

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Paul
30th June 2024

THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

Were we not honouring the Apostle to the Jews, Saint Peter, and Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles this weekend, this last day of thirtieth day of June would be the Memorial of the First Martyrs of Holy Roman Church - the numerous unknown men, women and children who gave their lives for Christ during the persecutions which unfolded during the first four hundred years of the Christian era. How did these persecutions begin?

Nero was the fifth Roman Emperor who reigned from 54-68AD. Known to be impulsive, tyrannical and violent, a true madman - he had murdered his first wife and his mother. In 64AD, when Nero was twenty-seven years old, a fire broke out in mid-July in the Circus Maximus. The place was a tinder box: densely packed with shops and pedestrians. The fire spread rapidly to the public buildings and temples, before reaching the dwelling of the ordinary citizens of Rome. It raged for nine days and two-thirds of the city was destroyed.

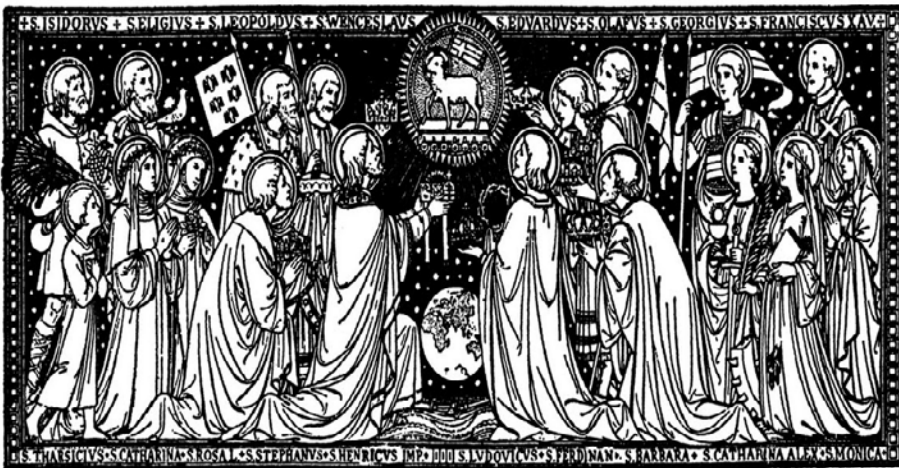
Many believe that Nero himself had the fire set to make way for a new palace. When people started to question him, he blamed the Christians for setting the city alight. At that time, Christians were a small minority and were seen as a menace to the traditional Roman way of life and the Roman gods.

He did not need an excuse to

begin persecuting the Christians, but the devastating fire provided one. The emperor and the residents of Rome took great pleasure in grotesque displays of violence and suffering; Roman soldiers combed the city. Christians were apprehended and forcibly taken either to Nero's palace gardens, on the Vatican Hill, or one of the city's amphitheatres.

The public tortures and executions were horrific. At nightfall Christians were tied to stakes, covered with wax, set aflame and burned alive, like human torches. Others were crucified. Most of the martyrs were mauled and devoured by wild animals - they were either smeared with animal scent or covered with animal hides and then placed in an enclosure at the palace or at the centre of the amphitheatre. Then raging beasts, who had been deprived of food for several days, were released, as the emperor and the crowds beheld the gruesome sight.

These persecutions were expected to eliminate Christianity from the Empire but this did not happen. For nearly three centuries, the persecution continued under various the Roman Emperors. The most severe were during the reigns of Emperors Decius (249-251AD) and Diocletian (284-305AD). It was not until the year 313AD, when the emperor Constantine legalised Christianity with the Edict of Milan, that the persecutions stopped.



As we think about these unnamed heroes of our faith, let us draw inspiration and become witnesses who follow behind them. In Heaven, every sacrifice we make will be rewarded. For now, many of our sacrifices are hidden and known only to us and to God. Let us rejoice that these hidden sacrifices unite us with those whom we honour today. **Father McGachey**

TODAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES AND MARTYRS

PETER'S PENCE RETIRING COLLECTION

Across the world today, the annual Peter's Pence Collection is taken-up to help support the Pope in caring for local Churches around the world which are in need because of poverty or natural disaster. I would like to thank you for your generosity to the many appeals over the past six months.

