



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity - 26th May 2024

WHY DO WE USE INCENSE IN THE CHURCH?

Etymology - the word incense comes from the Latin *incendere*, which means "to burn".

What is incense? - Incense is the fragrant gum resin, that comes from trees found in Arabia: one tree can produce about ten kilos of resin per year. The harvesting methods have not changed in two thousand years - a cut is made in the tree trunk, causing the gum to seep out; it eventually hardens into resin and is scrapped off the bark and collected. It was used in the religious rituals of the peoples of the ancient world. Incense was a highly valuable commodity - it was the basis for the 1,500-mile-long Incense Route, which begun in Arabia (Yemen) and ended in the Port of Gaza. From there it was taken by ship to Europe.



Incense was important in the life of the people of God in Biblical times. A clear indication of this is the fact that the word is mentioned in the Bible around 170 times. The use of incense in Jewish worship continued well after the establishment of Christianity, and its use undoubtedly influenced Christian worship.

What is the name of gold-coloured vessel with chains that the incense is burned in? It is called a thurible or sometimes a censer.

How is the smoke created? The grains of incense are burned on red-hot charcoals.

Why do we use incense in the Liturgy? Incense is a *sacramental* used to venerate, bless, and sanctify. The smoke rising from the incense conveys a sense of mystery and awe, and its use gives an added air of solemnity to the celebration. The visual imagery of the smoke, along with its sweet smell, reinforces the transcendence of the Mass, linking Heaven with Earth, and allowing us to enter the presence of God. In a visual sense, as the fragrant smoke ascends, it also symbolises our prayers rising to heaven.

How is incense used in the Mass? The *Roman Missal* tells us how we use incense at Mass: the priest, when he puts incense into the thurible, blesses it with the sign of the Cross, without saying anything. Before and after an incensation, a profound bow is made to the person or object that is incensed, except for the incensation of the altar and the Bread and Wine. Three swings of the thurible are used to incense: the Blessed Sacrament, a relic of the Cross, the bread and wine, the altar cross, the Book of the Gospels, the Paschal Candle, the priest, and the people.

In his book *Sacred Signs*, the priest Romano Guardini (1885-1968), who greatly influenced the writings of Pope Benedict XVI, had this to say about the use of incense: "The offering of incense is a generous and beautiful rite. The bright grains of incense are laid upon the red-hot charcoal, the thurible is swung, and the fragrant smoke rises in clouds. In the rhythm and the sweetness there is a musical quality; and like music also is the entire lack of practical utility: it is a prodigal waste of precious material. It is a pouring out of love."

Our Catholic faith is a liturgical faith - it makes use of our five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. This is precisely why every effort should be used to employ all our senses, whenever possible, during the celebration of the liturgy. **Father McGachey**



TODAY IS SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Today is the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, the day when we honour the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in everlasting glory. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

MAY DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

There was a great attendance again at our first May Devotions on Monday evening - despite there being a Fatima Mass in Carfin. We will have once again traditional May Devotions: a prayerful recitation of the Rosary, the Litany of Loreto with its beautiful titles of Our Lady, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the traditional hymns in honour of Our Lady. Please make a special effort to attend and honour Mary, the Mother of God.



On Monday mornings during May, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9.15am to 10am. The Rosary will not be recited.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY, EXCEPT FRIDAYS - from 9am to 6pm

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

MONDAY-FRIDAY - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am

TUESDAY-SATURDAY - The Holy Rosary with the Litany of Loreto 9.35am

WEDNESDAY - The Litany of Saint Joseph at the conclusion of the Rosary

MONDAY-SATURDAY - Holy Mass 10am

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

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesdays after 10am Mass

When there is Requiem Mass, there will be no Exposition or Rosary

NEXT SUNDAY - FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, formerly known, and still popularly known, as *Corpus Christi* Sunday. It is a day for us to affirm our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

At 7pm we will celebrate Vespers or Evening Prayer of the Church - a service of Psalms, Canticles, Antiphons and Prayer, written largely the Saint Thomas Aquinas (+1224) for the feast. It will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please join us if you can and affirm your faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

SAVE THE DATE...

Saint Bride's Church celebrates this year the sixtieth anniversary of its opening. To mark the occasion, Bishop Toal has confirmed that he will join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving on Monday 16th September at 7pm. We will invite the clergy who served in the parish in the past, and the Motherwell Diocesan Choir have confirmed that they will provide the music at the liturgy on that evening. I hope you will let your family members, as well as former parishioners, know about this celebration, and that you will save the details in your own diaries so that you can be present too. More details to follow.

DIARY DATES

- **THE MONTH OF JUNE - MONTH OF DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS** - We will recite the Litany of the Sacred Heart after the Rosary each morning.
 - **FRIDAY 7TH JUNE - SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS** - 10am Mass with organ and incense. At the end of Mass, we will say the prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart.
 - **THURSDAY 13TH JUNE - MASS FOR THE SICK** at 10am. After Mass, we invite you to join us for a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.
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200 CLUB

This week's winner is Maureen Davidson. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

MARY'S MEALS

A volunteer from the charity Mary's Meals will be speaking at Masses on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June, giving an update on their work providing school meals to children living in poverty around the world. A bucket collection will be taken up as you leave Mass if you would like to support this important cause.

CALENDAR



Monday is the memorial of **Saint Augustine of Canterbury** (+604). When Pope Gregory I heard that the people of Britain were disposed to accept the Catholic Faith, he sent the prior of Saint Andrew's Monastery in Rome, Augustine, and forty Benedictine monks to England. Despite the difficulties involved, the success of their preaching was immediate: King Ethelbert was

baptised on Pentecost Sunday 596, and the greater part of the nobles and people soon followed his example. **Wednesday** is memorial of **Pope Saint Paul VI** (+1978). Giovanni Battista Montini was born near Brescia and eventually became Archbishop of Milan. Elected Pope in 1963, he presided over the completion of the Second Vatican Council. He died on 6th August 1978. **Friday** is the **Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth shortly after the Annunciation. **Saturday** is the feast of the second century martyr, **Saint Justin** (+155) he was a philosopher and apologist (defender) of the faith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE McDONALD FAMILY

Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of everyone who shared their condolences at the death of my sister Cathie. Josie McDonald.

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Drew and 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), Father Bill Tollan, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Grace McHugh.

RECENTLY DEAD - Catherine Berkovich, Pater Shanley, Mary Martin, Jeanne Paterson, Peter Balmain, Eileen Brooks, Ella Barr.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Terry Cassidy, Paul Dyet, William McGrear, Cilla Garden, Elio Faccenda, Margaret Galloway, Liz Gallagher, Eileen Thompson, Gerard Thompsom.

FUNERALS

Catherine Berkovich - Tuesday 28th May 10am

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 19th May - £2530. 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.