Parish Priest and Guardian of the Grotto at Saint Francis Xavier's, Carfin. I worked here for eight very fulfilling but incredibly busy years. Shortly after the visit of the Relics of Saint Thérèse, in 2019, when Grotto was visited by twenty-five thousand visitors over a three-day period, my health broke down and I suffered two strokes. I resigned as Parish Priest and went to convalesce in Muirhead with my mother.

Eighteen months later, Bishop Toal invited me to return to ministry in Saint Augustine's, Coatbridge with Father Michael Kane, for a year. Then, in October last year, he appointed me Administrator of Saint Patrick's, Strathaven.

As I wrote earlier, I am very happy to be here, and look forward to getting to know you and serving you. Please, be patient with me as I adjust to my new surroundings. If I can do anything for you, or help you in any way, then please speak to me. I will do my very best for you.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

£2,185.01 of which £659.00 was Gift aided.

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: St Brides, Sort Code: 82-62-24, Account Number: 40500017.

CONTACT US

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SCOTTISH CHARITIES NUMBER	SC 011041		

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated most Sundays of the year at 1pm

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

At least six months' notice must be given of intention to marry

Please telephone or email Father McGachey to make an appointment or speak to Father McGachey after Mass at the weekend

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

SICK -

The Diocesan Office has advised parishes that with the introduction of new Data Protection laws on 25 May 2018 it is no longer permissible to publish the names of the sick on the online version of parish bulletins.

It is still permissible to do so on the print version.

RECENTLY DEAD - John McMillan, Mary Murray, Mairi Martin, Michael Cassidy and Danny Graham.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE - Elio Faccenda.

ANNIVERSARIES - Luisa Faccenda, James McCabe.

The family of **Mary McNally**, a former parishioner at St Brides East Kilbride for many years, has asked us to let parishioners know that Mary sadly passed away on the 24th of August. The body reception will be in St Mary Immaculate, Pollokshaws, on Monday 5th of September at 7.30pm. The Funeral Mass is at 10.00am on Tuesday 6 September and thereafter to Philipshill Cemetery.

Martha Stark RIP - Vigil Reception followed by the Rosary on Tuesday 6th September at 6.00pm. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 7th September at 10.00am, followed by service in Linn Crematorium.

Daniel Graham RIP - On Monday next week, 12th September, the Requiem Mass will take place at 10.00am. His remains will come to Church on Sunday evening at 6.00pm.