



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Body
and Blood of Christ - 22nd June 2025

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS...

Today, 22nd June, were it not the Feast of the Body of Blood Christ, we would be remembering the life and times of Saint Thomas More, lawyer, author and statesman who was martyred for opposing King Henry VIII.

Thomas More was born in 1478, at Milk Street in the City of London, just behind the original Saint Paul's Cathedral which was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666. He was the second of six children born to Sir John More, a distinguished Lawyer and Judge and his wife Agnes. He attended one of most prestigious schools of the day, Saint Anthony's on Threadneedle Street, the home to the Bank of England today. After leaving school, he worked for two years in the office of the John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth Palace, across the river from the Houses of Parliament.



The archbishop, seeing that Thomas had great potential, sent him to Oxford University. Here, More received a well-rounded education, becoming the typical 'renaissance man': he learned several languages, both ancient and modern, and was well versed in mathematics, music and literature. However, his father withdrew him from the University, insisting that he study for the Bar, which he was called to in 1502.

As a young man, More, despite his legal studies, was uncertain regarding his true vocation in life: he seriously considered joining the strict Carthusian Order as a monk. He would settle rather on living a spiritual life, in the world, by observing regular fasting; he wore of hair shirt everyday as a penance, and regular prayer, all of which he saw as a means to growing in holiness.

In 1504, he was elected member of Parliament for Great Yarmouth, and he married Jane Colt. Together they had four children: three girls and a boy. But tragedy struck when Jane died in their sixth year of marriage. More remarried thirty days after her funeral; his new wife, Alice Middleton, loved him and the children, while Thomas in his turn was generous husband and father. He became MP for Poole in Dorset and then for Henley in West London.

More became friends with Erasmus of Rotterdam (+1536), the renowned as a humanist scholar, and published a whole series of books, including his most famous, *Utopia*, in 1516 - More coined the word 'utopia', to mean either a "good place" or "no place": the premise of the book is an ideal imaginary island whose political system he describes in detail, with God at the centre of everything.

More's work in Parliament attracted the attention of King Henry VIII, who appointed him Speaker of the House of Commons (the last Catholic Speaker until Michael Martin in 2000). In 1529 he became Lord Chancellor of England, the official in charge of the English Court System.

Henry wanted his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, annulled, but Pope Clement VII declared to be valid and indissoluble. By 1532, More had resigned as Lord Chancellor, refusing to

support the king's efforts to defy the Pope. In 1534, Henry VIII declared that every subject of the British crown would have to swear an oath affirming the validity of his new marriage to Anne Boleyn, refusal to do this would be regarded as treason.

More, while accepting certain portions of the Act, could not accept the king's defiance of Papal authority on the marriage question. More was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and, while in jail, an Act of Parliament came into effect declaring Henry VIII to be "the only supreme head on earth of the Church in England."

In June of 1535, More was formally tried for the crime of treason in Westminster Hall. He was charged with opposing the king's Act of Supremacy. It took just fifteen minutes to find him guilty, and he was sentenced to death by hanging, the usual punishment for traitors, but the King commuted it to decapitation. He told the court that he could not go against his conscience and wished his judges that "we may merrily meet in heaven again."

On the 6th July 1532, as he was being led to the scaffold, he cried out to the crowd that he was dying "the King's good servant, but God's servant first." His head was placed on London Bridge but later returned to his daughter Margaret who preserved it as a holy relic. In 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II, declared More the Patron of Statesmen and Politicians.

Robert Bolt's play, 'A Man For All Seasons', which he adapted for the big screen, captures beautifully the life of More. Bolt borrowed the title from Robert Whittington (+1553). a contemporary of More, who in 1520 wrote: "More is a man of an angel's wit and singular learning. I know not his peer. For where is the man of that same gentleness, lowliness and affability? And, as circumstances require, a man of marvellous mirth and pastimes, and sometime of as sad gravity. A man for all seasons." The film is beautifully made and well worth watching if you get the chance over the summer. **Father McGachey**



SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Today is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, sometimes called Corpus Christi Sunday. It is a day for special honour to be given to Christ, really present at Holy Mass and in the Blessed Sacrament. We renew our faith in his Eucharistic Presence - body, blood, soul and divinity.

At 3pm this afternoon, there will be the Traditional Corpus Christi procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Carfin Grotto. All welcome.

O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine,
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

TODAY - RETIRING COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection today for the 'Day for Life' - to help with the very important work the Church does to promote the dignity and sanctity of human life. I think this is particularly important given the vote for the liberalisation of Abortion legislation in Parliament this week, and the Assisted Dying legislation that passed on Friday. This is one of the very important collections in the year. Please be generous, as you always are.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS - WEEK 9 - FINAL WEEK

This powerful Novena concludes on Monday evening at 7pm. If you missed the Novena, there are leaflets with the Novena Prayers for the sixth week on the ledge at the Notice Board. Please take a copy and pass it on.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This Sunday, 22nd of June, is the final Children's Liturgy before we take a break over the summer holidays. We will be back on Sunday 17th August. This past year has been busy, with our regular Children's Liturgy, as well as Sacramental Preparation sessions for the children making their First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Thank you to all the children who have come along and to their parents and grandparents for bringing them along. We are always keen to welcome more leaders in our group. There is no requirement to attend every week. We all have our lives to lead and other priorities from time to time and having a broader group of leaders makes this easier. If you would like to find out more information, please speak to one of the leaders.

SSVP SENIOR CITIZEN'S OUTING TO LARGS

The outing to Largs this year will be on Thursday 21st of August. The coach will leave from Saint Bride's Church at 11am, returning from Largs at 5pm, arriving back in East Kilbride around 6pm. If you wish to attend, please add your name and phone number in the green folder which will be placed by the notice board at the back of the church during July. We had a very good turn out last and are hoping for the same this year.

PETER'S PENCE - RETIRING COLLECTION - NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for 'Peter's Pence' to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Leo to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

CLUB 200

This week's winner is Katie Toner. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

FATHER McGACHEY...

Will be on holiday from this Sunday lunchtime, until the 14th of July. There will be no Bulletin until the beginning of August.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

This month (June) we have been asked to collect cash and food vouchers. The cash will be used to buy school uniforms. The next collection will take place on 28th and 29th June.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07712 903732

PLEASE 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 Cochrean, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, Gary James.

RECENTLY DEAD - Clare McCourt, Cathy Wynd, Paula Tracey, Daniel McDevitt, Alfred Brendell, Monica Stewart, David McDowall.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Tom Lochrin, Paul Newhouse, Maria Concepcion Dos Santos, Aidan Martin, David McGregor, Luciano Destta, Francis Winship, Peter McTavish.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 15th June - £2,930. 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 If you pay Income Tax, you can will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation you give.



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. Giftaid your offering - the parish