

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of Christ, the King of the Universe - 24th November 2024

THE 'RORATE MASS' FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

This Advent, our parish will hold a special Advent Candlelight Mass, commonly known as *Rorate Caeli*. While this Liturgy has deep roots within the history of the Catholic Church, the Advent devotion has somewhat faded in practice throughout the years.



Recently, there has been a resurgence within the Church to honour and reintroduce the *Rorate Caeli* Mass to the faithful and reignite the beauty of our Church's liturgical heritage. But what is it? Why was it originally celebrated?

What is a Rorate Caeli Mass?

Rorate Caeli is Latin for "Drop down, ye heavens" and are the opening words of the Introit (which is an opening psalm or antiphon), taken from Isaiah 45,8: "*Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem.*" "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be

opened and bud forth a Saviour."

A *Rorate Caeli* Mass is traditionally celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church is only lit by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.

What is the History of the Rorate Caeli?

The *Rorate Caeli* Mass originated in the Middle Ages as one of the many Advent devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Liturgy was very popular among the people, especially in German-speaking areas, and was commonly celebrated on all Saturdays during Advent, with some areas having a Rorate Mass several or even all weekdays in the season.

How is it Celebrated?

Mass begins in darkness before sunrise, with only candles lighting the church to remind us of a world in darkness and sin that is anticipating the coming of the "Light of the World." As Mass progresses, the church becomes brighter until the risen sun fills it with the light of day. As a votive Mass for the Blessed Mother, white vestments are worn instead of the violet normally used during Advent. The Mass readings and prayers highlight the prophecies of the coming of Christ and Mary's role in bringing the Light into the world.

How can I participate?

Saint Bride's, East Kilbride, will celebrate a *Rorate Caeli* Mass on Monday and Friday mornings, during Advent 2024, at 7am. We encourage you to join us in the beautiful liturgy and tradition! Fr Colm

CHRISTUS VINCIT, CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT

Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the king of the Universe, and the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As King, Christ claims dominion over all creation and his kingdom of love, justice and peace, grows from strength to strength.

None of us will remember the Holy Year of 1925, or the political situation which was the background to the teaching of the Pope of those days, Pius XI. In Russia and Mexico the Bolsheviks and extreme left-wing politicians had established atheistic regimes bent on the eradication of all religion, sending priests and believers to death or exile in persecutions as thorough as any since the time of the Romans.



It was three years since Mussolini in Italy had supplanted an admittedly corrupt and ineffective parliamentary government: the potential for evil in a regime which asked unconditional loyalty to the state - things which Pope Pius XI was later to condemn - was recognized, but the main priority was an agreement which would give back to the Church in Italy its rights and standing.

In these circumstances the Pope wrote the letter '*Quas Primas*' (*In the first*) which described the events and successes of the Holy Year and proclaimed as a climax to that year a new feast of the Kingship of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Pope fully realised that the liturgy - for instance in the feast of the Ascension - already celebrated the Kingship of Jesus foretold in the Old Testament prophecies and referred to so often in the Gospels. 'Of his kingdom there will be no end,' Mary is told; Jesus himself will say 'All power has been given to me in Heaven and on earth' and to Pilate, 'Yes, I am a king,' but 'My Kingdom is not of this world'. This kingdom must oppose that of Satan not by material force but with the weapons of prayer and pardon and peace.

Our loyalty to Christ must be first in our hearts, but powers and governments must also accept that they have no claim on people which overrides Our Saviour's commands. In a world where people were being asked to pay exclusive loyalty to their nation or their ruler, the Pope felt it was time to have a special festival to celebrate the King to whom all must bend the knee and the Kingdom of love which all must strive to build.

CHRIST CONQUERS, CHRIST REIGNS, CHRIST COMMANDS

DEANERY MISSION APPEAL BY THE XAVERIAN FATHERS - TODAY

Every year the Bishops of Scotland allow a Missionary Order, based in Scotland, to make an appeal in one Deanery in their Diocese. This year, our Deanery has the honour of hosting the Missionaries of Saint Francis Xavier (the Xaverians), who are based in Coatbridge. The Appeal will take place this weekend at all Masses.

There will be a **Second Collection** to support their work - please be generous as you always are.

LAST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER PRAYERS FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

Father McGachey will lead the prayers on Monday evening this week at 7pm, for our beloved Dead. We will begin at Our Lady's altar, followed by a torchlight procession, the recitation of the Rosary and Prayers for the Deceased, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please use this opportunity to pray for your dead loved ones and help them get to heaven.



THE STALL

Copies of 'My day by day' for December are now on sale at the Stall - £1.00. New Christmas merchandise is on display, including Cribs, Christmas ornaments and Christmas Cards, Christmas Books from Catholic Truth Society (CTS)...

The new Sunday Missals have arrived. If you ordered one, it can be collected from the Sacristy. The cost is £19.95. Please leave the payment in the envelope provided and put your name on front of the envelope.

