



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday of the Ordinary Season - 9th February 2025

BERNADETTE AND THE APPARITIONS AT LOURDES

Tuesday of this week is the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. What happened in Lourdes in 1858?

Marie-Bernard Soubirous was born in 1844, to parents François and Louise, and from her earliest days was called 'Bernadette' (little Bernard). She had a younger sister and three younger brothers. Bernadette tended livestock for a family friend at Bartres but returned to Lourdes in 1858, concerned that she had not yet made her First Communion.



On 11th February, Bernadette, now aged fourteen, was with her sister Toinette, and a neighbour's child, Marie Abadie, collecting firewood near Massabielle, the rubbish dump outside Lourdes. The younger girls had taken off their shoes to wade across the stream to gather the kindling; Bernadette stayed behind. Suddenly she felt a rush of wind and saw a beautiful woman in a niche in the rock, dressed in a white robe, with a blue sash and a white veil on her head. She smiled and beckoned to Bernadette, who went down on her knees, took out her Rosary and began to pray. The Lady also had a Rosary, but she allowed Bernadette to

recite the decade and joined in only at the Glory be. When the Rosary ended, the Lady disappeared.

At first Bernadette said nothing, but on the way home she could not keep her secret, and told her companions, but pleaded with them not to tell her mother; but they did, and her mother would not allow her to go back the next day. The following Sunday, Bernadette asked if she might go to the grotto again, which she did with several friends. She saw the vision again, but the others saw nothing. News spread around the town like wildfire.

The following Thursday, 18th February, she went again. This time the Lady smiled and spoke. She asked her to come every day for fifteen days. Bernadette promised she would, if her parents did not object. The following day, her mother and aunt went with her, and on later visits great crowds of people gathered at Massabielle, hoping to see or hear something miraculous. Bernadette was brought to the Police Station for questioning.

The following Sunday, the Lady told her "Do penance to God for sinners." On 26th February, the Lady told Bernadette to dig with her hands on the ground inside the grotto, to drink the water and wash her face with it and eat of the vegetation growing nearby. Bernadette did as she was told. A trickle of water appeared; she drank it and bathed her face. The following day a steady stream was flowing in the area - it continues to flow to this day and is the source of Lourdes Water and the water where the sick bathe in the famous Lourdes Baths.

On 2nd March Bernadette saw the Lady for the thirteenth time. This time the lady asked Bernadette to tell the priests to build a chapel. Bernadette went to the parish priest, Father Dominique Peyramale. He reprimanded her for telling lies about the visions. Peyramale insisted that Bernadette ask the Lady to identify herself. On 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette went to the grotto and when the lady appeared she asked "Will you tell me who you are?" She repeated the question two more times and the

Lady replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Four years previously, Pope Pius IX had proclaimed that Our Lady was preserved free from all stain of original sin - the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

There were only two subsequent visions - on 7th April and 16th July. Bernadette was asked to repeat the story of the visions, but the accounts never varied in any significant detail. The local authorities closed off the Grotto. It is said that the Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III, heard what was happening and may have influenced her husband to intervene with the local authorities. In any case, the grotto was re-opened. The following year, thousands of pilgrims thronged to Lourdes. A statue of Our Lady was erected at the grotto in 1864.

When Bernadette she was twenty, she joined the Daughters of Charity at the Mother House at Nevers. Here, despite illness, she made her final vows in 1878. Bernadette died of tuberculosis on 16th April 1879 and was canonised by Pope Pius XI in 1933.

Lourdes has since become a place of pilgrimage and is visited by millions of pilgrims every year. Pope Saint John Paul II undertook three pilgrimages to Lourdes, the last one in 2004 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In 1992, he instituted World Day of the Sick to be celebrated each year on 11th February, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady to Bernadette. **Father McGachey**

FAMILY MASS AT SAINT BRIDE'S - THIS SUNDAY

Today, at the 9.30am Mass, we will begin a monthly Family Mass: with the Scripture Readings and the Offertory Procession being done by pupils from the local schools. After Mass, there will be tea and coffee, and rolls and sausage, offered in the hall - just make a donation! We hope very much that you will support this venture. Our Mass this Sunday will also include the Rite of Commitment for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Communion. Please note that there is no Children's Liturgy today or next Sunday because of the School Half Term.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY MASS FOR THE SICK

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am

The Holy Rosary 9.30am

Holy Mass, with the holy anointing of the Sacrament of the Sick,
and organ and incense at 10am. Please join us.

STALL

The February edition of 'My Day by Day' is on sale at the Stall, priced £!. There is a new selection of merchandise, which arrived earlier this week, at the Stall. Please have a look!

FATHER MCGACHEY

Will be on holiday, for two weeks, from Wednesday of this week.

CALENDAR

Monday is the memorial of **Saint Scholastica (+547)**. She was the twin sister of Saint Benedict, founder of Western monasticism. Born in Umbria, Italy, about 480, under Benedict's direction, Scholastica founded a community of nuns near the Benedictine monastery Monte Cassino. Inspired by Benedict's teaching, his sister devoted her whole life to seeking and serving God. She died in 547. **Tuesday** is the memorial of **Our Lady of Lourdes** - see front cover. **Friday** is the Feast of **Saints Cyril and Methodius**. Cyril (+869) was a priest and a philosopher, and accompanied his brother **Methodius (+885)** to Moravia to preach the Gospel. They both perfected a Slavonic alphabet, which is now known as the *Cyrillic* alphabet, and translated the liturgy into this language. They were summoned to Rome, where Cyril died and Methodius was consecrated bishop and sent to Pannonia. Methodius died in the modern-day Czech Republic, after working tirelessly to preach the Gospel. With Saints Benedict, Edith Stein and Brigid of Sweden, they are co-patrons of Europe.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN OCTOBER

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.

We would like to take a group from Saint Bride's Parish, from 6th-10th October, 4 nights, five days. So far around twenty parishioners have signed-up.

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, Mass in the Vatican and much more. If you are interested, please put your name on the sheet in the Sacristy.

3RD EAST KILBRIDE RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES TUESDAY NIGHTS

Rainbows 5.45pm-6.45pm for ages 4-7 years old. Brownies 6.45-8pm for ages 7-10 years old. In Saint Bride's Hall. Please register your child at girlguiding.org.uk

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Greg Taylor. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

DIARY DATES

- **Sunday 23rd February** - At the 9.30am Mass, the Rite of Commitment for the Sacrament of Confirmation for Primary Seven at Saint Kenneth's Primary School.
- **Tuesday 4th March** - First Confessions for the children of Primary 3 at Saint Kenneth's Primary School, beginning at 5.30pm.
- **Wednesday 5th March** - Ash Wednesday - Holy Masses, with the Distribution of Ashes at: 7am, 10am, 2pm (in Saint Kenneth's Primary School) and 7pm.

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

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, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Leo McCrear, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey. Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Teresa Tierney, Gayle Cochran, Merisa Todd.

RECENTLY DEAD - Lilly Brien, Alice McFadden, Margaret Adam, Charlie Corry, Enya McCurrough, Donna Carlin, Paul Breslin, Gonzalo Miguel Mesa Moreno, Aidan Stewart.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Margaret McAuley, Theresa Docherty, John McAuley, Mary and Anthony Hastings, Maureen Cowan, Neal McDermott, James Stevenson, Helen and William Stevenson, George Stevenson, Peter Feeley, Maureen Hughes, Anne Turner (Hughes), Rena Crawford, Cameron Slorach.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 2nd February - £2,720. 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 your offering - the parish will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation you give.

