



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Eighteenth Sunday of the Ordinary
Time - 2nd August 2026

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

This coming Wednesday, 5th August, the Church celebrates the feast day not of a saint, but of a building – the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, one of the four most illustrious churches of Rome. The other three are: Saint John Lateran – the Pope's Cathedral in the Eternal City, Saint Peter's at the Vatican – the spot where Saint Peter was martyred, and Saint Paul Outside-the-Walls, marking the place where Saint Paul was killed for the faith. *Santa Maria Maggiore*, as the Basilica is known in Italian, is the most important Church in the world dedicated to Our Lady. It is the biggest church in Rome which honours her, hence the reason it is called 'Maggiore' meaning 'greatest' or 'biggest'.



Even today, the Basilica is sometimes known as the *Liberian* Basilica, in honour of Pope Liberius (+366). According to a pious legend, which probably dates from the Middle Ages, Our Lady appeared in a dream to two Roman Christians, the married couple John and Placida, who were wealthy members of Rome's Patrician class. She is said to have asked

them to build Church in her honour on the *Esquiline* hill (one of the famous 'seven hills of Rome'). The location would be indicated, she had said, by a fall of snow on the night of 4th-5th of August. They told Pope Liberius about the dream, and he is said to have traced the outline of the building in the snow, and the first basilica was built on that site. For this reason, the basilica is sometimes called Our Lady of the Snows (*Sancta Maria ad nives*, in Latin); something which is further underlined by the fall of white rose petals from the ceiling of the basilica which takes place this evening at the end of Vespers or Evening Prayer.

Leaving the pious legend aside, history tells us that Pope Liberius was a firm crusader against the Arian heresy, which denied that Jesus was truly divine. We know that during Liberius' Pontificate the Esquiline Hill had been settled by barbarian troops who were largely Arian sympathisers. By building a Church there in honour of Our Lady, Liberius perhaps wanted to underline divinity of Jesus, and that Mary was his mother.

Pope Liberius' basilica fell into ruin and almost disappeared. The present-day basilica replaced the original structure when Pope Sixtus III (+440) decided to build a new and more magnificent one. In many ways Sixtus wanted to underline Mary's title as 'the Mother of God', which had been given her by the Council of Ephesus (in modern-day western Turkey), which took place in 431AD. The title itself rejects Arianism by implying that Jesus was truly

divine as the Son of God, and truly human as the Son of Mary. Sixtus decorated the walls of the basilica with mosaics from the lives of Christ and Mary - these survive to this day.

From earliest times the basilica claimed to have a precious wooden relic, believed to be part of the crib in which Our Lord was placed at Bethlehem. Sixtus reproduced the stable of Bethlehem - this was adorned and enriched over the centuries. The wooden relic is encased in a reliquary under the main altar and can be visited today. It is for these reasons that the basilica became known as the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Crib (*Sancta Maria ad praesepe*), a kind of Bethlehem in the Eternal City. For centuries the Popes celebrated the first Mass of Christmas there.

The Basilica is visited by over a million people each year. His Holiness Pope Francis, used to pray before the icon of Our Lady that hangs in one of the side chapels known as the *Borghese Chapel - Maria, Salus Populi Romani* (Mary, health of the Roman People), before he beginning one of his Apostolic journeys around the world. It was also his first port of call on the way back, where he left a bouquet of flowers before the Icon of Our Lady in thanksgiving. You will remember that after his funeral Mass last year in Saint Peter's Square, he requested his remains to be taken and to be interred in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, where they can be visited today.

Father McGachey



DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

These popular weekly devotions continue on Monday this week at 7pm. 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. Please join us if you can.

WEDNESDAYS - EVENING PRAYER WITH THE SAINTS

During Advent and Lent these Evening Prayers, more properly called *Vespers*, regularly attracted up to forty people. With the lighter nights still upon us, and hopefully more good weather, we will resume these Vespers on Wednesdays at 7pm, before Our Lady's Altar. Consisting of a Hymn, two Psalms and New Testament Canticle, Short Reading and reflection on the Life of a Saint, Mary's hymn of Praise the *Magnificat*, Intercessions, Concluding Prayer, the Salve Regina and Sprinkling with Holy Water. Please join us.



