



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Eleventh Sunday of the Ordinary Time  
- 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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## THE PATRON OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Last week I had occasion to search in one of the old Baptismal Registers of Saint Bride's for the details of two people who are getting married later this year. As I scanned the lists of names, I noticed that in the past a considerable number of male children were given the middle name 'Gerard'. In fact, it is my own middle name too! It comes from Saint Gerard Majella, often considered the patron saint of expectant mothers. However, he is a saint who is not mentioned very often nowadays - perhaps because people do not know about him. Who was he? Why is the patron of expectant mothers?

Gerard was the youngest of five children born to Dominic and Benedetta Majella, on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1726, in the small town of Muro, a few miles from Naples, Italy. He was very sickly at birth and was immediately taken to the Cathedral to be baptised.



Although Gerard grew up in poverty, his childhood was marked by prodigious piety. When he was five, he began to visit a small chapel, near his home, every day to pray. Tragedy struck when he was twelve - the sudden death of his father made it necessary for him to leave school and find employment: following in his father's footsteps, he trained as a tailor, but his employer took a dislike to him and often struck him violently. Gerard accepted this persecution and offered it up for his spiritual benefit.

After he completed his apprenticeship, Gerard worked as a servant in the household of the Bishop of Lacedonia, who was recuperating from a serious illness. Again, he showed heroic virtue, by patiently bearing with the irascible temper of the otherwise good Bishop.

Three times his request to join the Capuchin Order was rejected because of his frail health. When a Parish Mission, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers, was held in Muro, he asked to be admitted to their Order, but his request was refused. So persistent was Gerard that the Redemptorist Superior advised his mother to lock him in his bedroom on the night they were leaving Muro, lest he try to follow them. Gerard's mother did so, but the next morning, when she unlocked the door, she found an empty bed, an open window and a note that read: "I have gone to become a Saint." Gerard caught up with the priests as they were leaving Muro and the Superior finally gave in and sent him to the Redemptorist house at Iliceto, with a note that said "I am sending you a useless lay brother."

According to eyewitness testimony, this "useless" brother did the work of four men, working as sacristan, gardener, porter, infirmarian, and tailor in the monastery. He was famed for his piety, wisdom, and the gift of reading consciences; he was often called on by the poor and the sick. Much of his time was spent travelling with the priests on Parish Missions: they deemed him an invaluable companion because he had such remarkable success in bringing the lapsed back to the Sacraments. People followed him everywhere and called him "il santo" (the saint)!

True holiness is always be tested by the cross, and it was in 1754 that Gerard underwent a time of severe trial. One of his pastoral tasks was to assist girls who wanted to enter the Religious Life, often securing the necessary dowry for those who came from humble backgrounds. Neria Caggiano was one such girl. However, she found convent life distasteful and within three weeks returned home. But to explain her departure, Neria began to circulate lies about the lives of the nuns, and when the people of Muro refused to believe her, she was determined to save her reputation by destroying the good name of Gerard. Accordingly, in a letter to Saint Alphonsus, Gerard's Superior, she accused him of inappropriate behaviour with the daughter of a family at whose house Gerard often stayed on his missionary journeys.

Gerard was called by Alphonsus to answer the accusation. But instead of defending himself, he remained silent. Alphonsus had no option but impose severe penalties: he was denied Holy Communion and forbidden all contact with members of the Community and others too. Sometime later Neria became seriously ill and would write a letter to Alphonsus confessing that her charges against Gerard had been a tissue of lies. Gerard was elated when he felt that the will of God had been done.

His miraculous apostolate to expectant mothers began during his lifetime. Once, as he was leaving the home of his friends, the Pirofalo family, one of the daughters called after him that he had forgotten his handkerchief. Gerard said "Keep it. It will be useful to you someday." Years later the same girl was in danger of death in childbirth. She remembered the words of Gerard and called for the handkerchief to be brought to her. Almost immediately the danger passed and she delivered a healthy child. On another occasion, his prayers were asked by a mother when both she and her unborn child were in danger of death. They both came safely through the ordeal.

