



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord - 5 January 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

'VIDENTES AUTEM STELLAM GAVISI SUNT GAUDIO MAGNO'

'And seeing his Star, they rejoiced with great gladness' Matthew 2,10



When most people have packed away all trace of Christmas for another year, the Church continues her celebration of this holy season with the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

The word *Epiphany*, from the Greek, means 'revelation' - we celebrate Christ's Epiphany to the Gentiles, represented by the Wise Men from the Persia (modern-day Iran and Iraq), whose coming to Bethlehem is told by Saint Matthew in his Gospel, which we will hear read at Mass today.

Tradition says their names were Balthasaar, Gaspar and Melchior, and they came with gifts for the new-born child, gifts which would prefigure his future life: gold for a king, incense for a priest, and myrrh for someone who would suffer and die.

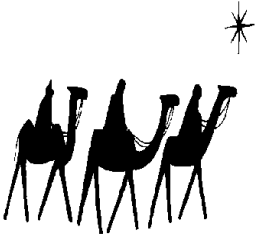
Two thousand years ago, frankincense and myrrh were as familiar as gold, and just as rare. In Jesus' time, one kilogram of gold was worth about £400; today it is worth more than £50,000. Frankincense was worth slightly less, at £300; today a kilogram would cost £40. Myrrh, however, was worth £2,500 per kilogram in those days, but it is valued at around £70 today.

Gold was even rarer in the ancient world than it is today, and because of its incorruptibility, people connected it with immortality and divinity. Frankincense and myrrh are fragrant gum resins that come from trees found in the Middle East. One tree can produce about ten kilos of resin a year. The harvesting methods have not changed in two thousand years - a cut is made in the tree trunk, causing the gum to seep out; it eventually hardens into resin and is scrapped off the bark and collected for use.

Frankincense was the main component of incense - when burned, its aroma was thought to be pleasing to God. It was used in the religious rituals of the peoples of the ancient world. Myrrh means 'bitter' in Arabic. Principally a luxury item, it was used in perfumes, cosmetics and medicine (for indigestion, to heal wounds, as a pain killer...). At the crucifixion, Jesus, wracked with pain, was offered myrrh, mixed wine, but refused it. In fact, Saint Luke tells us that Christ's body was prepared for burial with a mixture of aloes and myrrh.

We have added the Wise Men figures to the Crib in the Church, and by the side of the Crib we have placed gold, frankincense and myrrh. Please have a look at them up close - smell them, touch them... If you have children, let them do the same!

Fr McGachey



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY - RETIRING COLLECTION

There is a retiring collection today, to help support the work of the Justice and Peace Commission, an arm of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. Please be generous if you can afford to be so.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord, and the end the Season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second 'manifestation' or 'epiphany', which occurred when he was baptised in the river Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist.

In an increasing number of places in Europe and the Americas, it is now the custom to keep the Crib and the Christmas evergreens in the Church until the 2nd February, the Feast of Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple, by Mary and Joseph, and being greeted by the elderly Simeon and Anna - the fortieth day after Christmas.

This is a Medieval tradition, maintained especially at Saint Peter's at the Vatican, where the crib remains in Saint Peter's Square until the fortieth day after Christmas. We will do the same in Saint Bride's again this year.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will recommence next Sunday, 12th January, at 9.30am Mass.

BLESSING OF HOMES IN THE NEW YEAR

It is 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. It would also be a good way of Father Martin getting to know the parish and its people. Any parishioners who wish to have their house blessed, should speak to Father Martin after Mass, or contact him by email at fmartin@rcdom.org.uk

200 CLUB

Winners of the 200 club are as follows: 22nd December - Irene Learmonth, and the quarterly winner was Barbara Martin. 29th December - Annie McFadyen. This week's winner is Alice McFadden. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Will go as usual to St. Margaret's Adoption and Child Care Society.

A NOTICE FROM THE KILROY FAMILY

The Kilroy Family would like to thank all those who attended the Requiem Mass for our late father Thomas. We offer our thanks to all those who sent for Mass Cards, Sympathy Cards and floral tributes, as well as expressions of condolence and sympathy.

HOSPITAL VISITS

If anyone knows of a parishioner in Hairmyres hospital who is in need of a visit from Father Martin, the Chaplain, please let him know, either by speaking to him or emailing him (see above). Due to Data Protection Issues, Clergy have to be invited to visit patients nowadays.

DIARY DATES

SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (Candlemas Day). The Blessing of Candles for home use at all Masses this weekend. Modestly priced candles will be on sale after each Mass today.

TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY - **FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES** - Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.

WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH - Ash Wednesday - Holy Masses with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7am, 10am and 7pm.

THE JOURNEY OF MAGI by T.S. ELLIOT

A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey, and such a long journey: the ways deep and the weather sharp, the very dead of winter.'

And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
lying down in the melting snow.

There were times we regretted the summer palaces on slopes,
the terraces.

Then the camel men cursing and grumbling and running away,
and wanting their liquor and women,
and the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
and the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly,
and the villages dirty and charging high prices: a hard time we had of it.

At the end we preferred to travel all night, sleeping in snatches,
with the voices singing in our ears, saying that this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley, wet, below the snow line,
smelling of vegetation; with a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
and three trees on the low sky, and an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.

Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
and feet kicking the empty wine-skins.

But there was no information, and so we continued and arriving at evening, not a moment too soon finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember, and I would do it again,
but set down this, set down this: were we led all that way for Birth or Death?

There was a Birth, certainly we had evidence and no doubt.

I had seen birth and death, but had thought they were different;
this Birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
with an alien people clutching their gods.

I should be glad of another death.



PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES, ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES -James Tollan, Margaret Tollan, Alexander Warren, Doreen Warren, John McEnaney, Stuart Williamson, James McNulty, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, George Phimister, Queenie Phimister, Cornelius Meligan and Family, Roderick MacSween (Benbecula), Charles McGlynn, Phil and Bert McAulay, James McAulay, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, Christie Reilly, Madge Reilly, Patricia Williamson, Edward Williamson, Anna Murray, Buntly Cooney, James Conway, Annie Conway, Vincent Conway, William Screen, John Cooney, Carol Screen, John Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Gerald Kelly, Josephine Kelly, Claire Carroll, Charlie Carroll, Dymphna Horan, Tony Rooney, O'Brien Family, Nora McKinnin, O'Hara Family, Gallagher Family, Flaherty Family, McCole Family, Mary and John Proctor, Agnes and Bert Johnstone, Philip, Pauline, John Andrew Wilson, Paul Dyet, Helen McCann, Catherine Slaven John Crews, Catherine Crews, John and Kate Hollywood, James and Helen Crews, Hugh Slaven, Paul Downie, Frank and Margaret Downie, Michael and Irene Ward, Barry Morrison, Margaret Watson, Margaret Weaver, Tony Rooney, Jack and Babs Kelly, Gerry Kelly, Bobby Hughes, John Hughes, Catherine Hughes, Pat Hughes, Margaret Hannah, Janet and Hugh Shaw, Cathie McKerracher, Eddie Meighan, Andrew Strain, Charlie and Nellie Strain, Con and Mary Campbell, James Campbell, John Campbell, Bernie and Cecilia Kelly, Pat McGinley, Owenie McFadden sen., Owenie McFadden jnr., Strain Family Campbell Family, Boyle Family, Elizabeth Spicer, John Douglas, David and Essie O'Hare, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, Elizabeth (Betty) Smith, Catherine Hughes, John and Mary Davidson, Rose and George Thomson, Clare and Jim Fox, Hannah and Mary McDonald, John, Jeannie, John, Billy, Alec, Tony, Don and Kenneth McDonald, Bonner Family, Family and Friends of Helen Biggins, John M. Muldoon, Margaret M. Muldoon, Elizabeth B. Richmond, Alan Richmond, Sister Sheila Clancy, Canon Michael Ryan, Edward O'Pray, Cilla (O'Pray) Garden, Mark O'Prey, Peter Garden, Michael Todd, Robert Kaemper, Lindsay Wood, Mary and Pat Watson, Marie