



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Seventh Sunday of the Easter Season
1st June 2025

APOLOGIST, PHILOSOPHER AND MARTYR...

Were today, 1st of June, not the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the second last Sunday in Eastertide, we would have been celebrating the memorial of one of the earliest saints, Justin, apologist (someone who tries to prove, explain and defend the rationality of the Christian faith) and martyr. He is an important link between the time of Apostles and early Church or sub-Apostolic times. His writings are insightful of the early Church: its beliefs, practices, and organisation; as well as the persecutions that Christians faced in those days. Justin also provides a detailed account of the liturgy, including the Eucharist (Mass), and of the life of the Christian community in Rome.



Born in Flavia Neapolis (called Shechem in the Bible and the town of Nablus today in Israel) to a pagan family, around 103AD. His father, a non-believer, brought him up in paganism while giving him a first-class education: he spent his youth studying the great poets, historians and scientists of the time. He tells us in his *Dialogue* (a semi-autobiographical work), that he attended the school of a Stoic philosopher (Stoic philosophy emphasises living a virtuous life, characterised by tranquillity and self-control - hence the use of the word 'stoic' in the English language) but he was unable to explain God's existence to him. From there he went

to a Peripatetic philosopher (Peripatetic philosophy was founded by Aristotle +322BC, in Athens; the term 'peripatetic' (meaning 'to travel one place to another') refers to the school's members who were known for 'walking' while discussing philosophical matters) but was put off because the philosopher was too eager to claim his fee. Then he went to hear a Pythagorean philosopher (founded by Pythagoras +485BC, around the idea that numbers and their relationships are fundamental to reality) who demanded that he first learn music, astronomy and geometry, which he did not wish to do. Eventually he met an old man on the seashore who told him about Jesus and Christianity; convinced, he converted. He was influenced too by the fearless example of Christians in the face execution. His conversion seems to have taken place at Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey) around 130AD.

After his conversion, he travelled to Rome during the reign of Antoninus Pius (the same Emperor who commanded that the 'Antonine' Wall be built from modern-day Old Kilpatrick to Bo'ness). Here he started his own philosophical school.

One of his works, his *First Apology* (from the Greek *apologia*, meaning defence) written in Rome around 150AD, includes the oldest surviving outline of the Sunday Eucharist. Note how the elements which make up the Mass today were present even then:

"And on the day called Sunday an assembly is held in one place of all who live in town or country, and the records of the apostles or writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows. Then, when the reader has finished, the president in a discourse encourages and exhorts us to imitate these good things.

Then we all stand up and offer prayer; and as we said before, when we have finished praying, bread and wine and water are brought up, and the president likewise offers prayers and thanksgiving to the best of his ability, and the people assent, saying the Amen;

and there is a distribution, and everyone participates in the elements over which thanks have been given; and they are sent through the deacons to those who are not present.

And the wealthy who so desire give what they wish, as each chooses; and what is collected is deposited with the president. He helps orphans and widows, and those who through sickness or any other cause are in need, and those in prison, and strangers sojourning among us; in a word he takes care of those who are in need. And so we assemble on Sunday, because it is the day on which God, having transformed the darkness and matter made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead..." (*First Apology*, no. 67)

Justin was arrested and tried for his faith during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius +180AD. He was martyred, along with several of his students, in the city of Rome. His martyrdom is said to have happened around the year 165AD. The exact details of his execution are not known, but he is believed to have been beheaded. **Father McGachey**

NOVENA TO OUR LADY, UNTIER OF KNOTS CONTINUES ON MONDAY EVENING AT 7pm

Our Lady will not be outdone in bestowing her favours in answer to prayers made in this most powerful Novena: untying the knots of our lives. The Novena continues this Monday with the Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction, beginning at 7pm.

TUESDAY - MASS FOR THE POPE FRANCIS AWARD CHILDREN

This Tuesday, 3rd June, at 11am, Mass will be celebrated in our Church for the children who have taken part in the Pope Francis Award Scheme. This is aimed at Primary 7 children in the Catholic Primary Schools in East Kilbride. Please note that there will be no 10am Mass that morning. The Rosary will be recited at 10.30am.

