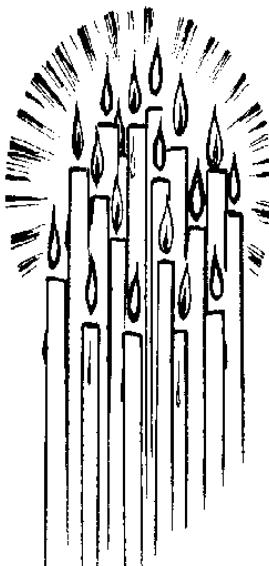


LUMEN AD REVELATIONEM GENTIUM - A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE PEOPLES

On the 2nd of February every year - the fortieth day after Christmas, and Tuesday of this week - the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, is celebrated.

In the Church's last prayer of the day, called *Compline* or *Night Prayer*, a short canticle is recited, which is taken from Saint Luke's Gospel. The words of the canticle are those spoken by Simeon, an elderly and devout man, who met Mary and Joseph when they came to present the infant Jesus in the Temple, after his birth. Simeon acclaimed the infant Christ as the "a Light to enlighten the peoples".

The Feast of the Presentation is sometimes known as 'Candlemas Day', since on it, from around the middle of the Tenth century, candles for use in the Church were traditionally blessed. Why?



Apart from their connection with words of Simeon, and their practical use (essential in the days before electricity) candles have always had a strong symbolic value in the liturgy: they are used in to represent Christ, "the Light of the world...the Light no darkness can overpower" (John 1,5). In addition to this they are also a sign of festivity and celebration, and a mark of reverence for God's presence.

The most prominent candle in any Church is the Paschal Candle. Blessed at the Easter Vigil, and present beside the baptismal font throughout the year, it is used at Baptism - the child's father lights a small **Baptismal Candle** from it and it is entrusted to the parents who have the duty of passing on of the light of Faith. At funerals the Paschal Candle is placed beside the coffin, as a sign of hope in the resurrection to those who mourn the passing of a loved one.

The other candle present in all Catholic Churches is the red-coloured **Sanctuary Lamp**. It burns day and night, to indicate the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

Blessed candles are used at the altar during Mass, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; in the celebration of all the Sacraments except Confession; in procession, as a sign of rejoicing: at the beginning and end of Mass and in the procession with the Book of the Gospels. They are used during the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.

It is traditional for every Catholic household to have at least two blessed candles. These are used when the Blessed Sacrament is brought to someone sick or housebound - sad to say, a custom that seems to be disappearing today! In times gone by, it was customary for the priest to be met at the gate with someone carrying a lit candle...as mark of reverence and respect for the Blessed Sacrament.

We sometimes light a **Votive Candle** before a statue of Our Lord, Our Lady or the Saints. The candle signifies our prayer, and our desire to remain present in prayer, even as we have to leave the Church and continue the business of the day. Father McGachey

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF SAINT BRIDE



We have placed the statue of the Saint in the Sanctuary area. It is a fine image, carved from oak; it has artistic qualities, reflected not only in its proportions and but in the fine details of the carving work. It 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.

Who was Saint Bride? Bride, Brigid or Bridget (the names are interchangeable) was born at Faughart, near Dundalk in County Louth, Ireland, around 450AD. 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 - famous today for its association with horseracing. Kildare is in the geographical heart of Ireland, and it became one of the most important Christian foundations in the country.

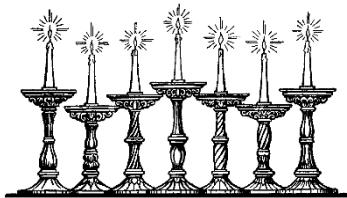
As Abbess (hence the reason she carries a crosier, symbol of her office), Bride participated in several Irish ecclesiastical councils, and her influence on shaping the Church in Ireland was considerable. Many stories of her younger days deal with her generosity towards the poor and needy. Along with Patrick and Columba, she is a Patron Saint of Ireland.

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES FOR USE IN OUR HOMES

We will bless candles for use in our homes at each of the Sunday Masses. These candles, modestly priced, may be purchased, if so desired. Every Catholic home should have two blessed candles - a custom of our faith.

THE SAINT BLAISE BLESSING OF THROATS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER MASSES TODAY

WELCOME TO THE CHILDREN OF PRIMARY 3 WITH THEIR PARENTS, ALONG WITH THE STAFF OF SAINT KENNETH'S, FOR THEIR 9.30am MASS OF COMMITMENT BEFORE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION



MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The fortieth day after Christmas and the commemoration of 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*.

At the 10am Mass today, we will bless candles for use in the Church over the coming year, followed by a candlelight procession around the Church and sung Mass, with organ and incense. Please join us, if you can, for this beautiful Feast.

FABRIC MATTERS

The altar carpet in the sanctuary area was professionally cleaned this week. The area been the fire door, on the lefthand side of the Church and the Hall has been weeded and tided - it is looking very good. Weed killer will be put down this week to keep the area under control. The repair of the small leak in the roof above the sanctuary is in hand. All the lights around the ramp and hall area are now in working order.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS ON MONDAY EVENING AT 7pm

Gathered at Our Lady's altar we will offer her our day: our joys and sorrows, and ask her to present them to her Son, while commanding ourselves to her protection and guidance. After reciting the Angelus, we will form a torchlight procession and move off to the main part of the Church, where we will recite the Holy Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us.



