



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Third Sunday of Easter

19th April 2026

SAINT GEORGE AND THE SLAYING OF THE DRAGON

Every country has its Patron Saint. In the British Isles, for example, we have: Saint David, the patron of Wales; Saint Andrew, of Scotland; Saint Patrick, of Ireland. Thursday of this week is the feast of the patron saint of England, Saint George. His life-story has unfortunately been embroidered and embellished over the centuries. What is fact and what is fiction? Why do we honour him as Saint? And how did he become patron saint of the English?

George was born in the Holy Land, in the middle of the third century, possibly in Bethlehem. He is associated with the town of Lydda (present-day Lod) which is about ten miles southeast of Tel-Aviv, not far from Ben Gurion International Airport. In fact, his tomb can be visited today in a small church in that town.



George was a soldier of the Roman army, who found favour with the Emperor Diocletian, and was promoted to the rank of Tribune (*Tribuni Militum*) - Tribunes were high ranking senior army staff, below the rank of Legate and above the rank of Centurion. When the Emperor unleashed his bitter and bloody persecution of Christians in 303AD - George, who had converted to Christianity, rebuked him sharply and resigned his commission. Smarting from the verbal attack of a subordinate, the Emperor had George punished: he was arrested and tortured and told to recant his faith. When he refused, he was beheaded and died a martyr for Christ. In the face of these trials, his cheerful defiance and fortitude were exemplary.

Devotion to him spread throughout the Church: in the East he was honoured as *Megalomartyros* (the 'Great martyr') and in the West his feast day is mentioned in the famous eighth century *Gregorian Sacramentary* and in the *Martyrology* of the Venerable Bede (ninth century).

George became a symbol of courage in the face of Imperial evils. So, one can easily understand why legends attached themselves to his person, such as the 'slaying of the dragon'. The story became popular in the West thanks to the *Legenda Aurea* (the 'Golden Legend'), a thirteenth century collection of *Lives of the Saints* written by Blessed Jacobus de Voragine (1230-99).

The legend says that a dragon was terrorising the Lydda in Israel, poisoning with its breath all who approached it. Every day it was appeased with an offering of two sheep, but when these grew scarce, a human sacrifice, was to be chosen by lot. One such lot fell to the King's daughter, who went to her fate, dressed in the wedding clothes of a bride. But George attacked the dragon, pierced it with his lance and led it away, taming the creature. He told the people not to be afraid: if they would believe in Jesus Christ and were baptised, he would rid them of the monster. The king and people agreed. George slew the dragon and many thousands were baptised. The parallels with the classical Greek myth of the rescue of Andromeda by Perseus are striking - moreover, the Greek myth is also associated

with the town of Lydda. Remember that in the Middle Ages the 'dragon', a mythical creature, was commonly employed to represent the Devil.

It was probably the twelfth century Crusaders who first invoked his name as a defender in battle. The Synod of Oxford in 1222 declared Saint George's Day a feast day in England. English knights and archers wore the cross of Saint George over their suits of armour. King Edward III of England (1327-77) founded the Order of the Garter, under the banner of Saint George, in the Chapel dedicated to him at Windsor Castle. Many parish churches were dedicated to him in England, and though his popularity may have faded with the severe curtailment of saints' days during the Reformation, Saint George's Day continued to be observed.

The cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France. William Shakespeare made sure that no-one would forget Saint George, and has Henry V, finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, "Cry God for Harry, England and Saint George!" An interesting piece of trivia - Shakespeare, very much in vogue at the moment because the award-winning film about the death of his son, *Hamnet* - Shakespeare was born on Saint George's Day 1564, and if the story is to be believed, died on Saint George's Day 1616. An appropriate end perhaps for the man who helped to immortalise the Saint in English consciousness.

Although Saint George's life and times might be interwoven with colourful legend; although the Saint is sometimes associated with nationalistic jingoism, as well as being hijacked by xenophobic nationalism: no-one can deny Saint George's real act of heroism: dying a martyr's death for the sake of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Father McGachey**

FATHER MARTIN IS COVERING IN SAINT JAMES', COATBRIDGE TODAY

NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS BEGINS ON MONDAY 4th MAY - FOR NINE MONDAYS

We will begin our annual Novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots, on Monday 4th May at 7pm. On the first evening we will have the traditional Crowning of Image of Our Blessed Lady - a venerable custom, enjoying a something of a renaissance in our own day - to place a golden crown on Our Lady's image as 'Queen of the May'.