STALL

The summer edition of *My day by day* is on sale at the Stall priced £1.00. A new selection of cards and piety objects arrived this week. Please have a look.

A FEW WORDS FROM FATHER MCGACHEY

Once again, I would like to offer my thanks to you for your support and encouragement over the past six months. Your loyalty to the Parish, along with your practical concern and financial generosity, week after week, are deeply appreciated. May God reward you!

A special word of thanks to all who are actively involved in the day to day running of the Parish for their time and commitment: sacristans, church cleaners, members of the Music Ministry, those who look after the altar linens, pass keepers, those who look after the grounds, the collection counters, readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, servers, flower arrangers, those who help to prepare the bulletin, the Children's Liturgy group, the Legion of Mary, SVDP, as well as those who work in the Parish Hall. Thank you all most sincerely.

I am heading off on my summer break after a Baptism on Sunday afternoon. I look forward to enjoying some sunshine, spending time with my family, and having a good rest. I will be back in the Parish for the Vigil Mass on the first weekend in August.

Father Bernardine Muoka from Nigeria is coming again this year cover for me in my absence. He worked for two years in Saint Theresa's, Newharthill, and currently teaches in his Diocesan seminary. Please give him a warm welcome and offer him every assistance.

This will be the last Bulletin until the beginning of August. I will not be answering any emails or texts in July - it is time for me to switch off! I wish you all, whether you are staying at home, or travelling further afield, during the weeks ahead, a pleasant and relaxing summer. **Fr Francis McGachey**

VISIT OF THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO MOTHERWELL DIOCESE

The visit of His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Papal Nuncio to the United Kingdom, will take place over the weekend of Friday August 30th to Sunday September 1st. There will be a Mass of Welcome in the Cathedral on Friday August 30th at 7pm. Archbishop Maury Buendía will preach at this Mass.

On Saturday 31st August there will be Mass at 10am in the Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by a Wellspring Assembly in St Bride's Centre between 11.30am and 2pm.

The National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Carfin, will take place on Sunday 1st September. The Papal Nuncio will be the main celebrant at Mass at 3pm. The theme for the Pilgrimage will be the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025, whose theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Bishop Frank Dougan will preach at the Pilgrimage Mass.

DURING JULY AT SAINT BRIDE'S

THE CHURCH OPENING HOURS - 9am and closes after Mass

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am and 11.30am

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

MONDAY-FRIDAY - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am

MONDAY-FRIDAY - Holy Rosary with the Litany of the Precious Blood 9.35am

MONDAY-FRIDAY - Holy Mass 10am. Please note there will be no 10am Mass on a Saturday morning in Saint Bride's until the 10th August

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

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesdays after 10am Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - Thursdays after 10am Mass

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Frank Lynch, and the quarterly winner is Christine McAinsh. Please collect your cheques from the Sacristy.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

Last week's total for Loaves and Fishes Foodbank amounted to: £460 cash and 690 food items. This brings the approximate total for the year to £7,600 cash, £5,840 vouchers, and over 77,500 items. A tremendous effort indeed from our Parish - well done and thanks to you all. Although the Church Hall will not be open for donations during July, the food bank team is still accepting food vouchers and cash donations. Anyone wishing to donate food should contact John Henvey on 07708 917174, who will arrange an uplift. Thank you all once again.

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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

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, Leo McCrear, Kenneth Cunningham.

RECENTLY DEAD - Molly Livingston, Sheila Tierney, Stephen Marshall, Matt Henderson, Ray McCann, Catherine Reilly, Mrs Zelazny.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - John Maule, Anne and James Corrigan.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 23rd June - £2465 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.

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.