



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Third Sunday  
of the Ordinary Season  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

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## THE VENERABLE MARGARET SINCLAIR

The other evening, while still on holiday, I stumbled across a video on Youtube chronicling the six-day visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Britain in 1982, titled - *John Paul II: The Pilgrim Pope - Pastoral Visit to Great Britain May 1982* - it is well worth watching, if you get the chance.



I watched with interest the section detailing the Papal Mass at Bellahouston - 300,000 people gathered from across the country on a beautiful June day - the biggest single gathering of people in the history of Scotland. I was struck by how the Pope focused on the lives of the holy men and women associated with Scotland, including Margaret Sinclair - a name that will be familiar to people of a certain vintage. Her ordinary life, as well as her search for holiness, deserve to be better known!

Margaret Sinclair was born at Middle Arthur Place, Edinburgh, in a tenement basement flat. She was one of six children born to her parents Elizabeth and Andrew Sinclair, who worked for the Cleansing Department of the local Council. Margaret was baptised at her local parish, Saint Patrick's Church, Cowgate on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1900. Educated at Saint Anne's School, Margaret took a certificate in sewing, cooking and dressmaking. During a long illness suffered by her mother, she stayed off school to nurse her, and had a spare-time job scrubbing floors and running errands for a local seamstress.

When her father and elder brother, John, were called-up to fight in the First World War, she left school at fourteen and worked full-time as a French polisher and became an active member of her trade union. Margaret, and her sister Bella, struggled to support their mother with their low wages, and at the end of the War, with the arrival of the inevitable economic slump, Margaret found herself unemployed; however, she gained new employment at the McVitie's biscuit factory.

While Bella became a Little Sister of the Poor, looking after those living in poverty, Margaret felt called to a more contemplative lifestyle. When her application to join the Poor Clares in Edinburgh was turned down (because of problems in the community), she applied to join the Poor Clares in Notting Hill, London.

She entered in July 1923, taking the name Sister Mary Francis of the Five Wounds. Some of her fellow sisters looked down on her as no more than a working-class girl, with little education, imagining that the hours spent singing the Divine Office in Latin, would be too much for her. Her experience of convent life was similar to that of many other religious: there were personality clashes and cultural differences that caused friction; at times some of her fellow sisters regarded her as disobedient and even annoying. Yet, Margaret's ability to work and pray had freed her from her lowly background, and allowed her to find God in prayer and penance.

As an enclosed Order, the convent relied on 'extern sisters' as their link with the outside world: their vow of poverty required them to survive on what could be obtained through donations and begging; this was Margaret's job and she worked hard to help her community.

In 1925, Margaret was diagnosed with tuberculosis and admitted to a sanatorium run by the Sisters of Charity in Essex - there she would remain until she died on 24<sup>th</sup> November that same year. She was buried at Kensal Green in northwest London, but in 1927 her body was re-interred at Mount Vernon Cemetery, Edinburgh, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2003 her remains were again exhumed and placed in a side altar in her parish church - Saint Patrick's in Edinburgh. Margaret Sinclair declared *Venerable* - one of the steps on the road to being declared a saint - by Pope Paul VI in 1978, the hundredth anniversary of the restoration of Scotland's Catholic hierarchy.

At Bellahouston Park in 1982, Pope John Paul II said of her: "Margaret could well be described as one of God's little ones, who through her very simplicity, was touched by God with the strength of real holiness of life, whether as a child, a young woman, an apprentice, a factory worker, a member of a Trade Union or a professed Sister of religion." Father McGachey

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## PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK - PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am and 11.30am

CONFESSIONS - After the Vigil Mass

We have three Funerals at Saint Bride's this week, and I have a Funeral elsewhere on Friday - so there are some changes:

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday at 9.30am

HOLY ROSARY - Monday at 9.40am

HOLY MASS - Monday to Thursday and on Saturday 10am

EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE - on Friday at 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - On Monday this week after Mass

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## WELCOME

To the children of Primary Three and Four from Saint Kenneth's Primary School, who are here with their parents, and some of their teachers, for a Mass of Commitment at the 9.30am Mass. They are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (First Confession) and First Communion. Please pray for them and their parents.

