



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord - 25th December 2025

CHRISTMAS FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Oscar Romero was born in 1917, in El Salvador, the son of poor parents. He was an apprentice carpenter before entering the seminary and was ordained to Priesthood in 1942. When he became Archbishop of the capital city, San Salvador, in 1977, he used a weekly radio broadcast to denounce the escalating atrocities during the Civil War. On the 24th of March 1980, Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. He was canonised by the late Pope Francis in 2018.



No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need, even of God - for them there will be no Christmas

Only the poor, the hungry, those who need Someone to come on their behalf, will have that Someone. That Someone is God, Emmanuel, that is, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit, there can be no abundant gift of God.

As a shepherd of Christ's flock, I must announce the good tidings tonight, but I must also be like one of those shepherds of Bethlehem and receive from the angels the news that stirs our hearts. Let us receive it, you and I, with the same simplicity and humility as those shepherds did. The more simple and humble, the more poor and detached from ourselves, the more full of troubles and problems we are, the more bewildering life's ways... the more we must look up to the skies and hear the great news: "A saviour is born to you."

And let us hear in chorus that great news, sung throughout the universe, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those whom God loves."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 in Breslau, Germany. He completed a doctorate in theology by the time he was twenty-one. He went on to become an influential Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident. Following a failed attempt to assassinate Hitler, documents were found linking him to the resistance movement. He was executed at Flossenbürg concentration camp on the 9th of April 1945, just weeks before the Second World War ended.



For a Christian there is nothing peculiarly difficult about Christmas in a prison cell. I dare say it will have more meaning and will be observed with greater sincerity here in this prison than in places where all that survives of the feast is its name.

That misery, suffering, poverty, loneliness, helplessness and guilt look very different to the eyes of God from what they do to man: that God should come down to the very place which men usually abhor; that Christ was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn - these are things which a prisoner can understand better than anyone else.

For the prisoner the Christmas story is glad tidings in a very real sense. And that faith gives the prisoner a part in the communion of saints, a fellowship going beyond the bounds of time and space and reducing the months of confinement here to insignificance.

On Christmas Eve I shall be thinking of you all very much, and I want you to believe that I too shall have a few hours of real joy and that I am not allowing my troubles to get the better of me. Father McGachey

FROM FATHER MCGACHEY AND FATHER MARTIN

Our sincere thanks to all those who made the season of Advent so special by their attendance and prayerful participation in our seasonal liturgies, particularly the groups of parishioners who regularly attended the weekday Holy Masses: the 7am *Rorate Coeli* Mass and the 10am Mass. We would like to pay tribute to the many hundreds who attend Holy Mass here faithfully each Sunday. A recent census of those coming to Mass in November, showed that eight hundred people came Saint Bride's over that weekend - that is more than double the number of four years ago! Last weekend, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we printed four hundred bulletins, and we still ran out!

The Monday night devotions in honour of Our Lady were very well attended, as was the Evening Prayer on some days of the week - this was new to the parish. Last Saturday, with the generous help of visiting priests, we must have heard 500 Confessions! There was a constant flow of penitents from 9.30am until 4.30pm. This shows a real willingness to prepare spiritually for the Feast of Christmas.

Our thanks go at this time to all who have helped to prepare the Church for Christmas with their time, energy and commitment: the fifty or so people, of all age groups, who came earlier in the week to clean the Church, as well as our permanent team Church cleaners; our musicians: four regular organists, our two cantors and our small choir; those who look after the altar linens and sacred vestments; the pass keepers; those who prepare our weekly worship leaflets and bulletin; readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist; our altar servers; the flower arrangers and tree decorators; the Children's Liturgy group, and the many others who work in the background to ensure the smooth running of the Parish Hall.



A special thanks to those who have helped in sacristy this past week for all their hard work - their resourcefulness and patience, as well as the time they have given of so generously, is to their eternal credit!

Thank you, too, to all those who have returned their Christmas Collection envelopes, for their generous donations to the parish. The bills and financial commitments that Saint Bride's has are truly frightening sometimes, and a source of anxiety for me as Parish Priest. Your generosity helps us to face the future with more confidence.

Sincere thanks to several individuals for their kindness to the Parish: to those who donated the flowers on the sanctuary, the Christmas Trees that adorn the Church, the new vestments and vessels we have been using over the Advent Season and will use during the

Christmas Season. To those who have given generous offerings with Christmas Remembrance Masses, which have arrived in such big numbers this year.

