

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for Papal World Mission Sunday
18th October 2026

THE SAINTLY HERO OF FLANDERS

Last weekend, I saw on YouTube, that the Diocesan stage of the Canonisation Process for Father William Doyle SJ will be concluded this Sunday evening, at a Vespers Service, in Mullingar Cathedral, County Westmeath, Ireland. It will then move on to its final stage in Rome.



As I was curious to find out more about why Father Doyle was being 'raised to the altars', I got hold of a collection of his correspondence titled: *To Raise the Fallen: a Collection of War Letter and Spiritual Writings of Father William Doyle SJ*, edited by Dr Patrick Kenny. It is an inspirational book about a truly heroic priest. I highly recommend it.

William Doyle was born in the outskirts of Dublin, into a prosperous and devoutly Catholic family on the 3rd March 1873 – the same year as the *Little Flower*, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, was born. He was one of seven children and educated in both Ireland and England. When he was seventeen, he entered the *Society of Jesus* (SJ - Jesuits) and after long years of training, he was ordained in 1907, being assigned to different Jesuit parishes throughout the British Isles. He excelled as preacher and crowds flocked to hear him speak. He gained a reputation as a sympathetic Confessor, and would spend hours in personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. His life was marked by penances, offered up for the sanctification of priests. Interestingly, he founded the Poor Clare Convent in Cork, from where would come some of the Sisters who helped found the Order's Convent in Bothwell, including the much-loved and well-known late Sister Jaralath.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Father Doyle volunteered without hesitation. Arriving in France the following year, he marched on foot like any other soldier – shunning all the privileges that his rank as Captain would afford him. The soldiers were his *flock* and he was their *shepherd*. He suffered as much as they did: despite the bullets and shells falling about his ears, and the lethal chlorine, and then mustard gas, used by the Germans, he sought out his *sheep* as they lay dying, often alone, in muddied battlefields, bringing them the Sacraments as they neared their end.

Father Doyle was mentioned in dispatches on more than one occasion, and as such he was recommended for Britain's highest award for gallantry, the *Victoria Cross*. But he was overlooked, deemed to have the old triple disqualification: of being Irish, a Roman Catholic and worst of all, a Priest. It made no difference to him – his eyes were on an altogether greater prize: the salvation of those placed in his care.

On the 16th August 1917, during the Passchendaele offensive, Father Doyle was in no-man's-land, dragging a wounded comrade back to safety. Suddenly he was blown to pieces by a German shell. Whereas he had given a decent Christian burial to fallen soldiers, his own remains were thrown into an unmarked grave, as the battle raged on round about. While he did not die a Martyr's death (*in odium fidei* – because of hatred for the Faith) – he died as a *Martyr of Charity*, serving his comrades.

During his free moments in France, he wrote many letters home, as well as spiritual musings, leaving a treasury of correspondence which shine the spotlight into his personal holiness.

I think that there are three main lessons that can be learned from his writings: Firstly, that we take for granted accessibility of the Blessed Sacrament. Whenever we want to, we can pray before the Tabernacle. During his time in France, discovering a Church was a spiritual lifeline for Father Doyle. He wrote: "…the first thing I saw on reaching the barrack square was a hut marked R.C. Church. I took it for granted that it was just the usual hut set apart for Sunday Mass, but on trying the door you can imagine my delight to find a small but beautifully furnished Chapel with a lamp burning before the altar. I felt as if all the hardships of my life had vanished, for I found Him again who makes the hard things easy and the bitter things sweet." Jesus waits for us to visit him. When did I last pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament?

Secondly, Father Doyle reminds us of the importance of Confession: "As I marched through Ypres at the head of the column, an officer ran across the road and stopped me: 'Are you a Catholic priest?' he asked, 'I should like to go to Confession.' There and then, by the side of the road, while the men marched by, he made his peace with God and went away, let us hope as happy as I felt at that moment." When did I last make a good Confession?

Thirdly, short maxims or everyday sayings, can become signposts in life, challenging us to live differently. Father Doyle reminds us that we should avoid complaining about things: "…sometimes we find everyone complaining and we are tempted to follow suit. However, Saints do not complain! If I want to be a Saint, then I must stop complaining!" Another maxim of Father Doyle was: "…always choose the worst thing and the hardest thing." People would probably choose to run from such counsel. Why choose the worst or hardest, when I can choose the best thing or easiest way? Choosing what is inconvenient or uncomfortable can lead to greater graces and greater personal holiness. **Father McGachey**

PAPAL WORLD MISSION SUNDAY – TODAY

We are keeping the World Day of Prayer for the Missions. We remember the missionary efforts of the Church, in which so many priests, sisters and lay people are engaged, often in very difficult circumstances, as well as those to whom the Christian message is brought in word and deed, often in the poorest parts of the world. **A retiring collection will be taken up to help the work of spreading the Faith.**

MONDAY - OCTOBER DEVOTIONS TO HONOUR OUR LADY

Beginning at Our Lady's altar, followed by a torchlight procession, the recitation of the Rosary with the Litany of Loreto, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

LEARNING ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH

RCIA (Rite of Christian Imitation of Adults) classes continue on Tuesday at 7pm. This week's topic is: *The Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit.* It will be given by Father Martin in the Chapel House.

