

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple - 2nd February 2025

SAINT BLAISE AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS

Today, the 2nd of February, is the fortieth day after Christmas, and being such, is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. Which means that tomorrow is the memorial of Saint Blaise. We know only a handful of facts about him: he was a fourth-century bishop in the city of Sebaste, in modern-day Turkey. As a physician, he was a well-respected man, and that he was elected bishop by his fellow citizens.

In the fourth century, the Roman Empire was divided between the Emperor Constantine in the West and the Emperor Licinius in the East. While frequently at odds, they came together in 313AD at Milan, to sign what would become known as the *Edict of Milan* - intended to end the persecution of Christians. Most historians agree that Licinius only signed the *Edict* for political reasons and continued the persecution.

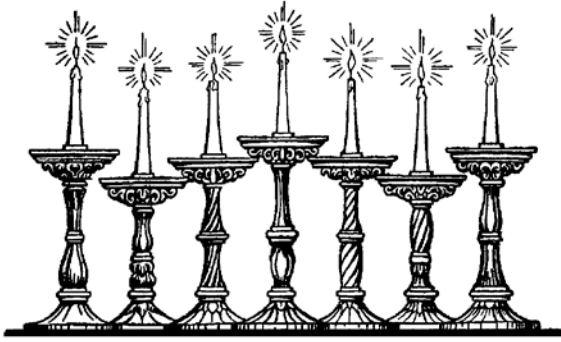


At first Blaise avoided arrest by withdrawing into the hills near Sebaste, where he lived in a cave. Eventually, however, he was discovered. According to tradition, as he was being marched by the soldiers to prison, two things happened: firstly, he met a poor woman whose pig had been seized by a wolf. At Blaise's command, the wolf restored the pig to its owner, alive and unhurt. This same woman, to repay his kindness, would come to visit him in prison, bringing wax candles to light up his cell. Again, enroute to the prison, a mother came to plead with Blaise to help her son who was dying from a fish bone fixed in his throat. Blaise prayed over the boy, and he was healed. For this reason, he is always depicted with candles, a pig and fish bones - see left.

The Roman governor of Sebaste, Agricola, demanded that Blaise deny Christ or be tortured. Having refused to do so, he ordered that the flesh be torn from Blaise's body with steel combs. No amount of torture, however, would bring about his denial of Christ, and so Blaise was beheaded.

The similarity of the instruments of his torture to wool combs, led to him being named the patron saint of wool combers, and of the wool trade in general, in England in the Middle Ages. In fact, the fourteenth century King Edward III ordered the Lord Chancellor of his government to sit on a wool bale, now known as the *Woolsack* in order to underline the importance of wool to the economy. The *Woolsack* is still in the House of Lords today - it is the large wool-stuffed seat, covered with red cloth, with neither back nor arms, and upon which the Speaker of the House of Lords sits, along with the Lords Mace - the symbol of royal authority to meet and pass laws.

The miraculous cure of the boy meant that Blaise was invoked against all ailments of the throat, and by the fifteenth century, the ritual *Blessing of Throats* was widely given on his feast day. **We will offer this blessing today. It is given with two candles, which were blessed at today's Mass.** The Priest places the candles around the throat, using the formula: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, may God free you from every disease of the throat, and from every other illness beside." **Father McGachey**



BLESSING OF CANDLES FOR USE IN CHURCH AND IN OUR HOMES

At all Masses this weekend, we will have the blessing of candles for use in the Church and in our homes. It is traditional for every Catholic household to have at least two blessed candles. The candles are very modestly priced, and will be on sale after Mass.

FAMILY MASS AT SAINT BRIDE'S - NEXT SUNDAY

We hope to start, next Sunday, at the 9.30am Mass, a Family Mass: with the readings and the Offertory procession being done by pupils from the local schools. After the Mass, there will be tea and coffee, and rolls and sausage, offered in the hall - just make a donation! We hope very much that you will support this venture. If you are interested in helping, please speak to either of the priests. The 9.30am Mass next Sunday will also include the Rite of Commitment for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Communion -so, it will be very busy.