Finally, to those who have given Father Martin and myself cards and gifts - heartfelt thanks! We are touched. We wish, each and every one of our parishioners, and visitors alike, a happy and blessed Christmas. Father McGachey and Father Martin

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK



FRIDAY 26TH AND SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER

There will be no 10am Holy Mass on these mornings at Saint Bride's

SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Confessions at 4pm-4.20pm
Vigil Mass 4.30pm

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Holy Mass 9.30am and 11.30am

MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER UNTIL WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Holy Mass 10am. No Exposition or Rosary on these days

THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

Holy Mass, with incense, organ and cantor. at 11am

After Mass Holy Water will be distributed for you to sprinkle your homes

WORTH WATCHING

On the BBC iplayer, BBC2's documentary, broadcast on Monday evening, *The Secrets of the Conclave* - a positive, well-produced programme, with lots of previously unseen footage of the days after the death of Pope Francis till the election of Pope Leo. Watch it if you get the chance! Pope Leo will be celebrating *Vespers of Thanksgiving* from Saint Peter's next Wednesday at 4pm GMT and the *Solemn Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God* on the 1st January at 9am GMT. Available on Youtube, vaticanmedialive.com and EWTN on Sky.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Will go as usual to the Saint Margaret's Adoption and Child Care Society. Please be generous as you always are.

THE WESTERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR AND 'MY DAY BY DAY'

On sale at the Stall *The Western Catholic Calendar* is priced £3.50. *My day by day* for January costs £1.00.

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD BANK UPDATE

Our next collection will be this coming weekend. We are not looking for items this time round. Rather we will collect donations in the wooden boxes, situated at the entrances of the Church. Any monies gathered in will go towards fresh produce and warm clothing for families. Sincere thanks for the support you have given all year.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL - Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Margaret Hannigan, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochran, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, Paul Ellis, Colette Roxburgh, John Paul Quinn, John Saroli, Lizann O'Hare, Susan and Robin Topping, Arthur Connor (Canada), Thomas Finnigan (Prestwick), George Kelman, Linda Simi, Ann Marie Kane. Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, John Convery, Morag Mitchell.