THURSDAY - MASS FOR THE SICK

This Thursday, 5th June, at 10am, with the sacramental anointing with the Oil of the Sick, as well as the organ and incense. Followed by rolls and sausage, with tea, coffee and biscuits, in the Parish Centre.

CALENDAR



On **Thursday** the Church celebrates the memorial **Saint Boniface** (+754), a monk of Exeter. Boniface is one of the great figures of the Benedictine Order in the Middle Ages. Pope Gregory II sent him to preach the Gospel in Germany; He was put to death by the Frisians during the last of his missionary journeys. The famous abbey of Fulda, where his body lies, has remained the national shrine of Catholic Germany.

NEXT SUNDAY - PAPAL COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

There will be a retiring collection next Sunday for World Papal Communications Sunday - to help support the work of the Catholic Press Office, an arm of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.



NEXT SUNDAY - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the Fiftieth day after Easter Sunday and the Solemnity of Pentecost, the Feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

We will offer a special anointing with the Oil of Gladness to anyone who would wish to receive it. This anointing, is mentioned in the Prophet Isaiah when he says, "To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning." In the Old Testament this anointing was considered as a powerful means of transmitting the gift of God's Spirit.

The Oil of Gladness is for spiritual, mental, emotional and physical healing. All of us can benefit from this spiritual healing. I hope that many of you will come to receive this blessing.

SAINT HILARY'S CONFIRMATIONS

The children of Primary 7 at Saint Hilary's Primary School will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Toal on Monday 9th June at 7pm. This will mean that our weekly Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots will take place on Tuesday 10th June at 7pm.

JUNE - MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be recited each day after the Rosary in the morning before 10am Mass. We have moved the statue of the Sacred Heart to a more prominent position in the Church for the entire month.

200 CLUB

Last week's winner was Robert McAinsh. This week's winner is Edward Boyle. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

STALL

Available at the stall are selection of statues, including the Sleeping Saint Joseph and Our Lady, Untier of Knots. Also on sale are pictures of the Angelus, Our Lady, Untier of Knots, and many more. We also have fridge Magnets, bookmarks, key rings, large and small candles, holy water fonts, and gifts. Please come along and have a look.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WALKING GROUP

Trip to Liverpool 29th-31st August. £245 sharing or £320 single room. The cost covers coach travel and half board. You do not need to be a walker, just come along for a social break. Places still available. Stay at Adelphi Hotel Liverpool city centre. For more details contact Kathy McCann 07928 051723

FABRIC AND FINANCE

There will be no access to the carpark behind the hall from the week beginning 9th June, while essential repair work is carried out. The cost of this work will be £2000. We received the Gas bill for the Church and Hall for March 2025 - £1945.78!

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

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REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochran, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, John Fletcher,

RECENTLY DEAD - Jacqui Cadwallender, Clare Keane, Anne Connolly, Denis McGowan, Pat Cook, John O'Connor, Vincent Heneghan, Anne Nugent, John Scott, Jack McGinn, John McCash.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Canon Michael Ryan, former Parish Priest of Saint Bride's, Ellen Thompson, Gerard Thompson, Hugh and Teresa Docherty, Paul Dyet, George Stewart, Brian Greig, James John Maguire, Michael Henry, James Stevenson, Edward Lennon, Ina and Lewis Lennon, Annie Corrigan, William McCrear, Terry Cassidy, Shuggy Docherty, Edward O'Pray.

FUNERALS

Clare Keane - Reception, Tuesday 3rd June at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 4th June at 10am.

Jacqui Cadwallender - Reception, Sunday 8th June at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Monday 9th June at 10am.

Anne Connolly - Reception, Tuesday 10th June at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 11th June at 10am.

Denis McGeown - Requiem Mass, Monday 16th June 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 25th May - £2,945. This Standing Orders in favour of the off donation to the Parish or take Parish. Offerings can be made by are as follows: St Brides Parish scanning the adjacent QR code. It



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a one-out a Standing Order in favour of the Bank Transfer, the details of which 10246966 and 80-12-97 or by will take you to a secure web page.

If you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid your offering - the parish will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation you give.