

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday
of the Ordinary Season - 5th February 2023

WHAT BERNADETTE SAW AT LOURDES...

Saturday of this week is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1858, Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous eighteen times in the outskirts of the town Lourdes in the French Pyrenees. Here, in Saint Bernadette's own words, is an account of what happened.



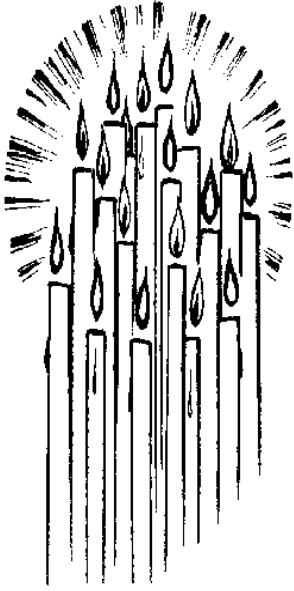
I had gone down one day with two other girls to the bank of the river Gave when suddenly I heard a kind of rustling sound. I turned my head toward the field by the side of the river but the trees seemed quite still and the noise was evidently not from them. Then I looked up and caught sight of the cave where I saw a lady wearing a white dress with a bright belt. On top of each of her feet was a pale-yellow rose, the same colour as her rosary beads.

At this I rubbed my eyes, thinking I was seeing things, and I put my hands into the fold of my dress where my rosary was. I wanted to make the sign of the cross but for the life of me I couldn't manage it and my hand just fell down. Then the lady made the sign of the cross herself, and at the second attempt, I managed to do the same, though my hands were trembling. Then I began to say the rosary while the lady let her beads slip through her fingers, without moving her lips. When I stopped saying the 'Hail Mary', she immediately vanished.

I asked my two companions if they had noticed anything, but they said no. Of course, they wanted to know what I was doing, and I told them that I had seen a lady, wearing a white dress, though I didn't know who she was. I told them not to say anything about it, and they said I was silly to have anything to do with it. I said they were wrong and I came back next Sunday, feeling myself drawn to the place....

The third time I went the lady spoke to me and asked me to come every day for fifteen days. I said I would and then she said that she wanted me to tell the priests to build a chapel there. She also told me to drink from the stream. I went to the Gave, the only stream I could see. Then she made me realise she was not speaking of the Gave and she indicated a little trickle of water close by. When I got to it I could only find a few drops, mostly mud. I cupped my hands to catch some liquid without success and then I started to scrape the ground. I managed to find a few drops of water but only at the fourth attempt was there a sufficient amount for any kind of drink. The lady then vanished, and I went back home.

I went back each day for two weeks and each time, except one Monday and one Friday, the lady appeared and told me to look for a stream and wash in it and to see that the priests build a chapel there. I must also pray, she said, for the conversion of sinners. I asked her many times what she meant by that, but she only smiled. Finally with outstretched arms and eyes looking up to heaven she told me she was the Immaculate Conception. During the two weeks she told me three secrets but I was not to speak about them to anyone and so far I have not. *From a Letter of Saint Bernadette Soubirous*



TODAY - THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE SAINT BLAISE BLESSING OF THROATS

On this, the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple - which fell on Thursday of last week - we will bless candles for use in the home at the beginning of each Mass.

It is worth remembering that every Roman Catholic home should have at least two blessed candles to be used when: Holy Communion is brought to someone in the house; at times of prayer or to burn before a holy picture or statue (this custom says that although I cannot be there in prayer all day, my intention is to be there in spirit - this is the same reason we light votive candles in the church); at a time of danger or special need, and at the time of death.

The candles are modestly priced and can be purchased at the end of each Mass - there are price stickers beside each candle. Please put any monies in the wooden box.

On Friday we remembered Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, who, for many centuries has been the patron Saint of those with ailments of the throat. I will offer the traditional Blessing of Saint Blaise after all the Masses this weekend, at the end of the final hymn. There is no obligation to receive it, so if you wish, you may leave the Church.

PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

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

CONFESSIONS - Saturday after the 10am Mass and after the Vigil Mass

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am

HOLY ROSARY - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9.40am

PROLIFE ROSARY AND PRAYERS - Wednesday after 10am Mass

HOLY MASS - Monday to Saturday 10am

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



SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES - MASS FOR THE SICK

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.

SAINT BRIDE'S THIRD WORLD GROUP

Is holding a Charity Gig on Saturday 18th February at 8pm in the Function suite in The Village Inn. Music is by the Highwaisters, and tickets cost £6.00. Anyone interested in going should contact Pip Slorach on 01355 222430. Donations of raffle prizes would be most welcome.

CALENDAR



On **Monday** we honour **Saint Paul Miki**, a Japanese Jesuit, and his twenty-five companions who were martyred in Nagasaki. They were killed simultaneously by being raised on crosses and then stabbed with spears. Their executioners were astounded upon seeing their joy at being associated to the Passion of Christ. They were the first martyrs of East Asia to be canonised.

Wednesday is the memorial of **Saint Josephine Bahkita** (pictured). As a young Sudanese girl she was sold into slavery and brought to Italy where, while working as a nanny, she was sent to live with the Canossian Sisters in Venice. There she served humbly for the next twenty five years. Josephine died after a long illness, during which she would cry out to the Lord: "Please loosen the chains... they are so heavy!"

Saint Scholastica (+547) is remembered on **Friday**. She was the twin sister of St. Benedict, born in Umbria about 480. Under Benedict's direction, Scholastica founded a community of nuns near Monte Cassino. She devoted her whole life to seeking and serving God. **Saturday** is the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** - see the front cover of the bulletin.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Takes place at the 9.30am Mass and is open to children from Primaries 1 to 7. My thanks to those who have volunteered to lead this. Parents, please encourage your children to take part, and do let others know too about its resumption.

CLUB 200

This week's winner is Frank Bonner. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

KILBRYDE HOSPICE UPCOMING EVENTS

Valentines Afternoon Tea on Monday 13th February between 1pm and 3pm in Kilbryde Hospice Kafe. Cost £6.50 includes sandwiches, cakes, unlimited tea and coffee.

FABRIC...

The wooden plinth that the Tabernacle sits on was badly damaged some time ago by water ingress to the Church. Not only does it look unattractive, or sympathetic with its surroundings, but I feel the Blessed Sacrament merits something more worthy. This week, work will begin to construct a new 'high altar' structure, which will give the Tabernacle more prominence and will be sympathetic with the other furnishings. In a sense this project will be restoring the Church to how it once looked. A parishioner has kindly offered to pay for this work to be carried out. As a result, this may mean that the Tabernacle will be moved, temporarily, to Our Lady's altar to allow the work to be done.

I feel that it would be fitting to place on top of the new 'high altar' the customary six candlesticks: these will honour the Lord's Real Presence and provide a fitting backdrop for that area of the Church. To do this, I would like ask for your help, and appeal for any donations, great or small. These will be gratefully received.

Last week the Gas bill for the Church and Hall finally arrived. It was what I expected a few weeks ago...

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BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or bulletin@sbek.org
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), Sarah Collins, John Thomson, Nora Houston, Catriona Slorach, Liz Nicol, Patrick Gahagan, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Maureen Macrae, Kate Milligan.

RECENTLY DEAD - Michael Tracey, Gerald Buchanan, Jeanette Kelly.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Cathie Hughes, Anthony Hastings, Mary Hastings, Betty McGuckien, Harry Docherty sen., Harry Docherty jnr., Nan Scrimgeour, Maxime Brown, Cameron Slorach.

FUNERALS

Michael Tracey - Reception Sunday 5th February 6pm. Requiem Mass Monday 6th February 10am.

Gerald Buchanan - Reception Thursday 9th February 6pm. Requiem Mass Friday 10th February 10am.

Jeanette Kelly - Requiem Mass Thursday 16th February 1.30pm.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For the week ending, 29th January, was £2503. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £208,000. 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.