and Barney McGee, Pat and Greta Watson, Lilian and Leslie Douglas, Saul and Rose Green, John McKay and Family, Mary and James Toal and Family, Frank and Margaret Downie, Paul Downie, Michael and Irene Ward, Barry Morrison, Margaret Watson, Margaret Weaver, Elizabeth McAinsh, Peter McAinsh, Margaret Hendry, James Hendry, Philip McAinsh, Maria Kodianska, Lynn Toner, Frank Armstrong, Helen and Peter Orsie, James and Sandra Boyd, Pat and Philip McCluskey, Isobel Murray, James McVittie, Helen and Robert Hendry, Don and Maureen Boyle, Brian Boyle, Mairi McIntyre, Sean Fahey, Colm Fahey, Ellen Moran, Francis Moran, Terry Cassidy, Margaret and Robert Purdie, Cornelius and Patrick Sweeney, Tommy Cartwright, Jessie Ferguson, Joseph Ferguson, Rose Ferguson, John Love, Maisie Love, Tom Martin, Margaret Martin, Damian Martin, Patrick Healy, Grace Healy, Joseph Griffiths, Jean Griffiths, Kevin Cleary, Francis Gabriel McNeill, Elizabeth Patricia McNeill, Ian Patrick McNeill, Frankie McNeill, Mrs May Smith, Harvie Family, Callaghan Family, Lyon Family, McCourt Family, Daniel Doyle, Anna Doyle, Billy Doyle, Mary Kane, Joseph Heaney, McGeoch Family, Miller Family, Docherty Family, Tonner Family, Michael Spicer, Anne Spicer, Barry Spicer, Mario Tamburrini, Catherine Tamburrini, Richard Tamburrini, Robert Tamburrini, John Mitchell, Duncan Mitchell, Nancy McNamara, Gale McFadden, Margaret McCahey, Edmund Decon, Alan Hendry, Teresa Boyle, Mary and John McCaffery, Joseph and Theresa McCaffery, Kathleen and John Buchanan, Mary Purcell, James and Margaret McCaffery, Patricia McCaffery, John McCaffery jnr. Bridget McHugh, John McHugh, Arthur McHugh, Kathleen and Ronald Kilmurray, Margaret Shields, John and Margaret McAuley, Hugh and Thomas Docherty, Hugh McKinney, Daniel McLeish, Jean McMurray, Jim Graham, Isabella Robert Kinghorn, Betty and Cormack Cunningham, William, Margaret, William jnr. Graham, Deceased Clergy of Saint Bride's, Cathie Blake, Rena Blake, Joseph Blake, Mr and Mrs David Blake, Bridget McGrath, John McGrath, Frances McGrath, Paul Ridge, Georgina Ridge, Paul Ridge, Billy McDougall, George MacLellan, Elizabeth and James Ewing, Sister Frances Andrew, Sister Eleanor, Cathie Harris, Mary Agnes McCrane, Rita Martin, Sister Gertrude, Rev. Barron CSSF., Jack and Chrissie McLaughlin, John and Elizabeth McLaughlin, John and Kate Gordon, Margaret and Harry English, Theresa and Willie Lamont, James Flannigan, Tessie and Frank White, Betty White Sutherland, Gerard Flannigan, Carol Vogan, Catherine McCulloch, David and Aileen Moran, Theresa Miulligan, Josie McDonald, William Ingram, Family and Friends of McLaughlin Family, Bill Watton, Jean Watton, Mary Boycek. John Doyle, Marie Doyle. Theresa Doyle, James Doyle, George Daycek, Blanche Daycek, John M. Muldoon, Jo Maule, John Maule, Eileen McGuigan, James McGuigan, Eleanor Stirling, Alyson Foley, John Corrigan, Vincent Corrigan, Margaret Sinclair McCrear, Catherine Slaven, Catherine Crews, The Family and Friends of Father C. Martin, The Family and Friends of Father F. McGachey, Peter Connelly, The Harvie Family, John, Margaret and Gerald Ferrie, Alex and Jane Smillie, Nicola Harvie, Jane Underwood, Ryan Sneddon, Mark Divers, Liam Currie, Trevor Horton, Patrick Naughton, James Naughton Sen. And Jnr., Winifred Naughton, Alex Graham, John McKeown, Thomas McKeown, Anna Cullen, Bernie Cullen, Mary Aiton, Theresa McIntyre, Paul McAllister, Mary Fearon, Mary and William Doherty, 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, 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, Margaret Hannah, Janet and Hugh Shaw, Cathie McKerracher, Eddie Meighan, Tom Lochrin, Lochrin Family, Knight Family, Melvin Family, Jane Anne Lochrin, Rose McCabe, Margaret Maher, Patrick Maher and John Maher, Maureen Tiernan, Mary Agnes McCabe, Cathie Glendinning, Elizabeth McAinsh, Mary Agnes McCabe, Cathie Glendinning, Elizabeth McAinsh, Thomas Hunter, Mary Cheney, Cathie Blake, John Russell, James Brennan, Lynn Toner, Frankie and Anmarie Logan.

FUNERALS

Bernadette Ward - Requiem Mass, Tuesday 7th January 12noon.

Raymund Porrelli - Requiem Mass, Thursday 9th January, 10am.

Maureen Tiernan - Requiem Mass, Friday 17th January, 10am.

Tom Walton - Details to be confirmed.