



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Twenty-Second Sunday of the
Ordinary Season - 1st September 2024

CARDINAL VAN THUAN (1928-2002)

Two Sundays ago my homily at Mass I spoke about Cardinal Van Thuan, in the context of the Gospel about *The Bread of Life*. A few of you suggested that I write something about his humble man; a few of you requested more information on the book he wrote *Five Loaves and Two Fish* - it can be bought on Amazon for under £4.00. It is a good read and highly recommended.



Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan was born in Vietnam in 1928, the eldest of eight brothers and sisters. The Van Thuan family had been staunchly Catholic for several generations, so it was unsurprising that he felt drawn to the Priesthood. He was ordained in 1953 and then sent him to Rome to further his studies. He returned to Vietnam, where he taught at the seminary and later became its Rector. A truly humble priest, his pastoral work was very effective. In 1967 he was appointed bishop of

Nha Trang and at the end of April 1975, a few days before the Communist regime seized control of the country, Pope Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of Saigon. Three weeks later he was arrested and imprisoned - the authorities considered him a threat to their plans. And so began a long period of captivity which would last thirteen years, without trial or sentence, nine of which he would spend in solitary confinement.

Van Thuan knew that the strength he needed to sustain his soul and mind could only come from the Lord: "When I was arrested" he writes "I had to leave immediately, empty-handed. The next day I was allowed to write to my people to ask for the most necessary things: clothes, toothpaste... I wrote to them: 'Please send me some wine as medicine for my sore stomach. The understood immediately. They sent me a little bottle of wine for Mass, with the label: 'medicine against stomach ache', and hosts hidden in a torch. I will never be able to express my great joy: daily, with three drops of wine and a drop of water in the palm of my hand, I celebrated Mass (...). The Eucharist became for me and for other Christians a hidden and encouraging presence amid all the difficulties."

He had a strong devotion to Our Lady. As a family they prayed the rosary daily. During his stay in Italy, he travelled to Lourdes and there he felt the presence of Our Lady. Kneeling before the cave, where she appeared to Bernadette, he heard in his heart the words that Mary had addressed to her: "I do not promise you happiness on earth, but rather adversity and suffering. I can only promise happiness in heaven." He understood that these words were also addressed to him: it was a premonition of what was to come. During his long captivity, Our Lady played an essential role in his life and, recalling his stay in prison, he wrote: "There were days when, at the limit of fatigue, of illness, I could not even recite a prayer! Our Lady was my constant companion during that painful captivity."

His freedom came suddenly in November 1988. The authorities in Vietnam expelled him from the country. He went to Rome, and at the Vatican his presence was immediately appreciated: he was a gifted preacher. In 2000 he was called to preach the Lenten retreat

for Pope John Paul II and the Roman Curia. The following year the Pope named him a Cardinal. On the 16th September 2002, after a long battle with cancer, he died. Five years after his death, Pope Benedict XVI began that the process for his beatification. Without suffering physical martyrdom, he can be considered a true martyr of the Vietnamese Church and, at the same time, a model of fidelity in difficult and compromising situations.
Father McGachey

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY BEGINS TODAY AT THE 9.30am MASS - PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO ATTEND

The Liturgy is designed for children of primary school age. It is 20 - 30 minutes of learning and teaching of the Sunday Scriptures, in a fun and interactive way.

Our group needs additional support, so we are looking for anyone age 16 years plus, to join our group of volunteers. We are a cheerful and flexible bunch and work supportively and collaboratively. Special knowledge is not required and helping is an enjoyable way of contributing to the Parish community. It is also a great set of skills to develop, particularly if you are applying for College/University, new jobs or if you're returning to work. Or maybe you attend 9.30am Mass already with children who attend our Liturgy. We all enjoy participating and highly recommend volunteering. There is no commitment to attend every week. Anyone who helps will require to be PVG checked in advance. If interested, please give Father McGachey your details or chat to us in the Church Hall before the 9.30am Mass.

THE NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN - TODAY



The three-day visitation of Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia (pictured), the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, to the Diocese of Motherwell, concludes this afternoon with the National Pilgrimage Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes' Grotto, Carfin, at 3pm.

The Papal Nuncio will be the main celebrant and Bishop Frank Dougan, former Parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, will be the homilist. The theme for the Pilgrimage is *Pilgrims of Prayer* in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. All are most welcome to attend.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE IN SAINT BRIDE'S - LAST TUESDAY

My sincere thanks to the one hundred and twenty parishioners who came to the Mass for Life last Tuesday. Due to an oversight by the organisers, the Mass was not advertised at Diocesan Level. However, they told me that the attendance at Saint Bride's was the best they had seen since the Mass began. Kudos to Saint Bride's parishioners. So, I have invited them back at some point in the future. Thanks also to the servers and musicians.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14th - THE FEAST OF THE TRUE CROSS

We are privileged to have at Saint Bride's a Relic of the True Cross. After Mass on Saturday morning and at Masses over the weekend, I will offer individual blessings with the Relic and an opportunity to venerate it.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE



You are invited to join us for a

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

to mark the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Opening of Saint Bride's Church, East Kilbride and thereafter to a reception in Saint Bride's Parish Hall on Monday 16th September at 7pm.

Whether you are young or old; a longstanding parishioner or have come to the parish recently; whether you attend Mass on your own or come with your family, I hope that you will keep Monday 16th September free.

Bishop Toal will be the Main Celebrant at the Mass, along with some other clergy.

The Diocesan Choir, accompanied by Motherwell Cathedral organist John Pitcathley, will sing at the Liturgy, so too will the Choir from Saint Kenneth's Primary School. Some of the music will be accompanied by a Brass Quartet.