Always frail in health, it was evident that Gerard was not to live long. In 1755, he was seized by haemorrhages and dysentery, and his death was expected at any moment. He began to prepare himself and abandoned himself to the will of God. He had a sign placed on his door "The will of God is done here, as God wills it and as long as he wills it." On the 15<sup>th</sup> October his soul went back to God. Thousands came to view the body. After his death miracles began to be reported from all parts of Italy. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII beatified him, and in December 1904, Pope Pius X made him a saint. He deserves to be better known today. **Father McGachey**

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## NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS



Another great attendance at the sixth week of the Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots on Monday. I am sure Our Lady must be trully pleased with the honour she is receiving at Saint Bride's.

I trust that she continues to answer your prayers by untying those knots. She will not be outdone in her kindness towards us. Trust in her willingness to help. The seventh week of the Novena is on Monday evening at 7pm.

The prayers begin at Our Lady's altar, followed by a torchlight procession, the recitation of the Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us.

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## CLUB 200

This week's winner is **Stella Brylka**. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

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## CALENDAR

On **Tuesday** 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of **All Saints of Scotland**, a relatively new feast which remembers the well-known and less well-known examples of holiness from these shores. On **Friday** we celebrate the memorial of **Saint Romuald** (+1027) was born in Ravenna, Italy. He founded the Camaldolese monks - the Italian branch of the Benedictine Order, which combines hermitical life and communal life. He died in 1027, after a life of prayer and rigorous penance.

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## FROM FATHER MARTIN

Bishop Toal has asked me to cover at Saint Benedict's, Easterhouse until Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of June.

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## SCHOOL MASS

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, the last day of the school term, Saint Kenneth's Primary Seven school leavers will join us at the 10am Mass. The community of Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's will also be present at this Mass.

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## 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. We also have fridge Magnets, bookmarks, key rings, large and small candles, holy water fonts, and gifts. Please come along and have a look.

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## PETER'S PENCE - RETIRING COLLECTION - NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for 'Peter's Pence' to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Leo XIV to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit [www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html](http://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html).

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## SOLEMNITY OF SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL

The Bishops of Scotland have transferred the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, to the previous day, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Readers, please note that that weekend's readings will be from the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and not from the Thirteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season.

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## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Deacon Kieran Burt will be ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Joseph Toal on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June in Saint Joseph's, Blantyre, his home parish, at 6.30pm. Please pray for him as he prepares for ordination.

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## RAINBOWS

The Rainbows currently has spaces available on Tuesdays at 5.45pm in the Church Hall. If you would like to register your interest, please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk). Unfortunately, the Brownies has no spaces available at the moment.

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# 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

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER** 07712 903732

## PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL** - Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Margaret Rose McMahan, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, 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, John Paul Quinn, Thomas Finnigan (Prestwick), George Kelman, Ann Marie Kane, Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, Neil McCready, Michael Conroy, Paul Tollan, Fiona Jane Anderson, Lindsay Sweeney, Robert Ward, Margaret Boyle, Kenneth McEwan, Rosie Maher Law, Stuart Gibbons, Sadie Elliot, Billy Wilson, Ian McFadyen, Nessie McFadyen, Marie Quigley. Christopher Bailey, Margaret Saroli.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Agnes Garvey, Angela Deehan, Edward Reid, Jean McGuigan, Mary Costello, Jean Clarke, Rachel Leddy, Charlie Devlin, Leena McMurtagh, Paul Alvarado.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Teresa Docherty, Rose McCallion, John O'Brien, Catherine Monogle, Norbert Stewart, Monica Dos Santos.

### FUNERALS

**Angela Deehan** - Reception into Church, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10am.

**Edward Reid** - Reception into Church, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 6.30pm. Requiem Mass, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 10am.

## WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June - £3075. This Standing Orders in favour of the off donation to the Parish or take out Parish. Offerings can be made by are as follows: St Brides Parish scanning the adjacent QR code. It If you pay Income Tax, you can receive a further 25 percent on the



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a one-a Standing Order in favour of the Bank Transfer, the details of which 10246966 and 80-12-97 or by will take you to a secure web page. Giftaid your offering - the parish will basis of the donation. you give.