STALL

The February edition of 'My Day by Day' is on sale at the Stall, priced £1. Today is the closing date for any orders for Holy Water Fonts and *The Angelus* picture by Millet. We will order them tomorrow - please add your name to the sheet. There is a new selection of merchandise, which arrived earlier this week, at the Stall. Please have a look!

BLESSING OF HOMES IN THE NEW YEAR

Father Martin has blessed several dozen houses in the Parish over the past few weeks. Remember, our homes can be blessed more than once. Any parishioners who wish to have their home blessed, should speak to Father Martin after Mass, or contact him by email at frmartin@rcdom.org.uk



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY MASS FOR THE SICK

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am

The Holy Rosary 9.30am

Holy Mass, with the holy anointing of the Sacrament of the Sick, and organ and incense at 10am. Please join us.

FABRIC AND FINANCE

The rewiring of the Chapel house is now complete. The cost of the work came in £2000 under budget. There is some remedial painting to be done, where old light fittings have been removed, and this is in hand and will be carried out over the next few weeks. So far

as we are aware, neither the Church nor the Chapel house sustained any damage during last Friday's storm - *Deo Gratias*. However, there has been some damage to the fence at the side of the house - any advice or help to have this mended would be much appreciated. The boilers have been inspected during the past week - we await the reports. We have still to receive heating bills for the past three months!

CALENDAR

Monday is the feast of **Saint Blaise** - see front cover. **Wednesday** is the memorial of the third century **Saint Agatha** who died in defence of her purity, in Catania, Sicily. She is the patron saint of those who suffer from breast cancer.



On **Thursday** we remember **Saint Paul Miki**, a Japanese Jesuit, and his twenty-five companions who were martyred in Nagasaki, Japan in 1597. They were killed by being raised on crosses and then stabbed with spears. Their executioners were astounded when they saw their joy at being associated to the Passion of Our Lord.

Saint Josephine Bahkita (pictured) is honoured on **Saturday**. She was a young Sudanese girl sold into slavery and brought to Italy where, while serving as a nanny, she was sent to live with the Canossian Sisters in Venice. There she was baptised and granted her freedom by Italian law. She joined the Canossians and worked at their Mother House, where she served humbly for the next twenty-five years. Josephine died after a long and painful illness and was made a Saint by Pope Saint John Paul II.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN OCTOBER



This year is a Jubilee Holy Year in Rome: it began on Christmas Day last year and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany next year. Jubilee years are celebrated every twenty-five years. While in Rome it is customary to visit the four Papal Basilicas and pass through their Holy Doors in each with a view to receiving the Jubilee Indulgence.

We would like to take a group from Saint Bride's Parish, from 6th-10th October, 4 nights, five days. So far around twenty parishioners have signed-up.

Flights with Jet2 from Glasgow. Staying at the Casa Santa Lucia in Rome. bed and breakfast. Depending on the numbers who decide to go, approximate cost in £1000 per person. Executive coaches here and in Rome, with full spiritual programme, attendance at the Papal Audience and visits to the Four Principal Papal Basilicas, Mass in the Vatican and much more. If you are interested, please put your name on the sheet in the Sacristy.

3RD EAST KILBRIDE RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES TUESDAY NIGHTS

Rainbows 5.45pm-6.45pm for ages 4-7 years old. Brownies 6.45-8pm for ages 7-10 years old. In Saint Bride's Hall. Please register your child at girlguiding.org.uk

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Margaret Mary Cowan. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
Rev. Colm E. Martin *Assistant Priest, High School Chaplain*

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HALL BOOKINGS Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org

BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07712 903732

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahan, 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, Grace McHugh, Leo McCrear, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey. Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Teresa Tierney, Gayle Cochran.

RECENTLY DEAD - Maureen Kennedy, Alice McFadden, Father Pierre Poitie (France), Sally McKinney.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - James Corrigan, Mary Corrigan, Charles McGlynn, James McVittie, Betty McGuckien, Aiden Martin, Paul Sutherland, Meghan Fellows, Matthew Lawler.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 26th January - £2,835. 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 will take you to a secure web page. If you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid the parish will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation you give.

