



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the  
Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord  
7th January 2024

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**'VIDENTES AUTEM STELLAM GAVISI SUNT GAUDIO MANGO'**

**'And seeing his Star, they rejoiced with great gladness' Matthew 2,10**



When most people have packed away all trace of Christmas for another year, the Church continues her celebration of this holy season with the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

The word *Epiphany*, from the Greek, means 'revelation' - we celebrate Christ's Epiphany to the Gentiles, represented by the Wise Men from the Persia (modern-day Iran and Iraq), whose coming to Bethlehem is told by Saint Matthew in his Gospel, which we will hear read at Mass today.

Tradition says their names were Balthasaar, Gaspar and Melchior, and they came with gifts for the new-born child, gifts which would prefigure his future life: gold for a king, incense for a priest, and myrrh for someone who would suffer and die.

Two thousand years ago, frankincense and myrrh were as familiar as gold, and just as rare. In Jesus' time, one kilogram of gold was worth about £400; today it is worth more than £50,000. Frankincense was worth slightly less, at £300; today a kilogram would cost £40. Myrrh, however, was worth £2,500 per kilogram in those days, but it is valued at around £70 today.

Gold was even rarer in the ancient world than it is today, and because of its incorruptibility, people connected it with immortality and divinity. Frankincense and myrrh are fragrant gum resins that come from trees found in the Middle East. One tree can produce about ten kilos of resin a 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 scraped off the bark and collected for use.

Frankincense was the main component of incense - when burned, its aroma was thought to be pleasing to God. It was used in the religious rituals of the peoples of the ancient world. Myrrh means 'bitter' in Arabic. Principally a luxury item, it was used in perfumes, cosmetics and medicine (for indigestion, to heal wounds, as a pain killer...). At the crucifixion, Jesus, wracked with pain, was offered myrrh, mixed wine, but refused it. In fact, Saint Luke tells us that Christ's body was prepared for burial with a mixture of aloes and myrrh.

We have added the Wise Men figures to the Crib in the Church, and by the side of the Crib we have placed gold, frankincense and myrrh. Please have a look at them up close - smell them, touch them... If you have children, let them do the same!

Father McGachey

## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONTINUES TOMORROW

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord, and the end the Season of Christmas.

The Church recalls Our Lord's second 'manifestation' or 'epiphany', which occurred when he was baptised in the river Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist.

In an increasing number of places in Europe and the Americas, it is the now the custom to keep the Crib and the Christmas evergreens in the Church until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the Feast of Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple, by Mary and Joseph, and being greeted by the elderly Simeon and Anna - the fortieth day after Christmas.



This is a Medieval tradition, maintained especially at Saint Peter's at the Vatican, where the crib and the large Christmas tree remain in Saint Peter's Square until the fortieth day after Christmas. We will do the same in Saint Bride's this year.

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### RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY

This will help support the work of the Justice and Peace Commission, an arm of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. I am sorry that this falls so soon after Christmas!

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### FATHER MCGACHEY

I will be leaving on Monday afternoon to begin my Christmas holidays. I will be back in the parish on the morning of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers), based in Carfin, will be covering at Saint Bride's in my absence. Please give them a warm welcome and every assistance.

Please note that there will be no Bulletin for the next two Sundays.

Sunday Masses at the usual times: 4.30pm (Vigil), 9.30am and 11.30am.

Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday 10am. Please note there will be no Saturday 10am Mass until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. Exposition at 9.15am and Rosary at 9.35am as normal.

Confessions will be heard after the Vigil Mass only.

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### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will recommence next Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, at 9.30am Mass.

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### FUNDRAISER COFFEE MORNING

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024, after 9.30am and 11.30am Masses, to help raise funds for The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. Everyone is very welcome to pop into the hall for a cup of tea or coffee and some home baking to help raise funds for the Hospice. There will also be a raffle.

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### 200 CLUB

This week's winner is Kathleen Johnstone. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

## DIARY DATES

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY** - The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (Candlemas Day), sung Mass with organ and incense at 10am. Candles for use in the Church will be blessed at the beginning of Mass, followed by a short procession.

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY** - The Sunday nearest the Feast of Candlemas - the Blessing of Candles for home use at all Masses this weekend. Modestly priced candles will be on sale after each Mass today.

**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY** - Ash Wednesday - Holy Masses with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7am, 10am and 7pm.

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY** - Annual Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots at 7pm, with Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction. And on the eight subsequent Wednesdays.

**THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY** - Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.

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## SAINT MARGARET'S ADOPTION AND CHILD CARE

Donations at the Crib will go to the Saint Margaret's Adoption and Child Care Society. Please be generous as you always are.

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## FINANCIAL MATTERS

Sincere thanks for your generosity to the Parish over the past year, especially in this cost-of-living crisis which we are all facing at the moment. Last Sunday's Collection was £2,856 - magnificent! I am very grateful, and it will help us face the New Year with confidence.

At the suggestion of the Parish Finance and Fabric Committees, in the autumn I petitioned the Diocese for the temporary suspension of the weekly Loan repayments made to the Pastoral Investment Fund (£1,000 per week) for the new roof that was added to the Church seven years ago. The Diocese has generously acceded to this request. I am very grateful to Bishop Toal and the Diocesan Finance Committee for this.

Since the work was done, we have repaid £380,000, or £52,000 per year plus interest, which last year was over £5,000 - a massive sum of money. Into the bargain, we have been paying a levy to the Diocese, as all parishes do, based on our ordinary (weekly) collection income. Our levy last year was £34,000, or £4,200 per month, between May and December.

The temporary suspension will allow us to carry out some much-needed work around the Church, and in the Chapel House where very little has been done over the past sixty years. The house needs to be rewired as a matter of urgency. I will keep you posted as things develop. Thank you for your continued support.

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## SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR SAINT KENNETH'S SCHOOL

- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am - Mass of Commitment for Primary 3 (First Confession) and Primary 4 (First Communion)
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am - Mass of Commitment for Primary 7 (Confirmation)
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - First Confessions for Children of Primary 3 from 5.30pm
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - The Sacrament of Confirmation for Primary 7
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May - First Communions for Primary 4

## PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Patricia Williamson, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Jimmy Waite, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Therese Martin, Father Bill Tollan.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Richard Tamburrini, Andrew Devine.

**FUNERALS** - Margaret Toner, Reception Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 6pm. Requiem Mass Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 10am.

**MONTHS MINDS, ANNIVERSARIES AND CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES** - Cathie Glendinning, Mary Agnes McCabe, Francis Milligan, Agnes O'Neil, May Cheney, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Patrick Henratty, Morison Henratty, Peter Berry, Mary Berry, Georgina Millar, Alexandra McGovern, Lillian Callam, Francis McGlynn, Sarah McGlynn, James McSorley, Jane McSorley, Mary Allan, James Allan, Peter Allan, Andrew Strain, Charlie and Nellie Strain, Con and Mary Campbell, John Campbell, Bernie and Celia Kelly, Pat McGinley, Owenie McFadden sen., Owenie McFadden jnr., Maureen Donnelly, Strain, Campbell and Boyle Families, Helen Spicer, Margaret Purdie, Robert Purdie, Purdie Family, Catherine Crews, John Crews, Catherine Slaven, Helen McCann, Paul Dyet, May Kurdell, Anna Murphy, Tony Rooney, Jack and Babs Kelly, Gerry Kelly, John Muldoon, David Blake, Joseph Blake, Rena Blake, Paul Ridge, Patrick Ridge, Margaret Shields, John and Margaret McAuley, Hugh and Theresa Docherty, Shuggy Docherty, James and Kathleen Dunn, McEntaggart Family, Phyllis (Philomena) Boyle, Patty, Hugh, Mary, Hugh, Kathleen, Vincent, Maureen, Gerry McGorry, Theresa Ramsden, Agnes, John, Rosemary Madden, Jeanette and James McGorry, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, Gerard Kennedy, Margaret-Anne Kennedy, Patrick Leddy, Tony and Susan Lynam, Bill and Mary Kane, Anne Usai, Neil and Anna McGinley, Kathleen and Hugh McGarvey, John and Neil Lynam, James Lynam, James and Bridget McGonigle, Rose and John Reilly, Michael Tracy, Denis and Olive Tracy, Olivia Anderson, James and Margaret Quinn, James Quinn, Harry Findlay, Bernadette Lynch, Rachel Lynch, Slorach Family and Friends, Stewart Williamson, Ian Williamson, Papa Robertson, Max Jones, Peter Gough, Tommy, Anne and Thomas Flaherty, John M. Muldoon, Margaret M. Muldoon, Elizabeth B. Richard, Alan Richmond, Sister Sheila Clancy, Canon Michael Ryan, Mary Smilie, George and Annie McLellan, Hugh and Joan McLaughlin, John Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Josephine Kelly, Gerald Kelly, Tom Lochrin, David and Evelyn Knight, Chas and Jane Anne Lochrin, Knight, Lochrin, Melvin and Duffy families, David Cook, Andrew, Annie and John McShane, James and Annie Kennedy, May Smith, Robin Lyon, Mr and Mrs Harvie, Eddy Harvie, Mr and Mrs Callaghan, James McCabe, Mary Agnes McCabe, Paul McCabe, John McEnaney, Davidson Family, McDonald Family, Bonner Family, Claire and Jim Fox, Ralph Kurdell, May Kurdell, Noel Kurdell, Terry Cassidy, Burke Family, Dynan Family, Tennant Family, Aitken Family, Duncan McSporrán, Bill McLaren, Dylan Affleck, Twigg Family, James McVittie, Helen and Robert Hendry, John Corrigan, Vincent Corrigan, John Connor, Tilly Coyle, Gina and Francoise Martinez, Frank Armstrong, Gina Muirhead, Jim and Sandra Boyd, Tony Rooney, Phyllis and Pat McCluskey, Isobel Murray, Anna Morgan, Helen and Peter Orsie, Lisa Orsie, Mr and Mrs Dowds, Fleetwood Family and Friends, George MacLellan, Margaret Sinclair McCrear, Davie Blake, Bernadette Mehigan, Cornelius Mehigan, George Phimister, Queenie Phimister, William Magill, Brother Raymond Hynes OFM, Francis Gabriel McNeill, Elizabeth Patricia McNeil, Jim Graham, William, Margaret, William, Jim Graham, Isabella and Robert Kinghorn, James and Margaret Paterson, Cathie Rett, Anne Caird, David Drennan, George Stevenson, James Stevenson, Helen and William Stevenson, Ina and Louis Lennon, Edward Lennon, Alice Murphy, Josephine Maule, John Maule, Eileen McGuigan, James McGuigan, Maria Conway, Peter Reilly, Jo Reilly, Ann Spicer, Michael Spicer, Catherine Tamburrini, Mario Tamburrini, Robert Tamburrini, Gail McFaddyen, Allan Hendry, John Mitchell, Robert Robertson, Edward O'Pray sen., Edward O'Pray jnr., Mark O'Pray, Tommy, Barney and Mamie McGee, Michael Todd, Joe and May Watson, Cilla and Peter Gordon, Pat and Gretta Watson, Baby Daniel, Edward and Annemarie O'Pray, Sarah and Neil McGready, Father McNamee, Bishop Ward, Sister Sheila, Father Ryan, Father McIlhone, Flaherty Family, Gallagher Family, O'Hara Family, Mary, Eddie, John and Madge O'Brien, Ellen Moran, Elizabeth (Betty) Smith, Alberto, Luisa and Elio Faccenda, Don Smeaton, Dennis O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill, Catherine Yardley, Mary O'Neill, Frank Cassidy, Frankie and Annemarie Logan, Charlie Logan, Maxine Brown, Brian Curran, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, Alfonso Faccenda, The Roberts Family, The McCartney Family, The McGregor Family, Patricia Burns, Bonnie McMenamin, Ian McWilliams, Mary Nolan, Elizabeth McPeak, Joseph McPeak, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, The O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, Julia Perkins, Ellen and Richard Mullen, Richard and Cathie Mullen, Joseph Mullen, John Ferguson, Margaret Kelly, Tommy Glencourse, James and Amelia O'Donnell, James and Frances Collins, Bernard and Elizabeth Cullen, Gibb Family, Neal McDermott, Roderick McSween, Gordon Cameron, Elizabeth Kew, Agnes Sweeney, Brian Curran, Anne Campbell, Irene Hossack, Lormier Family, McDermott Family, Mooney Family, Donnachie Family, Brown Family, Alan Paterson, Terry Gallagher, Brian Gallagher, May Cheney, Andrew O'Neil.