



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Transfiguration of  
Our Lord on Mount Tabor - 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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## OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Yesterday, the 5<sup>th</sup> August, the Church celebrated the feast day not of a saint, but of a building - the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, one of the four most illustrious churches of Rome (the other three being: Saint John Lateran [the Pope's Cathedral in the Eternal City], St. Peter's at the Vatican [the spot where Saint Peter was martyred], and Saint Paul Outside the Walls [marking the place where Saint Paul was killed for the faith]). *Santa Maria Maggiore*, as the Basilica is known in Italian, is the most important church in the world dedicated to Our Lady; it is the biggest church in Rome which honours Our Lady, hence the reason it is called 'Maggiore' meaning 'greatest' or 'biggest'.



Even today, the Basilica is sometimes known as the *Liberian Basilica*, in honour of Pope Liberius (352-66AD). According to a pious legend, which probably dates from the Middle Ages, Our Lady appeared in a dream to two Roman Christians, the married couple John and Placida, who were wealthy members of Rome's Patrician or upper class. She is said to have asked them to build church in her honour on the Esquiline hill (one of the 'seven hills of Rome'). The location would be indicated, she had said, by a fall of snow on the night of 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> of August. They told

Pope Liberius about the dream, and he is said to have traced the outline of the building in the snow, and the first basilica was built on that site. For this reason, the basilica is sometimes called *Our Lady of the Snows* (*Sancta Maria ad nives*, in Latin); something which is further underlined by the fall of white rose petals from the ceiling of the basilica which takes place this evening at the end of Vespers or Evening Prayer.

Leaving the pious legend aside, history tells us that Pope Liberius was a firm crusader against the *Arian* heresy, which denied that Jesus was truly divine. We know that during Liberius' Pontificate the Esquiline Hill had been settled by barbarian troops who were largely Arian sympathisers. By building a church there in honour of Our Lady, Liberius perhaps wanted to underline divinity of Jesus, and that Mary was his mother.

Pope Liberius' basilica fell into ruin and almost disappeared. The present-day basilica replaced the original structure when Pope Sixtus III (432-40AD) decided to build a new and more magnificent one. In many ways Sixtus wanted to underline Mary's title as 'the Mother of God', which had been given her by the Council of Ephesus (in modern-day north western Turkey), which took place in 431AD. The title itself rejects Arianism by implying that Jesus was truly divine as the Son of God, and truly human as the Son of Mary. Sixtus decorated the walls of the basilica with mosaics from the lives of Christ and Mary - these survive to this day.

From earliest times the basilica claimed to have a precious wooden relic, believed to be part of the crib in which Our Lord was placed at Bethlehem. Sixtus reproduced the grotto of Bethlehem - this was adorned and enriched over the centuries. The wooden relic is encased in a reliquary under the main altar and can be visited today. It is for these reasons that the basilica became known as the *Basilica of Saint Mary of the Crib (Sancta Maria ad praesepe)*, a kind of Bethlehem in the Eternal City. For centuries the Popes celebrated the first Mass of Christmas there.

The basilica is visited by over a million people each year, including his Holiness Pope Francis, who visits to pray before the icon of Our Lady that hangs in one of the side chapels, the Borghese Chapel - *Maria, Salus Populi Romani* (Mary, health of the Roman People), before he begins one of his Apostolic journeys around the world (he did this last week before travelling to Lisbon where he is until this evening); he also visits on the way back, and leaves a bouquet of flowers in thanksgiving. *Father McGachey*

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## TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord became popular in the Western Church at the beginning of the eleventh century and was introduced into the Roman Calendar in 1457. It foretells the glory of Jesus as God Son, seen in his Resurrection and Ascension into heaven. For you and me, it anticipates the glory of heaven, where we shall see God face to face.

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### THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

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

**CONFESSIONS** - Saturday after 10am Mass, 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.15am

**HOLY ROSARY** - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.40am

**PRO-LIFE ROSARY** - Wednesday after 10am Mass

**HOLY MASS** - Monday to Saturday 10am

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

As of Monday this week, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 9.15am

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### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY INTO HEAVEN TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

This is a holiday of obligation, when we are expected to keep the Solemnity by attending Holy Mass. Masses will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm and at 10am on the 15<sup>th</sup> August.