THE 'LOOP SYSTEM' IN THE CHURCH AND THE LANDLINE IN THE CHAPEL HOUSE

We were told recently that the Loop System for the hard of hearing was not working in the Church. On Tuesday last week it was repaired - a wire had become dislodged over time - It is now working properly. The microphone system was also adjusted. We would say to readers - please remember to adjust the microphone at the pulpit to your mouth level. The landline in the Chapel House was not working for a few days last week. The fault has now been corrected. Apologies.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is **Catherine Doohan**. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

THANK YOU

To the Bereavement Group for all the members' assistance, not only in preparing the Annual Mass for the Dead last Thursday, but for all the work they do in keeping in touch with the Bereaved throughout the entire year. We are deeply grateful.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2024 AT SAINT BRIDE'S



The Season of Advent and the New Liturgical Year begins next Sunday. The Advent Wreath will be blessed at the beginning of all the Masses that day.

We will begin to use the new translation of the Lectionary as of next Sunday. It will take a while to get used to, and require of all of us who read publicly at Mass, Priests and People alike, more preparation, and perhaps too a slower delivery of the Sacred Texts.

If you are unable to attend daily Mass, you can follow the Scripture Readings each day,

by getting hold on a copy of *My Day by Day*, on sale at the Stall.

Father Martin will say an additional Mass on the Mondays and Fridays of Advent, a *Rorate Coeli* Mass by candlelight, at 7am.

We will pray a special Litany for the Advent Season after the Rosary each morning.

On the Mondays of Advent, we will have Devotions in honour of Our Lady at 7pm. They will begin with a Torchlight Procession from Our Lady's Altar, a *Lucernarium* (A Thanksgiving for Light), the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



9th OF DECEMBER - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

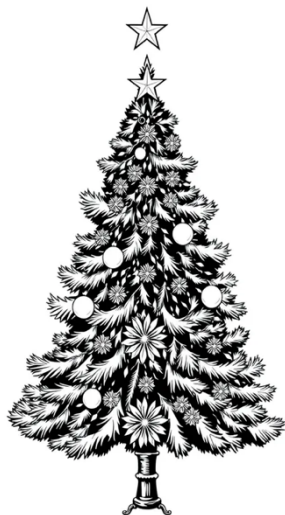
Is kept this year on Monday 9th December, rather than on Sunday 8th December. Our 10am Mass on that day will be a Solemn Mass with organ and incense. In the evening, at 7pm, we will have special Devotions in honour of Our Lady for the feast.

Please join us in honouring the Mother of God.

RADIO BROADCAST FOR 'ADVENT SUNDAY'

Next Sunday at 3pm BBC Radio 3 will broadcast the traditional 'Advent Sunday' service live from Saint John's College, Cambridge, at 3pm. It is a beautiful liturgy of readings and congregational and choral music for the Season of Advent. I am sure you would enjoy it, if you get the chance to listen. You can listen any time on 'BBC Sounds'.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND COFFEE MORNING



The tickets for this year's Christmas Raffle will go on sale before and after Mass this weekend. Prizes this year include: a *Fortnum and Mason's* Luxury Christmas Hamper, a Celtic football top and a Celtic football - signed by the current team members, a Voucher for the *Bond Restaurant* in the Village, a bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label whisky amongst many other items. Please support your parish: the monies raised will help us face the Winter months with slightly more confidence

We are looking for donations of bottles for the Bottle Stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning which will take place on Sunday 22nd December, after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. These can be handed into the sacristy at any point. Sincere thanks to those who have already done so.

CANON RYAN'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Our annual appeal for Christmas gifts and toys for less fortunate children in the East End of Glasgow begins next weekend and will run until the weekend of the 15th/16th December. The items can be left beside the gate to the Choir Loft - since the Church is open each day, the gifts will be taken after each Mass to the Library. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you for your generosity and support.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

THE CHURCH IS OPEN from 9am-5pm daily, or until after the evening service

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

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 9.30am-9.50am, after 10am Mass; 4pm-4.20pm and Mass

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am

HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Saturday at 9.30am

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesday after 10am Mass

HOLY MASS - Monday to Saturday 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesdays after 10am Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - on Thursdays after 10am Mass

FOODBANK UPDATE

This weekend's Collection will be the last until January 2025. The Loaves and Fishes outlet is moving to Greenhill and will need time to reorganise the new facility. They are looking for volunteers to help out next year in the new venture. If you are interested or would like more information, please call John Henvey on 07708917174. Thank you for your continued support.

MASS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Takes place tomorrow, Monday 25th, at 7pm in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Good Aid, Coursington Road, Motherwell. All those who have a connection to Catholic Schools are invited to attend. Bishop Toal is the Main Celebrant, and will be joined by High School Chaplains and pupils and teachers from across the Diocese.

ASSISTED SUICIDE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER, ANTHONY HORAN, AT HOLYROOD

It is now only a few days until the UK Parliament debates the issue of assisted suicide, with MPs likely to vote on Kim Leadbeater's Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Friday 29th November.