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## WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY FEAST OF SAINT BRIDE - OUR PARISH PATRONESS

To mark the feast day of the Fifth century Irish Saint, Bride, who is Patroness of our Parish, we will celebrate a Festal Mass, with organ and incense, at 10am.

Please join us in the Hall afterwards for rolls and sausage, cakes and tea and coffee.

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## THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE



This Feast falls on the fortieth day after Christmas and commemorates how the infant Jesus was presented by Mary and Joseph in the Temple in Jerusalem, and met by the elderly Simeon and Anna.

For centuries, it has been the day for blessing the candles used in the Church; it is sometimes called Candlemas Day. The beautiful ceremony will take place at the beginning of the 10am Mass today, and will be

followed by a short candlelight procession around the Church and sung Mass, with organ and incense. Please join us if you can for this beautiful Feast.

We will bless candles for use in our homes the following weekend, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February, at each of the Sunday Masses. These candles, modestly priced, may be purchased, if so desired.

Our faith teaches us that every Catholic home should have at least two blessed candles for use when the Blessed Sacrament is brought to someone sick or housebound, for the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick, to burn in the presence of a corpse - as a mark of vigil and respect - and at times of danger, blessing or family prayers. Do you have blessed candles at home?

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## FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY - FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE

Saint Blaise was a bishop and martyr who, for many centuries, has been the patron Saint of those with ailments of the throat.

We know that Blaise lived in Armenia and worked hard to promote the spiritual and physical health of his people. Eventually, he was arrested for his Christian faith, and when in prison, a woman came with her young son who had a fish bone fixed in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone. He was martyred in 316AD. By the year 800 the custom of blessing throats, using the blessed candles from the previous day's feast (see above), spread across Europe. The traditional Blessing of Throats will be given on his feast day at the 10am Mass.

Since most parishioners will not be able to attend Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the blessing will also be given at the end of each of the Sunday Masses on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February.



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## SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES



We remember how Our Blessed Lady appeared to a poor teenager, Bernadette Soubirous, in the town of Lourdes in 1858. She asked Bernadette to come eighteen times and entrusted her with messages calling people to prayer and penance. Today Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, both in body and soul. It is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. At 10am Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick, will be offered to anyone who would wish to receive it.

## STALL

The February edition of the *My Day by Day* is available at the Stall. Price £1.00 each.

The most recent edition of *The Scottish Catholic* is on sale at the Stall. It has a new price of £3.00 - it is double in size. The publishers announced just before Christmas that it would be published monthly from the beginning of the 2023. My apologies that we don't have the usual number of copies - some were water damaged by rain.

The Motherwell Diocesan Communications Team have been working to produce a new monthly Diocesan Magazine which will launch next month with the first edition available from Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The magazine will be available on the last weekend of every month and will contain news and events from around the Diocese, including parishes and schools, as well as articles on various faith and diocesan topics.

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## PARISH FINANCES

May I thank you, most sincerely, for your generosity to the recent Christmas Collection: over the period of a fortnight (Christmas Day and New Year's Day) it amounted to approximately £10,000! This is a great testimony to your support for your parish. God reward you!

We have recently paid £3224.59 - an instalment of the annual Diocesan Levy which was apparently unpaid in the first half of last year. I will pay next week the annual interest on the loan that was taken out several years ago to repair the roof - the Diocese have told me that it is £4889.56 - this is about £1000 less than it was last year.

In common with some Parishes, we have still not received a gas bill from British Gas for the past two months for the Church, Hall and Chapel House. From what I know of other Parishes, where bills have been received, this sum will be around £5000 for two months! A truly eyewatering sum!

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## FROM SAINT ANDREW'S AND SAINT BRIDE'S HIGH SCHOOL

A Family Faith learning workshop at Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School will take place on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. It is aimed at S1-S3 pupils and parents, from 6-7pm in our school Oratory. The focus of the workshop is Faith and Mental Health, and Father Frank Dougan has kindly offered to speak at the workshop on Salvation and God's Love for us, followed by Christian prayer and meditation. The link to book a space on the workshop is <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-prayer-and-meditation-tickets-514796970597>

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## SAFEGUARDING

A few weeks ago, I spoke to a parishioner who was the Safeguarding Contact Person for Saint Bride's. I cannot remember who this was. Could this person please make themselves known to me again? Thank you.

