



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Third Sunday of the Easter Season

4th May 2025

“THE HAPPIEST MISSIONARY IN THE WORLD”

During the three years I studied in Rome, I was fortunate to attend some of the Papal Liturgies throughout the year, to help with distribution of Holy Communion. Few were more beautiful than the Canonisation Masses for the creation of new Saints. One such Mass I was present at was for the Canonisation of Joseph de Veuster, better known as Damian of Molokai. During the same service, Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, was made a Saint. Her work continues in Scotland in the retirement homes run by the Order in Edinburgh, Greenock and Robroyston.

But who was de Veuster and what did he do with the life God gave him? Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremolo, Belgium, into a family of farmers. Two of his sisters became nuns and his elder brother, Pamphile, a priest. Joseph followed his brother into the Order of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, joining their community at Louvain. He took the religious name of Damian. At first, it was considered that he had not received sufficient schooling to enter the seminary, but his brother taught him, and he was accepted to begin his studies. Pamphile was due to sail to work in the missions his Order had in the Hawaiian Islands, or the Sandwich Islands, as they were known in those days, but became ill and Damian offered to take his place.

The sea-voyage to Honolulu took five months and Damian was ordained shortly after he arrived. He worked in two mission stations for nine years and then volunteered to go to the leper colony on Molokai where there were many lepers. The bishop planned to rotate the priests on the island every three months to minimise the risk of infection. But Damian said he would go and stay.



There was no cure for leprosy at that time. Leprosy or Hansen's disease, wastes away the nerve endings and weakens the limbs, and the decaying flesh creates a foul smell. While there was a hospital and occasional visits from a government doctor, Damian tried to improve living conditions by insisting on ordinary hygiene. His work received publicity and support, including from the Scotsman and famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson.

Damian had worked with the lepers for twelve years, when himself was diagnosed with the disease and he was forbidden to leave the island. Visitors stopped coming and he was deprived of the opportunity of Confession. For a while he suffered from depression, but he managed to pull himself back from the brink and describing himself as “the happiest missionary in the world”.

Attitudes towards Father Damian gradually changed. He was allowed to spend a week in Honolulu where the king, the prime minister and the bishop visited him. He received help from other priests and nuns and a layman, Joseph Dutton, who stayed on Molokai for forty years. Eventually Damian's leprosy got worse and he died on 15th April 1889, aged forty-nine. In 1936 Damian's remains were taken to the Church of the Sacred Hearts in Louvain, the year he was beatified. Pope Benedict XVI canonised him on 11th October 2009. He is the patron saint of lepers and of outcasts. **Father McGachey**



MAY DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

On the Sundays of May this year at Saint Bride's (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th May) at 6pm, there will be traditional May Devotions: a prayerful recitation of the Rosary, the Litany of Loreto with its beautiful titles of Our Lady, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the traditional hymns in honour of Our Lady. Please make a special effort to attend and honour Mary, the Mother of God.

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

It was great to see such a good attendance of parishioners and other visitors last Monday evening for the first week of our Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots - there must have been around two hundred people in attendance. Our Lady will not be outdone in bestowing her favours in answer to prayers 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.



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The children of Primary Seven at Saint Kenneth's Primary school will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Joseph Toal on Tuesday evening at 7pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

FIRST COMMUNIONS AT SAINT BRIDE'S

On Saturdays 10th and 17th of May, the First Communions for the children of Saint Kenneth's Primary School, will take place at 10am Mass. On Saturday 10th May, at 12noon, the First Communions for Saint Hilary's will take place. If there are any pass keepers who would be prepared to offer their services on one or both Saturdays, please let me know.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Catherine McQuade. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

LADIES AFTERNOON TEA AND CABARET

In aid of HCPT (Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) raised the outstanding sum of £7,777. Thank you to all who helped, and came along, making this event such a success.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this Sunday, 4th May, but we will be back next Sunday, 11th May, at 9.30am.

MASS FOR THE SICK

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

FATHER MARTIN

Father Martin will leave for Rome on Friday to attend the ordination of Kieran Burt, from Saint Joseph's Parish, Blantyre, to the Diaconate, on Sunday. He returns on Friday 17th May.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

THE CHURCH IS OPEN from 9am-5pm daily, or until after the evening service
HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am
CONFESSIONS - Saturday 9.30am-9.50am, after 10am Mass; 4pm-4.20pm and Mass
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am
HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Saturday at 9.30am
PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesday after 10am Mass
HOLY MASS - Monday to Saturday 10am
NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesdays after 10am Mass
NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - on Thursdays after 10am Mass

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. Fridge Magnets, bookmarks, key rings, large and small candles, holy water fonts, and First Communion cards and gifts. Please come along and have a look, and should there be anything you would like to buy, and do not see, speak to Marie or Frances.

PARISH FABRIC AND FINANCE

On Thursday, 1st May, we paid the first instalment the Diocesan levy, which is the contribution each parish must pay for the upkeep of the Diocese - 26 percent of the weekly collections. This year Saint Bride's will have to pay £5,867.81 per month. for the next eight months, until December.

On a brighter note, we had our financial audit last Thursday - every parish is audited every five years. We got top marks from the external auditor!

STUDIO 32 PRESENTS

A Charity Concert for St Bride's Third World Group on Thursday 13th May in the Pastoral Centre. The doors open at 7.00pm, and the concert will begin at 7.30pm. There is a bar, and tickets cost £8.00 from any committee member or by calling 01355 222430.

NOTICE FROM THE FOOD BANK TEAM

This month's collection amounted to 590 items and £1,135 in cash, and £60 in food vouchers. A big thank you to all who contributed. The next leaflet distribution will take place on 24 and 25 May, with the collection being 31st May and 1st June.

GOOD LUCK...

To the senior pupils who are in Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's Football team, who are playing Saint Peter the Apostle, Clydebank on Thursday at Hampden Park.

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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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 - Clare (Storach) 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, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochran, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy.

RECENTLY DEAD - Isabel Fischer, Francis McPartland, Aysley Margaret Singh, Liz Cassidy, Kathleen Brown, Robert Wright, Mark Burgess, Francis Xavier McMurtagh.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Neil McTaggart, Sheena Park, Steven Boyle, Tommy and Rita Flannery, Monica Stewart, Phyllis Smith, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, Neil McAndrew, Charlie Mitchell, Alice Marie Mitchell, Elizabeth Gallagher and Brian Curran.

FUNERALS

Francis McPartland - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 14th May at 10am.

Isabel Fischer - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 21st May at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 27th April - £2,915. This Collection and Standing Orders in may wish to make a one-off donation Standing Order in favour of the made by Bank Transfer, the details St Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-adjacent QR code. It will take you you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid will receive a further 25 percent on you give.



included the Basket favour of the Parish. You to the Parish or take out a Parish. Offerings can be of which are as follows: 12-97 or by scanning the to a secure web page. If your offering - the parish the basis of the donation