If you haven't already done so, please contact your MP as soon as possible and tell them what you think of the proposal, including any concerns you may have. You can visit our online resource, which includes key arguments and a guide to contacting your MP, here: [Assisted Suicide - Contact MPs - Catholic Parliamentary Office \(rcpolitics.org\)](https://rcpolitics.org). Or, if you prefer, you can go straight to the [Write to Them](#) website and contact your MP from there.

The more people who contact MPs with concerns, the more likely the UK Parliament is to vote against this dangerous proposal and focus on care, rather than killing, for those at the end of life.

Do No Harm is a short documentary which highlights some of the grave concerns around proposals to legalise assisted dying in the UK and Scottish Parliaments. The documentary, which features Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Bishop John Keenan, Dr Gillian Wright, Lord David Alton, and Professor David Albert Jones, gathers together experts from the medical and palliative care professions, alongside prominent politicians, ethics experts and religious leaders, to construct a unified voice of unease. It spotlights key concerns around preserving human dignity and protections for vulnerable groups, and challenges the robustness of tabled safeguards in the UK legislation, by citing the experience of other jurisdictions which quickly eased access and expanded eligibility. You can view the documentary via the links, below.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Mi3S2yp3hjY>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/1029444718?share=copy>

Please remember to share the documentary with family and friends, and on social media, and please use the hashtags #DoNoHarm and #RaiseYourVoice

The joint statement of the Bishops' Conferences of Scotland and England and Wales, explains what 'compassion' means at the end of life - caring for and accompanying people, particularly during times of suffering. The statement strongly defends the vulnerable in society who are at risk through the proposed legislation, and the bishops advocate for better funded palliative care to be consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland.

"People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives," say the bishops. "Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life."

In the meantime, please pray for the terminally ill, and also their families and carers, that they will feel the comforting presence of God and receive the care and support they need and deserve. And pray for our politicians across the UK, that they will recognise the inherent dignity and worth of every human being, and that they will work to improve how we care for the most vulnerable in our society, including those at the end of life, and vote against proposals to legalise assisted suicide on the 29th November.

“LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING...” - SAINT JOSELITO

In 1926, the Mexican Government's restrictions on the freedom of belief and conscience forced the faithful in the country to come out and defend their faith in dramatic fashion. It was a time of bullets, death, and persecutions.

Amid the noise of war could be heard the voice of a young of fifteen-year-old, who walked to his grave shouting “Long live Christ the King!”

Refusing to give up his Catholic faith, José Sánchez del Río, or Joselito (little Joe) as he was commonly called, died a martyr's in the Cristero War that shook Mexico between 1926 and 1929. It is reckoned that around a quarter of a million lives were lost during this dark time in Mexico's past.

Joselito's childhood was that of a normal boy: he went to school and had a knack for making friends. His family, from Michoacán, was pious and active in the local parish. His parents' faith was the basis of his holiness.

Having the approval of his parents to join the Cristeros Movement - the response of Catholics in Mexico to the secularist, anticlerical political regime, led by the politician Plutarco Calles, in control of the country in those days. José still had to convince the leader



of the Cristeros, who also refused his request at first. But José did not stop. He insisted and offered himself as an assistant, which the leader accepted. At the camp, Joselito encouraged the daily praying of the Rosary and cheered up the rest of his companions, who nicknamed him Tarcissius, after the young Roman saint and martyr.

On the 6th of February 1928, he was taken prisoner by government troops. He was easy to catch because he had given his horse to his General while they were in battle. From prison, before his death, he wrote the following moving letter to his mother:

‘I was taken prisoner in combat today. At this time, I believe I am going to die, but nothing matters, Mum. Resign yourself to God's will. I'm dying very happy because I'm dying in the fight next to Our Lord. Don't worry about my death. Rather tell my other brothers to follow the example of the youngest, and you, do the will of God. Have courage and send me your blessing together with that of my father. Greet everyone for me for the last time, and receive for the last time the heart of your son who loves you so much and wanted to see you before dying.’

At 11pm on the 10th of February, José Sánchez del Río walked to the cemetery with the soles of his feet flayed. Even in pain, José did not deny his faith. Standing in front of his open grave, and without giving in to those who tried to get him to deny Christ, he shouted out one last time “Long live Christ the King! Long live the Virgin of Guadalupe!”

José was declared a saint by Pope Francis on the 16th of October 2016. His life is one of the many testimonies of Mexicans who contributed to the transmission of the faith in the face of tremendous opposition in the 1920s. **Father McGachey**

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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, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahon, 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, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey. Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney.

RECENTLY DEAD - Mary Crilly, Margaret (Josie) McDonald, Margaret Donnelly, Liz Knoght, Dave McLeish, Bob Cadwallender, Tessa McDade, Jim Gray.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Noel Kurdell, John Kennedy, Monica McDermott, Paul Smith, Jenny McCollum, Maria Monfieth, Darcy McNeill, Paula Ambrose, Joseph Cuning.

FUNERALS

Mary Crilly - Reception on Monday 25th November at 5.30pm. Requiem Mass Tuesday 26th November at 10am.

Margaret (Josie) McDonald - Requiem Mass Wednesday 4th December 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 17th November - £2,825. 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.