



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday - 10th March 2024

'LAETARE' SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Lent marks the half-way point in the Season. In the past, this Sunday was known as *Laetare* Sunday. Why? In the Missal each Mass has an Entrance Antiphon - this is a sentence or two, taken mostly from the Scriptures, which can be sung or recited at the beginning of the Eucharist. At Saint Bride's we replace the Antiphon with a hymn. In days gone by people gave a title to each Sunday's Mass, on the basis of the first word in Latin of the day's Antiphon. Today's Antiphon (pictured in its format in the *Liber Usualis* or book of

Intr. 5.



L Aetá- re * Jerúsa-lem : et convén-tum fá- ci-



te ómnes qui di- lí-gi- tis é- am : gau-

Latin chants) is taken from the 66th chapter of Isaiah: "Rejoice, Jerusalem! Come together all you who love her!" In Latin, 'laetare' means 'rejoice': so today was called *Laetare* Sunday. The reason for the joyful tone was given by Pope Innocent III in 1216 when he stated that the faithful needed lifted so as "not to break under the severe strain of Lenten penances but bear them with a refreshed and easier heart."

The joyful theme is evident in the prayers of the Mass, and it is underlined further by two old customs: the royal purple vestments are replaced with rose-coloured ones; additionally, pink roses may be used to decorate the sanctuary area of the church - both things we will do today.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

In Britain the Fourth Sunday of Lent each year is also 'Mothering Sunday'. Why? From the time of the Middle Ages many young people worked away from home as apprentices and servants. The Fourth Sunday in Lent was one of the few days in the year when employers would give their workforce the day off so that they could return to their 'mother church' - the place where they were baptised or grew up.

As they walked along the hedgerows, they would gather bunches of Spring flowers to place at the Lady Altar in the local church. The Lady Altar in our own Church is specially decorated today - Mary, is our heavenly mother. Hopefully you will be able to spend a few moments there, to perhaps light a candle, and remember your mother.

They were also allowed to visit their mothers, bringing with them gifts, usually flowers and a *Simnel* Cake (from the Latin 'simila' meaning 'fine flour'). This was a fruit cake, covered in marzipan; around the top of the cake there would be eleven marzipan balls, representing the eleven 'good' Apostles. Some supermarkets sell Simnel cakes around this time - have a look!

Today, then, is an opportunity to honour and pray for our mothers, whether they are still with us, or whether they have gone to their eternal reward. It is also an opportunity to relax, for one day at least, from our Lenten penances, and celebrate the fact that Easter is almost here.

Father McGachey

TODAY IS SCIAF SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) Sunday. There will be a traditional second collection to support the work they do on our behalf. Please give generously as you always do. Enclosed with your Bulletin is a letter from Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop President of SCIAF about this year's Appeal. If you have taken a SCIAF 'Wee Box' please return it to the Sacristy by Easter Sunday.



READERS -THE SUNDAY READINGS ARE TAKEN FROM THE YEAR A.

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT AT SAINT BRIDE'S

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

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

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS - HOLY MASS at 7am (church opens at 6.30am)

MONDAY-SATURDAY - Stations of the Cross 9.35am

MONDAY-SATURDAY - Holy Mass 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - Tuesdays after Mass

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after 10am Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - Thursdays after 10am Mass

Please note that when there is a Requiem Mass, there will be no Stations or Novena



THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH - TUESDAY 19TH MARCH

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the spouse of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, will be celebrated on the 19th March. In place of the Stations of the Cross that morning, we will have Devotions in honour of the Saint, including the famous Litany of Saint Joseph, composed in 1909 by Pope Saint Pius X. At 10am, we will celebrate of Festal Mass with organ and incense. Please join us if you can as we honour this wonderful Saint.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We will be continuing our programme of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation with the children of Primary 7 at St Kenneth's School. The programme will continue over the remaining Sundays of March. We will also have our regular Children's Liturgy for other Primary School children at the same time. Please pray for these children and their parents.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

We will publish the Holy Week Schedule with next Sunday's Bulletin.

WE CONTINUE OUR NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS ON TUESDAY EVENING

with Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm in the Parish Church. If you could not manage last week, there are copies of the third week's prayers below the notice board at the back of the church. "In this unfailing novena Our Lady comes to untie the knots of our life." *Pope Francis*



CONGRATULATIONS

To our former near-neighbour in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Father Frank Dougan, who was ordained on Saturday as the Bishop of Galloway. The ceremony was streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO752xn4b6g>. He will take possession of Saint Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr today (Sunday) at 3pm. The ceremony will be streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3AKMSwchH3w>. *Ad multos annos.*

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND DIACONATE

Any man considering a vocation to the Priesthood or the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Motherwell, should make himself known in the first instance to his Parish Priest. His contact details will then be forwarded to the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Charles O'Farrell, for those considering Priesthood, or to Deacon Bill McMillan, for those considering the diaconate. If anyone wishes to receive information or encouragement about discerning their vocation, contact can be made with Fr O'Farrell at frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk, or Deacon McMillan at deaconmcmillan@rcdom.org.uk.

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS

Will be taken-up on Sunday 24th March, Palm Sunday.

CHARITY NIGHT IN AID OF THE STREET CHILDREN IN NAIROBI

Entertainment by the *Highwaisters*, in Saint Bride's Church Hall, on Saturday 16th March 7.30pm-11pm. Bar, raffle, light supper by Rico. Tickets £10. Tickets can be purchased from Pip Slorach or any Committee member.

200 CLUB

200 Club winner is Patricia Corrigan. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

FROM FOODBANK TEAM

Once again, there was a great response to the Collection for the *Loaves and Fishes Foodbank* last month. Leaflet will be distributed next week detailing the item required for the Easter collection which will be taken-up on Palm Sunday, 23rd and 24th March.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER

I would like to have a general cleaning of the Church in preparation for the Easter Triduum, on the Wednesday of Holy Week after 10am Mass. If you are able to help, male or female, please join us on that morning.

SICK VISITS AND SCHOOL CONFESSIONS

For various reasons, including the recent illness of my mother, who has now made a good recovery (she is very grateful for all the prayers and good wishes you have sent her), as well as preparing the end of year accounts, I am a bit behind with my visits of the sick. With around eighty people to visit, plus several Nursing and Care Homes too, I hope to do this before Easter, *Deo Volente*. I will also be hearing the Confessions of Saint Kenneth's Primaries 4 to 7, around 200 children, before the Easter Holidays.

TRIBUTE NIGHT

Pat Cairns as Kenny Rodgers and Neil Diamond. 23rd March at 7.30pm, in Saint Bride's Church Hall. Tickets priced £15.00. Contact John McGowan on 07989392287.

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07873 263801

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahan, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Father Bill Tollan, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Madge Reilly, Jan Milligan, Betty Cunningham

RECENTLY DEAD - Vincent Dodds, Rejannah Toe-Barzan, Teresa Stepney, Brian McKenna, Margaret Donnelly, Paul Smith.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Desmond Dickson, Hugh McCorry, Bobby Hughes, James McCabe, Isa Jackson, Theresa Mullen, Tony McCole, Andrew McShane, Jean McPherson, Mary McNamara.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 3rd March - £2817. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. 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 Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97

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.

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. If you are in need, or know someone who is in need of help, please contact John Mullen on 07712 903732.