



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Third Sunday of the Ordinary Season - 26th January 2025

MARY OF THE GAEL, SAINT BRIDE, OUR PATRONESS

The statue of Saint Bride in our parish church is a fine image of Saint, carved from oak - it has particular artistic qualities, reflected not only in its proportions and but in the fine details of the carving work.

Like the statue of Saint Anthony, similarly, carved from oak, and donated to the Parish in memory of John Wright, a former Provost of East Kilbride, the statue of Saint Bride was donated to the Parish on the 1st February 1967 by the children of Saint Bride's Primary and Saint Bride's Secondary schools, as the small, rather faded brass plaque on its base indicates. Given the fact that Saint Bride is the Patroness of our Parish, and the town in which we live, East Kilbride, is named after her, it deserves a more prominent position in our church.



Who was Saint Bride? Bride, Brigid or Bridget (the names are interchangeable) was born at Faughart, near Dundalk in County Louth, Ireland, around 450AD. Born into a Druid family - in ancient Celtic culture, Druids were religious leaders as well as members of the royal Court. Her father, Dubhthach, was the Court poet to King Loeghaire. From her mother, Bride learned to look after dairy cattle - hence the reason she is often portrayed with a cow by her side.

At an early age, Bride decided to become a nun, receiving the veil from Saint Mel of Ardagh, a fifth century figure and the nephew of Saint Patrick. Together with a group of other women, she founded a monastery at Kildare (meaning 'Church of oak'), under the shade of an oak tree situated on top of a hill on the edge of the Curragh - a fertile plain, famous today for horse breeding and training. Kildare is in the geographical heart of Ireland, and it became one of the most important Christian foundations in the country.

Not too far away lived the King of Leinster who had donated the site to the Saint. According to tradition, the King had offered Bride as much land as her cloak would cover. When she spread the garment, it miraculously stretched out to cover the entire Curragh. True to his word, the King gave her the land, and there the new religious community not only built their monastery but grazed their sheep and cattle.

As Abbess (hence the reason she carries a staff or crozier, symbol of her office, in her hand), Bride participated in several Irish ecclesiastical councils, and her influence on shaping the Church in Ireland was considerable. She is sometimes called 'Mary of the Gael', because people venerated her like Our Blessed Lady.

Many stories of her younger days deal with her generosity towards the poor and needy. Along with Patrick and Columba, she is a Patron Saint of Ireland. Her feast day is the 1st February - although we are keeping it this year on Friday 31st January. **Father McGachey**

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am

CONFESSIONS - Saturday after 10am Mass; 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am

HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Friday at 9.30am

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesday after 10am Mass

HOLY MASS - Monday to Friday 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesday after Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA FOR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN - Thursday after Mass

THE CHURCH IS OPEN - Monday-Sunday 9am-4pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our programme of Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation for Primary 3 Children continues in the Parish Hall on Sunday, with an early start time of 9.15am. Our normal Children's Liturgy will start at 9.30am in the back room of the Parish Hall.



THIS FRIDAY, 31st JANUARY - WE ARE KEEPING THE FEAST OF SAINT BRIDE

Holy Mass at 11am (no 10am Mass today) - with the pupils of S1 and S6 of Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's, and their invited guests, celebrated by Bishop Joseph Toal and the former chaplains, as well as the local clergy. After Mass, the school

invites the parishioners and the school's invited guests, to our Parish Hall for tea and coffee and rolls and sausage. I hope you will attend this Mass and show your support.

SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

This Feast falls on the fortieth day after Christmas and commemorates how the infant Jesus was presented by Mary and Joseph in the Temple in Jerusalem, and met by the elderly Simeon and Anna. For centuries, it has been the day for blessing the candles used in the Church; it is sometimes called 'Candlemas Day'.



The beautiful ceremony will take place at the beginning of all the Masses today. Please join us. We will bless candles for use in our homes today too. These candles, modestly priced, may be purchased, if so desired.

FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE - THE BLESSING OF THROATS

Saint Blaise lived in Armenia and was arrested for his Christian faith. While in prison, a woman came with her young son who had a fish bone fixed in his throat. With Blaise's help, the child was able to cough up the bone. He was martyred in 316AD. By the year 800 the custom of blessing throats, using the blessed candles from the previous day's feast (see above), spread across Europe. The traditional Blessing of Throats will be given after Mass

on Sunday 2nd the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple - since most people cannot attend Mass on Monday - as well as on the Feast day itself, 3rd February, after 10am Mass.

BLESSING OF HOMES IN THE NEW YEAR

It is a longstanding custom of the Church to bless homes in the month of January. Father Martin has offered to do that this year. 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

DIARY DATES

SUNDAY 9th FEBRUARY - The 9.30am Mass is the first monthly Family Mass at Saint Bride's. There will also be a Commitment Ceremony for First Reconciliation and First Communion at the 9.30am liturgy today.

TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY - FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES - Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am.

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY - Commitment Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 9.30am Mass.

FIRST CONFESSIONS FOR SAINT KENNETH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - Tuesday 4th March, from 5.30pm.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Maria Kurdell. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

FAMILY MASS AT SAINT BRIDE'S

We hope to start, on Sunday 9th of February 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 that you will support this venture. If you are interested in helping, please speak to either of the priests.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN OCTOBER 2025

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. It has been quite difficult to secure flights and accommodation because of the increased number of visitors to Rome for the Jubilee - around 20 million people from across the globe.

We would like to take a group from Saint Bride's Parish, from 6th-10th October, 4 nights, five days. 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, and much more. If you are interested, **please put your name on the sheet in the Sacristy.** More details to follow.

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, Father Pierre Potie (France), 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 Cochrean.

RECENTLY DEAD - Maureen Kennedy, Alice McFadden, Mr Kielty, Hughie Hone (London), Anne Lochrin, Alice Quinn, Craig Kelly, Rev. Dermot Healy, Gaetano Saliba, Sara Stanger, Peter Martin, Warren Ogden.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Dennis O'Neill, Margaret McGrain, Raymund Porrelli, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, Maurice Devlin, Martin De Porres Rodriguez, Catherine Hughes, Aidan Martin, Monica Taggart.

FUNERALS

Maureen Kennedy - Requiem Mass, Thursday 30th January 10am.

Alice McFadden - Requiem Mass, Saturday 1st February 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 19th January - £2,870. 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 you give.