DECEASED - Flora Broderick, Brian McFarlane, David Blake, Margaret McGregor, John Harkin, Marion Greenan, Theresa Cohen (USA), Frank Kirk, Mary McFall, John Kelly.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS, CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES - Margaret Gibbons, Charles McGlynn, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, Jo and Peter Reilly, Frank and Nancy Corrigan, John McIntyre Muldoon, Alexander Warren, Doreen Warren, James Tollan, Margaret Tollan, Veronica and Robert Andreson, Raymond Porelli, James McAulay, Clive Dowie, Phil and Bett McAulay, Terry Cassidy, Peter, Elizabeth and Philip McAulay, Margaret and James Hendry, John Russell, Christina Farrell, Maria Kochanska, Anna Hendry, William Hendry, Philip Trainer, John, Ellen and Gerard Thompson, Frances and Willie Maxwell, Frank Armstrong, Danny McQuade, Maisie Love, John Love, Margaret Martin, Damian Martin, Patrick Doohan, James McCabe, Nancy McCabe, John Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Josephine Kelly, Gerald Kelly, Tony Rooney, Claire Carroll, Charles Carroll, Dymphna Horan, Margaret Shields, John and Margaret McAulay, David McLeish, Jean McMurray, Shuggy Docherty, Hugh and Teresa Docherty, Eugene and Phyllis Boyle, Matthew Lawler, Kevin Cleary, Jim Graham, the Graham Family, Isabella and Robert Kinghorn, Betty and Cormack Cunningham, Matthew Lormier, Margaret Sinclair McCrear, William McCrear, James and Annie Kennedy, James McVittie, Helen and Robert Hendry, Maureen and Tommy Kilroy, Margaret Gillan, Mary Gillan. Dennis O'Neill, Jean O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill, Catherine Yardley, Mary O'Neill, Ioin Dunn, Shya Pugoy, Nestor Poorsut, Generosa Calderon, Peter, Francis Jimmy and Agnes Feeley, Hugh, Joe, Josephine and Hughie Coll, John and Annie Wright, John and Mary Ann Mitchell, James Stevenson, Helen and William Stevenson, Louis and Ina Lennon, Edward Lennon, Alice Murphy, Rose McCabe, Alice Mary Nisbet, Rose Mary Goddard, Ralph Kurdell, May Kurdell, Noel Kurdell, May Kurdell, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, John McCash, Rose Ferguson, Joseph Ferguson, Jessie Ferguson, Tommy Cartwright, John McGregor, Stewart Williamson, Gordon Cameron, Daniel Oke Oniko, McConville Family, Cameron Family, John McEnaney, Garry Family, Garrity Family, Dominic Saroli, Maria Conway, Frank and Margaret Downie, Paul Downie, Bernard Phimister, David Blake, Cathie Blake, Edward Phimister, Kevin D'Arcy, Bill McLaren, Duncan McSporran, Tennant Family, Twigg Family, Burke Family, Dynan Family, France Burke, Michael Burke, Clare Burke, Rosie Larkin, Kathleen Casey, Mary Brannan, Matthew Lawler, Phil Boyle, Eugene Boyle, Phyllis Boyle, Nora Folan, Rose Folan, Matthew Folan, Sheila Folan, Bartley Folan, Thomas Cranford, Peggy Ward, O'Pray Family, Garden Family, Watson Family, McGee Family, Douglas Family, Margaret Reilly, Patsy McVey, Betty Spicer, Canon Ryan, Canon McNamee, Norah Toner, Austin Toner, Hugh Simpson, Nonie Gilroy, Steven McKinnon, William Connell, May Connell, James Corr, Vera McGinty, Margaret and Robert Purdie, Peter McCarthy, Stewart Williamson, Agnes Stent, Max Jones, Charles Lochrin, Peter McDonald, Jane Ann Lochrin, Darcy Family, Conlan Family, Shaw Family, John and Alice McFadden, Cameron Slorach, Claire Keane, Maria O'Brien, Helen Wooley, Gerry McDonald, Gregory Bell, Former Members of the Teaching Staff at Our Lady and Saint Patrick's Dumbarton who died in 2025, McGregor Family, Roberts Family, McCartney Family, Mair Family, John Cassidy, Shilla and Chris Torrance, Tommy and Peggy Ferguson, John and Margaret McGregor, Dorothy Henvey, Anthony Henvey, James Henvey, Patricia Henvey, Joseph Henvey, Margaret Hopkinson, Timothy Hopkinson, Mary Baker, James Doyle, Jim Doyle, John Doyle, Marie Doyle, Theresa Doyle, George and Blanche Baker, Ken Baker, Stan Morris, Jean and Bill Watton, Alice Dowling, Dylon Affleck, Elizaneth (Betty) Smith, David Cook, McShane Family, Jo Maule, John Maule, Eileen McGuigan, James McGuigan, John and Catherine Crews, Helen McCann, Paul Dyet, Catherine and Hugh Slaven, John M Muldoon, Margaret M Muldoon, Elizabeth B Richmond, Alan Richmond, Eddie Donnelly, Margaret Donachy, Terry Dolan, Ted O'Donnell, Tony Rooney, Jack and Babs Kelly, Joseph Wilson, Catherine Denholm, Thomas Deholm, James Denholm, John Carson, Sheila Denholm, Frank Roy, Martin Roy, Paul Todd, Edward and Hannah O'Neill, Elizabeth O'Neill, O'Neill Family, Frank and Margaret Roy, James, Esther and Mary Roy, Des and Margaret Annesley, Agnes Tyrrell, John Callaghan, John and Bridget McNally, Michael, Mary Therese, Michael and Sarah Keenan, Theresa Hughes, Mary McGinn, William McGinn, John, Rose, Carolan and Kathleen Flynn, Rosemary Farrell, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, James Patrick, John and Mary Kirkwood, May Cheney, David Cook, Andrew, Anne, Drew and John McShane, Bobby Hughes, Joan, Catherine Hughes, Pat Hughes, Mary McKenzie, Margaret McKenzie, Morag Mitchell, Myles Murray, Margaret McDonnell, Michael McDonnell, Maria Rothwell, Josephine Logan, Michael Logan, Patrick and Grace Healy, Joe and Jean Griffiths, Tom O'Hara, Andrew O'Neil, Mary and Con Sweeney, Agnes and Andrew O'Neil, Francis Lynch, Anne Marie Gillen, Deceased members of the McDermott Family, the Deceased members of the Lorimer Family, Ann Spicer, Michael Spicer, Barry Spicer, Mario Tamburrini, Catherine Tamburrini, Richard Tamburrini, Robert Tamburrini, Duncan Mitchell, John Mitchell, Allan Hendry, Edward Decon, Gale McFadden, Nancy McNamara, Charles McCann, Darren Joling, George Thomson, Jean Thomson, Robert McGuigan, Frank McLaughlin, Thomas Crawford, Jim Thomson, Harry Robertson, Jean O'Neil, Bert Robertson, Margaret McFadyen, Thomas and Mary Lee, Elizabeth Murphy, Frank Armstrong, Helen and Peter Armstrong, Betty McCrindle, Jim and Sandra Boyd, Steven John Russell, Anna Murphy, James Conway, Annis Conway, McTaggart Family, O'Connor Family, McDonald Family, John and Mary Clark, Therese and John Wilson, Tom and Maureen Smith, Jim Devlin, Andrew Strain, Charlie and Nellie Strain, Con and Mary Campbell, John and James Campbell, Bernie and Cecilia Kelly, Pat McGinley, Paul Duffy, Owenie McFadden sen., Owenie McFadden jnr., Maureen Donnelly, Elizabeth Spicer, Kathy Boyle, Strain Family, Campbell Family, Boyle Family, Barrett Family, Doherty Family, John Reilly, Burns Family, McGowan Family, Savage Family, Patrick Heffernan, Angela Heffernan, Heffernan Family, Ellen Quinn, William Quinn, Quinn Family, McAlpine Family, Margaret Johnston (née Connelly), Peggy Campbell, Mary Friar, Bridget McGowan, Henry McGowan, Patrick and Mary McCafferty.