WEDNESDAYS – EVENING PRAYER WITH THE SAINTS

These *Vespers* will take place on Wednesday at 7pm, at Our Lady's Altar. Please join us.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

The Divine Mercy Prayer Group will meet in the Parish Library on Mondays after 10am Mass.

CEILIDH - IN AID OF THE RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH HALL

A Ceilidh is being held on Friday 30th October in the Parish Hall. Tickets will be on sale this weekend at all the Masses. All welcome. Any donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. They can be left in the Parish Library. Please support your Parish.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy returns next Sunday 25th October. On Sunday 1st November, we will begin our 4-week programme of Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation for P3 children.

PARISH 200 CLUB

This week's winner is Bernda McCambridge. Please collect your winnings.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Sunday 1st November is the Solemnity of All Saints. The day remembers those men and women who are now with God in heaven, including our family members and friends, and others whom we have known and loved. We have several relics of the Saints, including Saint Lucy, Saint Bernadette, Saint Pius X, Saint John Paul II. These will be displayed in the Church on that day. I hope you will go forward to venerate them.

Bishop Joseph Toal will be joining us at the 11.30am Mass, to bestow on Miss Betty Purdie, the Diocesan *Bene Merenti* (Well-Deserved) Medal for more than sixty years of service to Saint Bride's Parish. Please join us for a celebratory tea in the Parish Centre afterwards.

A NOTE FROM FATHER MARTIN – PARISH ALMA CLUB

It is hoped to start an ALMA Club in the Parish for adults with Learning Difficulties and Additional Support Needs. If you would be interested in helping out, please come along to the **second meeting** on Thursday 29th October at 7.30pm in the Hall.

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is actively seeking new members to join us in our mission of prayer and apostolic work. Whether you are looking to deepen your personal faith or to serve your parish community, there is a place for you in the Legion. It is a worldwide lay association of Catholics, under the sanction of the Church and the powerful leadership of Our Lady. If you feel you are called to learn more, we invite you to attend one of our upcoming meetings as a guest. There is no obligation to join. Meetings are every Tuesday after 10am Mass in the Library next to the Sacristy.

FABRIC AND GENERAL MATTERS

The wall-mounted heaters in the Church are due to be serviced this Thursday. To allow the engineers to complete the job in one day, there will be no Exposition, Rosary, 10am Mass or Coffee Morning. Father McGachey will say a Mass in the High School at 8.30am on Thursday. He would be happy for you to join him. The school Oratory is on the First Floor.

Please note that the Church door on to the Piazza will be locked after morning Mass. The Church will remain open for visits during the day and can be accessed from Platthorn Drive.

I am sad to have to report that two of the large ceramic pots in the Piazza were mindlessly smashed by three First Year boys on bikes last week – that is the second time some of the pots have been smashed: it happened previously in July. The boys were disturbed the day after as they tried to smash another pot!

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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HALL BOOKINGS Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org

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 McMahon, 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, John Paul Quinn, Thomas Finnigan, George Kelman, Ann Marie Kane, Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, Michael Conroy, Fiona Jane Anderson, Lindsay Sweeney, Robert Ward, Margaret Boyle, Kenneth McEwan, Rosie Maher Law, Stuart Gibbons, Sadie Elliot, Billy Wilson, Marie Quigley. Christopher Bailey, Margaret Saroli, Louise Brannan, Raymund Brannan, Louise MacFarlane, Brendan Darcy, Claire Elliot.

RECENTLY DEAD – Bernadette Breslin, Daniel Courain, Mary-Clare Campbell, Senga Teresa Jackson, James Loftus, Amanda Stewart, Nolan Brookland, Amelia St. Cloud, John Beattie.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES – Isa Hunter, Eddie McGrory, Kevin Claery, Paul McKee, Ralph Kurdell, Bernard Phimister, Myles McHugh, Frank Downie, Johnny Canavan, Paul Moreland, Peter Orsie, Patrick McGrath.

FUNERALS

John Beattie – Requiem Mass, Wednesday 4th November 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 11th October - £3,085. This Standing Orders in favour of the one-off donation to the Parish or take the Parish. **Offerings can be made by which are as follows: St Brides by scanning the adjacent QR code. page. If you pay Income Tax, you parish will receive a further 25 donation. you give**.



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a out a Standing Order in favour of **Bank Transfer, the details of Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97 or It will take you to a secure web can Giftaid your offering – the percent on the basis of the**