We will begin each week at Lady Altar. There will be a torchlight procession followed by a prayerful recitation of the Rosary, Novena Prayers, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

In this Novena, Our Lady comes to untie the *knots* of our lives. Our heavenly Mother will not be outdone in granting us her favours. Have you a special intention, a worry, a family problem, an illness, a lapsed person or persons, that you need to present to Our Lady? Come and ask for Our Lady's help!

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am and 11.30am
CONFESSIONS - Saturday after 10am Mass; 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass
TUESDAY-SATURDAY - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am
TUESDAY-SATURDAY - The Holy Rosary 9.30am
MONDAY-SATURDAY - Holy Mass 10am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESUMES NEXT SUNDAY AT THE 9.30AM MASS

FRIDAY 1ST MAY – FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

Saint Joseph the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, and man who worked hard to look after the Holy Family, Model of workers and human labour. Most of our information about him comes from the opening two chapters of Matthew's Gospel. Pope Pius IX (1870) declared him patron and protector of the universal family of the Church. **At 9.40am there will be a special service of Prayers and Intercessions before the stained-glass window of Saint Joseph, in honour of this great Wonder-Worker and Powerful Intercessor.**

STALL

A selection of First Communion and Confirmation cards and gifts are on sale at the stall. There are other piety objects, as well as a wide range of candles, gifts and publications cards. Copies of *My Day by Day* for May are on sale priced £1.00.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

The children from Greenburn Primary School will make their First Communion at 10am Mass on Saturday, 25th April. The children from Saint Kenneth's Primary School will make their First Communion at 10am Mass on Saturdays 9th and 16th May at 10am Mass.

CATHOLIC TEACHER APPROVAL

Those wishing to teach in the Catholic sector are reminded that it is first necessary to obtain approval from your Parish Priest to show that you accept and live Catholic Faith. For those living in Saint Bride's, this means from Father McGachey. This applies to those about to enrol in the teacher training Course, those about to start as probationary teachers and all those applying for teaching posts (promoted or otherwise) within the Catholic Sector. If you are in this position, please make yourself known, sooner rather than later.

RETIRING COLLECTION - SUNDAY 3RD MAY

To help pay for the education of our future priests in Motherwell Diocese in Rome, Salamanca and Birmingham. Please be generous as you always are.

FROM FATHER MCGACHEY

I am on holiday from tomorrow for one week. There will be no Devotions to Our Lady, tomorrow or next Monday. There will be no Bulletin next weekend. The Church will close after 10am Mass each morning.

KILTWALK - KILBRYDE HOSPITAL

On the 26th April Kenny Maxwell is doing the Kiltwalk (Glasgow Green to Loch Lomond-23 miles) in aid of Kilbryde Hospice. Donations can be made on the JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kennymaxwell-1770129576717?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM&utm_campaign=020

SCIAF BOXES - PLEASE RETURN THESE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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

ST 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, 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, Harry Burns, Billy Wilson.

RECENTLY DEAD - Teresa McMahon, Eileen Behan, Trisha Smith, Ina McDonald, Francesco Livramento, Simon McNaughton, Simon Loftus.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Pablo Azpilucuenta Javier, Monica de Souza, Ernesto Costa Azpitarte, Janusz Golana, Dave Blake, Kevin Cleary, Paul McKee, Edward McGrory, Mike Brogan.

FUNERALS

Teresa McMahon - Requiem Mass, Monday 20th April, 10am.

Eileen Behan - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 29th April, 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 12th April - £3,080. donation to the Parish or take Parish. Offerings can be made which are as follows: St 97 or by scanning the to a secure web page. If you your offering - the parish will the basis of the donation you



You may wish to make a one-off out a Standing Order in favour of the by Bank Transfer, the details of Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-12-adjacent QR code. It will take you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid receive a further 25 percent on give.