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## BISHOP TOAL

Bishop Toal continues to make good progress after his surgery on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. He is convalescing with his family in the north of Scotland. He hopes to be back in the Diocese mid-February. Our Lady, Health of the Sick, pray for him.

## CALENDAR



**Tuesday** is the memorial of **Saint Francis De Sales**, the Reformation Bishop of Geneva, who could not be installed in his Cathedral because the city was a Protestant stronghold. He was Saint Janes Frances de Chantal's spiritual director, and with her founded the Visitation Order. Francis is the author of the *Introduction to the Devout Life* - an everyday spirituality for busy people living in the world. He famously wrote, "A spoonful of honey does more good than a barrellful of vinegar", that is to say, kindness does more good than bitterness and resentment. Saint Francis died at Lyons in 1622.

**Wednesday** is the Feast of the Conversion of **Saint Paul** on the road to Damascus in modern-day Syria. It allowed him to become the greatest missionary of the Christian Faith and the Apostle to the Gentiles.

On **Thursday** we remember **Saint Timothy and Saint Titus**. Timothy was born in the Roman province of Galatia, in modern-day Turkey. After his baptism he became Saint Paul's companion on his second missionary journey in the decade of the 50s AD. Paul appointed him bishop of Ephesus. Titus, a convert from paganism, was a fellow-labourer with Saint Paul. He appointed him bishop of Crete (the largest of the Greek islands) - a difficult charge because of the character of his inhabitants!

**Friday** is the memorial of **Saint Angela Merici**. Born in northern Italy, she founded the Ursuline Order, the first teaching order for women approved by the Church.

The Dominican priest, **Saint Thomas Aquinas**, is remembered on **Saturday**. Born near Rome, in 1225, he left home - much to his father's annoyance - in his early twenties to study in Cologne under Saint Albert the Great. He was ordained to the Priesthood and would spend the rest of his life teaching philosophy and theology - he considered one of the greatest Christian thinkers. Thomas wrote the Eucharistic hymns: *O salutaris Hostia*, *Tantum ergo* and *Panis Angelicus*. He died in 1274.

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## FROM THE FAMILY OF THE LATE JOHN THOMPSON

The Thompson Family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all those who provided spiritual care and prayers over John's last few months. Also, thank you to all those who sent Mass cards, sympathy cards, messages of love and support and to all those who attended John's Funeral. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

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## CHURCH TOILETS

The Church toilets are in working order again after a burst pipe caused by the heavy frost in mid-December. My thanks to those who were involved in their repair. A gentle reminder - please do not switch off the heaters - they are set to come on automatically should the temperature fall below 5 degrees.

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## THANK YOU

To the sizeable group of parishioners who helped dismantle the Crib and remove the Christmas Trees at the end of the Christmas Season a few weeks ago. Your assistance and efficiency were much appreciated. God reward you!

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**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
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**BULLETIN NOTICES** Contact Fr. McGachey or [bulletin@sbek.org](mailto:bulletin@sbek.org)  
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### 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), Sarah Collins, John Thomson, Nora Houston, Catriona Slorach, Michael Tracy, Liz Nicol, Patrick Gahagan, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Maureen Macrae, Kate Milligan.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Ian Forrest, Joseph Donnelly, Sam Clarke, Rolando Fusi, Gerald Buchanan, Margaret Cullen, John Spencer, Dina Lannie, John Reilly, Klemens Haufkamp, Liam Docherty.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Josephine Maule, James Hunter, Hugh Burns, Frances Smith, Lynn Toner.

#### **FUNERALS**

Rolando Fusi - Reception Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 6pm Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Requiem Mass Our Lady of Lourdes Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 12noon.

Ian Forrest - Requiem Mass Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

Joseph Donnelly - Requiem Mass Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 10am.

Sam Clarke - Reception Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 6pm. Requiem Mass Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 10am.

Gerald Buchanan - Reception Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Requiem Mass Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 15<sup>th</sup> January, was £2364.15. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £210,000. 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:  
SSVP, Sort Code 82 - 62 - 24, Account No. 20538417.