

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

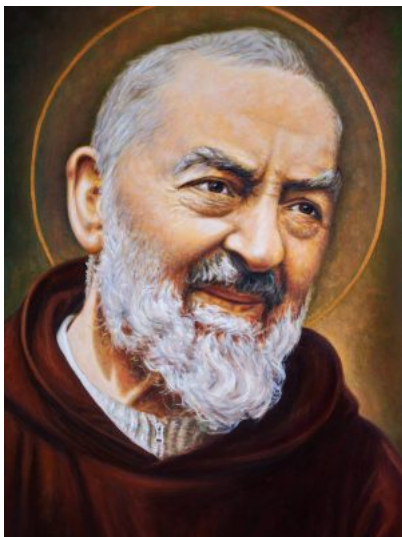
Bulletin for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Ordinary Season - 22nd September 2024

“I ONLY WANT TO BE A POOR FRIAR WHO PRAYS”

On Monday of this week, the 23rd September, the Church remembers the Italian Franciscan priest, Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, commonly known as 'Padre Pio', famed for his humility and the many miracles worked through his intercession.

Francesco Forgione, to give him his Baptismal name, was born to his parents Grazio and Maria, on the 25th May 1887: he was one of seven siblings, two of whom died in infancy. The children were taught to live and love their Catholic faith through daily Mass, by praying together as family, especially the Rosary, and by doing acts of penance.

By the time he was ten years old, Francesco had already decided to dedicate his life to God. He was inspired by the example of a young Capuchin priest who had visited the village, and told his parents, “I want to be a friar - with a beard!” Francesco's father spent some considerable time in the United States, in order to finance his son's education so he could eventually enter the Religious Life.



When he was sixteen, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Order, and took the name Brother Pius, *Fra Pio* in Italian, in honour of the Dominican Pope Saint Pius V (+1572). He made his solemn vows four years later, and received Priestly ordination in the summer of 1910, joining the Monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie in San Giovanni Rotondo. He would spend many hours every day hearing Confessions; but the summit of his daily routine, was the celebration of Holy Mass.

Shortly after his Ordination, he received the stigmata - Christ's wounds, present in his own body: his hands, feet and side. Along with these real wounds, Padre Pio also suffered health problems that forced him to live apart from his Capuchin community for the first six years of his Priesthood.

Against his own wishes, the Brother Pio's reputation for holiness and the stigmata began to attract huge crowds. Some Church officials denounced him and had him banned from public ministry in 1931. When he had to submit to investigations and restrictions in his ministry, he accepted this with humility and resignation. In the face of unjust accusations and calumnies he remained silent, trusting always in the judgement of God, of his superiors and his own conscience. Pope Pius XI ended the ban two years later, and his successor Pius XII actively encouraged pilgrimages to Padre Pio's friary. For more than fifty years, countless people came to his confessional for his counsel and consolation. Amongst those many penitents, in 1948, was a young Polish priest, Father Karol Wojtyła, who thirty years later would become Pope John Paul II. Padre Pio predicted his election as Pontiff, apparently.

He thought of himself as useless, unworthy of God's gifts, full of weakness and infirmity, and at the same time blessed with divine favours. He was almost besieged by the crowds: they sought him in the church, in the sacristy, in the friary. But he gave himself to everyone generously. Amid so much admiration around him, he would often say in exasperation, “I

only want to be a poor friar who prays". He would spend many hours in prayer daily, saying that "Prayer is the greatest weapon we have," and how it is "the key to open the heart of God."

Padre Pio died during the night of the 23rd September 1968, at the age of eighty-one. On the 16th June 2002, he was proclaimed a saint by Pope John Paul II. In his homily, the Pope said, "The life and mission of Padre Pio prove that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted out of love, are transformed into a privileged way of holiness, which opens onto the horizons of a greater good, known only to the Lord." Padre Pio, pray for us. **Father McGachey**

A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS...

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who were able to attend the Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Opening of the Church in 1964 on Monday last week. I estimate that there were around five hundred people in the Church that evening! A truly inspiring attendance!

In particular, I would like to thank the ladies who came to clean the Church in the morning; those who were responsible for preparing the Church grounds; our brilliant servers; our readers; our passkeepers; the young family who brought the gifts of bread and wine forward at the Offertory procession; the Caritas students who distributed the Orders of Service; and those who looked after the buffet in the Hall. A special thanks to the Motherwell Diocesan Choir, with conductor Des McLean and organist John Pitcathley, as well as the Brass Quartet, for providing such memorable music. Most all, thank you to all those who came, young and old alike, to take part in the Mass. God reward you! The Mass was recorded by Being Catholic TV and is available to view on the internet: <https://www.facebook.com/beingcatholicTV> - then scroll down to find the Mass at Saint Bride's. It has had three and half thousand views so far!

NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST FOR SAINT BRIDE'S

Bishop Toal has asked Saint Bride's Parish if we would take Father Colum Martin, as Assistant Priest, at beginning November. He is at present Assistant Priest in Saint John's, Uddingston, having spent the past year there since his ordination. When he arrives, his main responsibilities will be Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School and the named Chaplain to Hairmyres Hospital, but he will work in the Parish too. He will be here, *Deo volente*, for the Solemnity of All Saints, 1st November.

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR THE TRAINING OF OUR FUTURE PRIESTS

I forgot to mention this retiring collection last weekend at the Vigil Mass. The boxes will be in place at the 4.30pm Mass on Saturday, should you wish to make a contribution. It is an important collection which helps to offset the high costs of educating our seminarians - the priests who will serve in our parishes in years to come. Please give generously as you always do.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Moira McCudden. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.



NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS - WEEK 3

There was another wonderful attendance on last Wednesday evening. This powerful Novena continues this Wednesday evening at 7pm, with: Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. If you missed the Novena, there are leaflets with the Novena Prayers from last week are on the ledge at the Noticeboard. Please take a copy and pass it on.



NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO PRAY FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MARGARET SINCLAIR

The National Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will take place today, Sunday 22nd September, from 12.30pm-6pm at Saint Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh. 12.30pm-1.30pm sale of candles and religious goods. 1.30pm-2.30pm Holy Hour (Exposition, Rosary, Benediction and Confessions). 2.45pm-3.15pm individual blessing with the Relic of Margaret Sinclair. 3.30pm-4.15pm Reflection of the life of Margaret and Novena Prayers. 4.30pm Holy Mass. All welcome.

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 - Holy Mass 10am

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesdays after 10am Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - Thursdays after 10am Mass

CALENDAR

Monday is the memorial of **Saint Pio Pietrelcina** (+1968) - see front cover. **Thursday** is the memorial of **Saints Cosmas and Damian** (+303). According to tradition, they suffered martyrdom in Syria during the persecutions unleashed by the Emperor Diocletian. Not much is known about them, but tradition says they were twin brothers and medical doctors, who never charged a fee for their medical services. On **Friday**, the Church celebrates the memorial of **Saint Vincent de Paul** (+1660). Born in Gascony, France, he studied theology at Toulouse and was ordained in 1600. He fell into the hands of pirates who carried him off to Africa. He founded the Congregation of the Priests of the Mission (or Lazarists or Vincentians) to preach especially to people he lived in the countryside. With the help of Saint Louise de Marillac, he established the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity to care of the poor and sick. **Saint Lawrence Ruiz and his companions** (+1637) are remembered on **Saturday**. He died in Nagasaki, Japan in the seventeenth century. These martyrs were members of the Dominican Order, and comprised of nine priests, two religious, two sisters, and three laymen. Among them was Lawrence Ruiz, a family man from the Philippines. They sowed seeds of Christianity in Japan with the example of their life and death.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

Our next collection will be on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th of September. Leaflets detailing essential items needed will be distributed at this weekend's Masses.

PARISH PRIEST Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey
EMAIL frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk
ADDRESS Saint Bride's Parish, Whitemoss Avenue, East Kilbride G74 1NN
TELEPHONE 01355 220005
WEBSITE www.sbek.org **TWITTER** @StBrideEK **FACEBOOK** @StBrideEK
HALL BOOKINGS Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org
BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or bulletin@sbek.org
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07712 903732

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Monica McShane, 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 - Margaret Murray, Alexander Allison, Jacqueline Marshall.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Patrick Park, Cathie Blake, Rena Blake, Margaret Milliken, Robin Lyon, John Reilly, Desmond Hughes, Margaret Milligan, Jo Reilly, Frances Burke, Michael Burke, Dominic Saroli, Bob Barbour, Mary Kirkwood, John Kirkwood, Elio Facenda, Peter McAinsh, Jo Reilly, Tommy Cartwright, Desmond Hughes, Frances Burke, Michael Burke.

FUNERALS

Margaret Murray - Reception Wednesday 2nd October at 5.30pm (sic). Requiem Mass Thursday 3rd October 10am

Alexander Allison - Requiem Mass Saturday 5th October 10am

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 15^h September - £2515. 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.

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.