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### CLUB 200

Pauline McGuckien, Quarterly Winner. 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Bill Tollan. 9<sup>th</sup> July - James Woods. 16<sup>th</sup> July - Frances McLaughlin. 23<sup>rd</sup> July - James Gallagher. 30<sup>th</sup> July - Jean Woods. 6<sup>th</sup> August - Anne Wright. Please collect your cheques from the sacristy.

## THE NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN 2023

### SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER - PRAYING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

All are welcome to join the Archbishops and Bishops of Scotland in praying for this important intention. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, Bishop of Aberdeen. The homily will be given by Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Ukrainian Eparchial Bishop of the Holy Family Eparchy in London.

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### CALENDAR

**Monday** is memorial of Pope Saint Sixtus II and his deacons (+258), who were the first victims of the persecution unleashed by the Emperor Valerian. **Tuesday** is the memorial of the Spaniard **Saint Dominic** (+1221). He combated the Albigensian heresy. He founded the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) - he required his friars to work with their minds by preaching and teaching.

**Saint Edith Stein** is remembered on **Wednesday** (+1942). Born of Jewish parents in 1891, she became an influential philosopher following her university studies. After her conversion to Catholicism, she entered the Carmelites in 1933, and took the name Sister Teresa Benedicta. She was arrested by the Nazis in 1942, along other Catholics of Jewish extraction and transported by train to Auschwitz, where she died in the gas chambers. **Thursday** is the Feast of **Saint Lawrence** (+258) chief among the seven deacons who served the Roman Church during the mid-third century. He was responsible for caring for the goods of the Church and distributing its alms among the poor. He was arrested by the Emperor Valerian, laid upon a gridiron and slowly roasted to death.

**Friday** is the memorial **Saint Clare of Assisi** (+1253). She was the first female to practice the life of poverty as taught by Saint Francis. Placed by him at the head of a few companions in the small convent of San Damiano, she governed her community for forty-two years thus founding the Order of Poor Clares.

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### FOODBANK - LATEST

We collected more than 300 items of toiletries in June when we had our last collection. Our next collection will be on the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August - more information to follow. During the holidays we received from you, via the SVDP, monies, food vouchers and school uniforms. The Loaves and Fishes Food Bank greatly appreciate your help.

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### THANK YOU...

Thank you to the family who donated the flowers which adorn the Sanctuary this weekend in memory of a dead loved one. I am very grateful. Parishioners sometimes ask me about doing this: if you have any questions, or would like to do something similar, then please approach me. The flowers can be as simple or as ornate as you wish. It has been suggested to me to that the wall-mounted box presently marked 'Students' (by the sacristy entrance/exit) could be reassigned into a 'Donations for flowers' box. I think we will do this as of this weekend. I am sure that most people will agree that the flowers enhance the Sanctuary greatly and that they are ultimately for *God's greater glory*. Any help you can give, no matter how small, would be most appreciated!

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### SICK VISITATIONS WILL BEGIN AGAIN THIS WEEK

If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please, let me know.

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
**EMAIL** frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk  
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**HALL BOOKINGS** Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org  
**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** - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Frankie Logan, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Neal McDermott, Patricia Williamson, Sheila Martin, Carole Fairley, Arthur Conner, Steven Holiway, Derek Fry.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Philomena (Phyllis) Boyle, Stephen Stark, Neil McDermott, Eugene Donnelly, Lucy Smith, Mary Quinn, Anne Stobie, Frank Fry, Mary Toal (Bishop Toal's mother).

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Doris Henvey, John Keaveny sen., Mary Keaveny, Loretta Boyd, James Smith, John Maule, Patricia Burns, Francis McGuckien, Ella McGuckien, Mary McGhee, John Spiers (Glasgow), John McKechnie, Tony and Caroline Conway, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito.

#### **FUNERALS**

**Philomena (Phyllis) Boyle** - Reception Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 6pm; Requiem Mass Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 10am.

**Stephen Stark** - details to be confirmed.

**Neil McDermott** - Reception Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 6pm; Requiem Mass Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

### **WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS**

For the week ending 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 - £2203. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £181,000. 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.

### **CATHOLIC TEACHER APPROVAL**

Those wishing to teach in the Catholic sector are reminded that it is first necessary to obtain approval from your Parish Priest to show that you accept and live Catholic Faith. For those living in Saint Bride's, this means from Father McGachey. This applies to those about to enrol in the teacher training Course, those about to start as probationary teachers and all those applying for teaching posts (promoted or otherwise) within the Catholic Sector. If you have any questions, please speak to Father McGachey.