Come and pray for the deceased members of the parish who worshipped here in the past, including your family and friends, as well as the deceased priests who served here over the years.

Come and pray for God's blessing on our parish in the future.

SOLEMN NOVENA TO OUR LADY, UNTIER OF KNOTS

Begins Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7pm



Do you have an intention that seems impossible! A problem that seems insurmountable! Then come to this most powerful of novenas! Our Lady will not let you down.

What are these knots that she comes to untie? They are the problems and struggles we face, for which we see no solution. Knots of discord in our families: lack of understanding between parents and children; the knots of deep-rooted hurt and the absence of peace and joy in our homes.

There are also the knots of despair: of separated couples; those who no longer practise their faith, of children and grandchildren who are not baptised.

There are the knots of addictions: to alcohol, pornography, drugs, gambling... The knots of loneliness, depression and fear. The knots of unemployment, of health worries, and a million other things besides. The knots of all our lives!

Through this Novena: families have reconciled! Family members have returned to the Church! Jobs have been found! Conversions have taken place! Problems have been solved! Our Lady comes to us as the One who unties these impossible knots, the One who knows all about us, who has compassion for us and hurries to help us.

Ask Our Lady for her help and let her help you abundantly! Come and make the Novena with trust in her Motherly Care.

ROSARY, SHORT HOMILY, NOVENA PRAYERS

AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FOR NINE WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING 11th SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR



Saint Gregory the Great is celebrated on **Tuesday**. (+604). A nobleman, Senator and then Prefect of Rome, he would leave the trapping of status and wealth to become a monk and eventually was elected Pope in 590AD. England owes her conversion to him: he sent Saint Augustine (of Canterbury) with forty monks to the Kent coast in 597AD. At a period when the invasion of the Barbarians created a new situation in Europe, he played a pivotal role, converting a great number to Christ. At the same time, he watched over his priests as well as attending to the temporal interests of his people of Rome and the spiritual interests of the whole of Church. "Gregorian chant" recalls this great Pope's work in the development of the Church's liturgy. Together with Saint Ambrose, Saint Augustine and Saint Jerome, he is one of the four great Doctors of the Western Church. **Saint Teresa of Calcutta** (+1997) is remembered on **Thursday**. Affectionally known as "Mother Teresa", she was Albanian by birth, did her training in Ireland and most of her adult life working among the poor in Calcutta in India. She founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. Mother Teresa visited our Parish of Saint Bride's in East Kilbride during a visit to Scotland in the 1980s!

DATES OF SACRAMENTS 2024-2025

Sacrament of Reconciliation for Saint Kenneth's P3 4th March 2025, beginning at 5.30pm.

The Sacrament of First Communion for Saint Kenneth's P4 10th May 10am.

The Sacrament of First Communion for Saint Kenneth's P4 17th May 10am.

The Sacrament of First Communion for Saint Hilary's PS (in Saint Bride's) 17th May 12noon.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Saint Kenneth's PS 6th May 2025

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Saint Hilary's PS (in St Bride's) 9th June.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

THE CHURCH OPENING HOURS - 9am - 6pm

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass

MONDAY-FRIDAY - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am

MONDAY-SATURDAY - Holy Rosary with the Litany of the Saints at 9.35am

MONDAY-SATURDAY, EXCEPT FRIDAY - Holy Mass 10am

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesdays after 10am Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - Thursdays after 10am Mass

There will be no Holy Mass in Saint Bride's on Friday morning this week - I have to be in Palma, Mallorca, for the day, for the Marriage of parishioners. Deacon John McGarry will celebrate a Eucharistic Service in place of Holy Mass.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Esther Hutcheson. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

FROM THE FOODBANK TEAM

Just to remind you, that our next collection is this weekend. Please hand all items into the Hall, before or after Mass. The essentials are toothpaste, shampoo, coffee, tea bags, cup-a-soup, sandwich paste, hot dogs, main meals (for example, tinned chilli etc), and tinned meat.

STALL Copies of 'My day by day' for September are on sale at the Stall - £1.00.

FABRIC AND FINANCE

Thank you again to those who have given donations for the Jubilee Celebrations. The leak in the Church roof was repaired on Wednesday of last week. The repainted statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady will be with us by next weekend. Thank you to Mr Jim McCluskey, owner of Enviroclean Scotland, for removing the old wicker chairs and disposing of them. We are in his debt.

We would like to do a big clean of the Church on Monday the 16th September in preparation for the Mass of Thanksgiving. There will no 10am Mass that day, so we will begin at 9am. Everyone is welcome to help. Please bring your own bucket, we will provide the rest!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Monica McShane, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahan, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Grace McHugh, Leo McCrear, Kenneth Cunningham, Margaret Hannigan, John Rimmer.

RECENTLY DEAD - Jean Adam, Jacqueline Marshall, Ninian McCandlish, Margaret Murray, James Henvey, Norrie Innes, Emma Ramsay, Seline Ogolle, Monica McTavish, Maria Di Ceccho, Antoinette Brewar.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Charlie and Nora Rooney, Paul Dyet, Struan Gordon, Mary McKenzie, Paul Martin, David Foster, Charles McGraham, Luisa Facenda.

FUNERALS

Jean Adam - Requiem Mass Thursday 12th September at 10am

Jacqueline Marshall - Requiem Mass Wednesday 18th September at 10am

Ninian McCandlish - South Lanarkshire Crematorium Tuesday 17th September 2pm

Margaret Murray (from Southend, Essex) - details to be confirmed

James Henvey - South Lanarkshire Crematorium on Thursday 5th September at 1pm.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 25^h August - £2670. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish.