



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

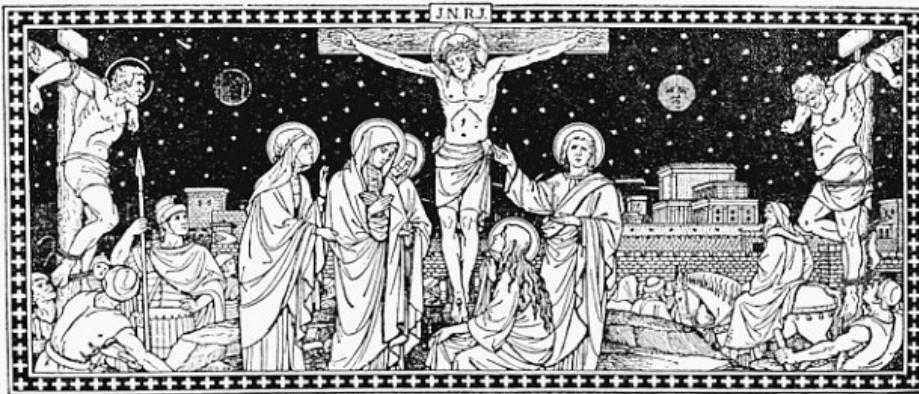
Bulletin for the Twenty-Third Sunday of the Ordinary  
Season - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

---

## THE BASILICA OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN JERUSALEM AND THE TRUE CROSS

Sandwiched between the feasts of Saint Patrick, 17<sup>th</sup> March and Saint Joseph, 19<sup>th</sup> March, is the memorial of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem - the fourth century bishop who gave us 'The Great Week', better known as 'Holy Week'. At the heart of the liturgical life of Jerusalem in those days was the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, a place that is closely linked with the Feast which falls on Saturday of the week, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

When the Emperor Constantine favoured Christianity in 312AD, Christians were able to travel freely to the Holy Land for the first time to see the places associated with Our Lord. Constantine, and his mother Saint Helen, were among the first to visit Jerusalem. He ordered archaeological digging to uncover the holy sites which had been profaned the Roman armies when Jerusalem was sacked in 70AD, in order to obliterate any trace of Christianity. These places were easily identifiable, because Temples to the Roman Gods had been built on top of them.



Among the sites discovered was Mount Calvary and the place of the Resurrection. Part of the wood of the Cross, which had been buried by the disciples after the Crucifixion, was also apparently uncovered. Resultingly, Constantine had ambitious plans drawn-up for

a magnificent Basilica to be erected, that would cover the entire area under one roof. Its proportions were huge and its adornments like nothing that he been seen in the ancient world. Egeria, the fourth century Spanish pilgrim nun, who saw the Basilica first hand, records in her *Itinerarium* (Travelogue) the splendour of this building - the finest and most highly decorated Church of its day.

The Basilica was dedicated on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 336AD, amid elaborate ceremonial. At the heart of the Basilica was the *Martyrion* - the place where the *Lignum Crucis*, the wood of the True Cross, was on permanent display for veneration. Part of the wood was taken to Rome, and from this, the relics of the True Cross were dispersed around the world. So, the feast of the Exaltation of the True Cross, is kept on the date the Basilica was dedicated in 336AD.

The original Basilica was destroyed in the twelfth century, and has been rebuilt several times since. The present Basilica dates from the eighteenth century and is still visited today by pilgrims from all over the world.

The name of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh is called *Holyrood* - which actually means 'Holy Cross'. Saint Margaret of Scotland (+1293) - granddaughter of the King of England, and who was born in Hungary - fled to Scotland in 1066, during the Norman Conquest. She

married the King of Scotland, Malcolm Canmore III. She is said to have brought with her the 'Holy Rood', a fragment of the True Cross. Her son, King David I, built Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh after her death to house the precious relic. It was taken from Scotland, along with the Stone of Scone, amongst other priceless objects, by Edward I in 1298, but returned during the reign of Edward II (he of "proud Edward's Army" fame in the unofficial anthem, *Flower of Scotland*) in 1328. The Relic of the True Cross was presumably destroyed during the Reformation in the sixteenth century.

In 2023, two fragments of the True Cross were gifted by Pope Francis to King Charles on the occasion of his Coronation. The fragments were placed inside the so-called *Cross of Wales*, a newly fashioned Processional Cross, that was used to lead the king into Westminster Abbey for the coronation ceremony. Around the cross are words of Saint David, patron of Wales: "Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things." The Cross is shared between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in Wales today.

We are privileged to have at Saint Bride's a Relic of the True Cross, gifted to us by a family in the parish. After Mass on Saturday morning, and at Masses over the weekend, I will offer individual blessings with the Relic and an opportunity to venerate it for those who wish.  
**Father McGachey**

---

## TODAY, 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER - FEAST OF OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY



The Church celebrates today the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nine months after the 8<sup>th</sup> December, her Immaculate Conception. Our Lady was the child of Joachim and Anne, and although the circumstances her infancy is not recorded in the Bible, they are mentioned in other documents, oft quoted by Christian writers of the early Church.

For example, the *Protoevangelium of James*, written in the early second century, describes Mary's father as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. With his wife, he was grieved, by their childlessness. So, they began to devote themselves to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them. After Mary's birth, Anne made a sanctuary in the child's room, and allowed nothing unclean to enter on account of the special holiness of the girl. When she was one year old, her father laid on a great feast, and invited the priests of the Temple, who subsequently decided that she would be offered to God for the rest of her life.

Saint Augustine described the birth of Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Christ: "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley".

If you can, today the end of Mass, spend a moment today before Our Lady's altar, where the newly repainted Statue sits, and offer her your own birthday gift.

---

**RETIRING COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND - FOR THE TRAINING OF OUR FUTURE PRIESTS**

---

**200 CLUB** This week's winner is Elizabeth O'Neill. Please collect your cheque.

# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

---



You are invited to join us for a

## MASS OF THANKSGIVING

to mark the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Opening of Saint Bride's Church, East Kilbride and thereafter to a reception in Saint Bride's Parish Hall on Monday 16th September at 7pm.

Whether you are young or old; a longstanding parishioner or have come to the parish recently; whether you attend Mass on your own or come with your family, I hope that you will keep Monday 16th September free.

Bishop Toal will be the Main Celebrant at the Mass, along with some other clergy.

The Diocesan Choir, accompanied by Motherwell Cathedral organist John Pitcathley, will sing at the Liturgy, so too will the Choir from Saint Kenneth's Primary School. Some of the music will be accompanied by a Brass Quartet.

Come and pray for the deceased members of the parish who worshipped here in the past, including your family and friends, as well as the deceased priests who served here over the years.

Come and pray for God's blessing on our parish in the future.

# SOLEMN NOVENA TO OUR LADY, UNTIER OF KNOTS



Begins this Wednesday,  
11<sup>th</sup> September, at 7pm

Do you have an intention that seems impossible! A problem that seems insurmountable! Then come to this most powerful of novenas! Our Lady will not let you down.

What are these knots that she comes to untie? They are the problems and struggles we face, for which we see no solution. Knots of discord in our families: lack of understanding between parents and children; the knots of deep-rooted hurt and the absence of peace and joy in our homes.

There are also the knots of despair: of separated couples; those who no longer

practise their faith, of children and grandchildren who are not baptised.

There are the knots of addictions: to alcohol, pornography, drugs, gambling... The knots of loneliness, depression and fear. The knots of unemployment, of health worries, and a million other things besides. The knots of all our lives!

Through this Novena: families have reconciled! Family members have returned to the Church! Jobs have been found! Conversions have taken place! Problems have been solved! Our Lady comes to us as the One who unties these impossible knots, the One who knows all about us, who has compassion for us and hurries to help us.

Ask Our Lady for her help and let her help you abundantly! Come and make the Novena with trust in her Motherly Care.

**ROSARY, SHORT HOMILY, NOVENA PRAYERS  
AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
FOR NINE WEDNESDAYS, BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY**

**STALL** Copies of 'My day by day' for September are on sale at the Stall - £1.00.

---

## 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 on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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



On Monday the Church celebrates the memorial of **Saint Peter Claver (+1654)** [pictured]. Born in Catalonia, Spain, he became a Jesuit priest. He was sent to Colombia in 1610, and dedicated himself to the service of black slaves: for thirty-three years he cared for the sick and dying, and instructing the slaves through catechists. He is the Patron of the African Missions. **Thursday** is the memorial of the **Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Saint Bernard, in the Middle Ages, said of Mary: "Look to the star of the sea, call upon Mary... in danger, in distress, in doubt, call upon Mary. May her name never be far from your lips. If you follow her, you will not stray; if you pray to her, you will not despair; if you turn your thoughts to her, you will not err." **Saint John Chrysostom (+407)** is remembered on **Friday**. His eloquence earned him the surname of *chrysostom*, or golden mouthed. As Archbishop of Constantinople, his courageous stance against the vices of the wealthy caused him to be exiled several times. **Saturday** is the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**. It commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been discovered by Saint Helena, mother of the emperor Constantine in the fourth century - see front cover.

---

## FABRIC AND FINANCE

As ever, thanks for your generous donations, they are much appreciated. The statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady were returned on Saturday morning. I am sure you will agree, they look magnificent. There are two new altar cloths arriving this week, along with a new Presidential Chair and matching stools, all of which have been donated by parishioners. There is more work to be done in the grounds this week - pray for dry weather - so the work can be carried out. There is some minor painting to be done in the Church this week too.

We would like to do a big clean of the Church on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> September in preparation for the Mass of Thanksgiving. There will no 10am Mass that day, so we will begin at 10am - I was told 9am was too early! Everyone is welcome to help. Please bring your own bucket, we will provide the rest!

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, <i>Parish Priest</i>
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk">frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk</a>
ADDRESS	Saint Bride's Parish, Whitemoss Avenue, East Kilbride G74 1NN
TELEPHONE	01355 220005
WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.sbek.org">www.sbek.org</a> TWITTER @StBrideEK FACEBOOK @StBrideEK
HALL BOOKINGS	Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan <a href="mailto:hall@sbek.org">hall@sbek.org</a>
BULLETIN NOTICES	Contact Fr. McGachey or <a href="mailto:bulletin@sbek.org">bulletin@sbek.org</a>
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER	07712 903732

### REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Clare (Slorach) Keane, 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), Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Grace McHugh, Leo McCrear, Kenneth Cunningham, Margaret Hannigan, John Rimmer.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Jean Adam, Jacqueline Marshall, Ninian McCandlish, Margaret Murray, John Woods (Australia), Helen Riley, J. Dickson.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Andrew O'Neil, Paul Clark, Neal McDermott, Catherine Hughes. John McShane, Drew McShane, Luisa Facenda, Alberto Facenda, Elio Facenda, Clare Simpson, Hugh McGovern, Alex McNamara, John McNamara, James McCabe.

### FUNERALS

Jean Adam - Requiem Mass Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 10am

Jacqueline Marshall - Requiem Mass Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 10am

Ninian McCandlish - South Lanarkshire Crematorium Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2pm

Margaret Murray (from Southend, Essex) - details to be confirmed

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September - £2705. 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.