ASH WEDNESDAY - 18th OF FEBRUARY AT SAINT BRIDE'S
THE CHURCH OPENS 6.30am and closes after Evening Mass
HOLY MASS WITH THE BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES - 7am
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 9.30am

HOLY MASS WITH THE BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES with organ and incense - 10am. We will be joined by the Staff of Saint Kenneth's Primary School and Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School - today is an Inservice day in our schools.

LITURGY OF THE WORD AND BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES - 12noon in Hairmyers Hospital. Father Martin has invited Bishop Toal to be present at this service.

HOLY MASS WITH THE BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES with the organ - 7pm.

HOLY MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Thursday 27th February Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.



Father McGachey will be on holiday from Tuesday until next Friday.

THE BLACK ROBES AND SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA

One of our parishioners, Dr Ann McDowell, has left some samples of her book, *The Black Robes and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha*, at the Stall. Saint Kateri was born in 1656, in present-day New York, to a Mohawk chief and a Christian Algonquin mother. She survived smallpox as a child, which left her scarred and with poor eyesight. Converting to Catholicism at age of 19, she moved to a Jesuit mission in Quebec to escape persecution. Kateri was the first Native American person to be canonised by the Roman Catholic Church. Ann has left a sign-up sheet if you wish to order a copy. They cost £5.00 each. Ann has kindly donated all monies from the sale of the book to Saint Bride's Parish. It is well worth reading!

STUDIO 32 - Will be performing on Friday 6th of February in the Church Hall to raise funds for *The Peter Gough Foundation*. Doors open 7pm with access to the Bar/raffles etc. Performance will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased from Sharon Greig on 07799 167108 or after 9.30am Sunday Mass. After a four-year battle with bowel cancer, Peter passed away in 2023, at the age of 51. His family, and friends set up the foundation in his name to help others just like Peter did when he was alive. They have just completed their 1st year and have successfully raised £26,000 and given to the following charities: Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Kilbride Hospice, Beatson Cancer Charity, and East Kilbride Loaves and Fishes. Thank you for your support.

CURRY NIGHT IN SUPPORT OF HCPT GROUP 23 - is being held on Friday 20th February at 7pm in Christ the King Church Hall, 220 Carmunnock Rd, Glasgow. Tickets cost £20 per ticket. Enjoy a delicious curry provided by the Turban Tandoori, while helping us raise vital funds to support HCPT Group 23, who take disabled and disadvantaged children on a pilgrimage at Easter. If you would like to purchase tickets or to secure a table of 10, please get in touch with Eileen on 07950262348. If you're unable to come, you can still support us by donating a raffle prize or making a donation via our just giving page: https://www.justgiving.com/page/23hcpt?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL.

RACE NIGHT - is being held on Saturday 7th February at 7.30pm in St Vincent's church hall. Bar and raffle. Bring own snacks. Tickets on sale now costing £5. You also have the chance to name and own a horse for £5. If your horse wins you get a prize. For more info contact Kathy on 07928 051723.

SEVERAL MASSES WERE HANDED IN WITHOUT A SPECIFIED INTENTION - I HAVE NOT INCLUDED THEM IN THE BULLETIN. PLEASE SPEAK TO ME IF THIS APPLIES TO YOU. A GENTLE REMINDER - PLEASE SPECIFY THE INTENTION.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, <i>Parish Priest</i> Rev. Colm E. Martin, <i>Assistant Priest, High School and Hospital Chaplain</i>
EMAIL	frmcmcachey@rcdom.org.uk frmartin@rcdom.org.uk
ADDRESS	Saint Bride's Parish, Whitemoss Avenue, East Kilbride G74 1NN
TELEPHONE	01355 220005
WEBSITE	www.sbek.org TWITTER @StBrideEK FACEBOOK @StBrideEK
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

PARISH SCHEDULE

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am
CONFESIONS - Saturday 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
HOLY MASS - Monday to Friday 10am
NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesdays after Mass
NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - on Thursdays after Mass
THE CHURCH IS OPEN - Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

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, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochrean, 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, Neil McCready, Michael Conroy. Paul Tollan, Fiona Jane Anderson.

RECENTLY DEAD - Edward Seix, John Sweeney, John Griffin, Hugh Leonard, Margaret Anderson, Monica Struth.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Maureen Hughes, Anne Turner, Norah Folan, Paul Dyt, Teresa Docherty, Harry Doherty sen., Harry Doherty jnr., Giovanna Burns, Paul McTavish.

FUNERALS

Edward Seix - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 4th February, 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 25th January - £3,010. You can make a donation to the Parish or take out a Standing Order. Offerings can be made by Bank Transfer, the Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-12- code. It will take you to a secure can Giftaid your offering - the percent on the basis of the donation



may wish to make a one-off donation to Order in favour of the Parish. Offerings details of which are as follows: St 97 or by scanning the adjacent QR web page. If you pay Income Tax, your parish will receive a further 25% on what you give.