FATHER MARTIN IS ON PILGRIMAGE THIS WEEK IN MEDJUGORE.

He will continue his summer holidays on his return until the end of August.

THE SATURDAY MORNING MASS RESUMES NEXT SATURDAY, 8th AUGUST AT 10am, WITH CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

SICK VISITATIONS

I hope to resume my visits to the Sick of the Parish with Holy Communion on Monday of this week.

FABRIC AND FINANCE

On the 15th July, we paid another instalment of the Diocesan Levy (26 percent of our ordinary income), £6,303. So far this year we have paid £25,212. Another instalment of the Levy is due to be paid on the 15th August.

The Parish Hall was repainted over the past ten days. The cost of this work was £1,780. The Hall carpets are due to be cleaned on Thursday. Some of the new tables have arrived and the chairs, which are on backorder, are due early in September. Again, there will be no Coffee Morning after 10am Mass this week because of the ongoing work.

The wall between the Church and the Hall has been replastered and repainted. The cost of this work was £200. A bench has been placed in Sister Sheila's Garden.

A new votive candle stand was donated by a kind parishioner and has been placed before the statue of the Sacred Heart to enhance this devotional area.

New blinds should be fitted to the Parish Library this week. The Library will be repainted within the next few weeks.

The carpark behind the Hall is in a very bad state of disrepair: it is potholed and much of the tarmac is crumbling. What we need is a completely new carpark, but with so many other commitments, we cannot afford to install one at the moment. In the meantime, I have arranged for urgent repairs to be carried out on Wednesday, which means the carpark will be closed for a few days. The cost of this work is around £4,000. To be honest with you, I had not foreseen this expenditure, and I take it on with a heavy heart. We are very fortunate in this Parish not to have a weekly Second Collection – most parishes do! Therefore, what I would propose, very reluctantly, is to have a special Retiring Collection next Sunday to help defray the cost of the resurfacing work. You are always so generous whenever you are asked to give to all kinds of good causes. All this, of course, goes outside the Parish. May I appeal to your generosity for your own Parish this time. Please give only if you can afford to. Sincere thanks for your support.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF SAINT NINIAN

This year's National Pilgrimage to Whithorn in honour of Saint Ninian on 29th and 30th August. Pilgrims from across Scotland are invited to gather at the birthplace of Scottish Christianity to celebrate the life and witness of Saint Ninian, who first brought the Gospel to our shores. Whether you have attended before or are considering making the journey for the first time, all are warmly welcome to take part in this special annual celebration. For more information, please contact Jim McKelvie at pilgrimage@rcdom.org.uk

ANNUAL VOCATIONS MASS

The Annual Diocesan Vocations Mass will take place on Tuesday 25th August in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, at 7pm. Please pray for our five seminarians, and for those who will follow them. It is hoped that a couple of young men, who have been meeting with our Vocations Director, Fr Charlie O'Farrell, will join the Propaedeutic Period in Salamanca in January.

200 CLUB WINNERS – 28th June - Patricia Murray. 5th July - Catherine Graham. Betty Purdie - Quarterly winner. 12th July - Claire Toner. 19th July - Anne McShane. 26th July - Michelle M Davidson. This week's winner is: Christine McAinsh.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, <i>Parish Priest</i> Rev. Colm E. Martin <i>Assistant Priest, High School Chaplain</i>
EMAIL	frmcgachey@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
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, 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, Louise Brannan, Raymund Brannan, Louise MacFarlane, Brendan Darcy, Louisa Mitchell.

RECENTLY DEAD Ray O'Donnell, Paul Tollan, Peter Lennon, Patrick Kerr, Jennifer Bisland, Monica Sneddon.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Francis McGuckien, Maureen Kilroy, Mary McCorry, Patty McCorry, Agnes Dempster.

FUNERALS

Ray O'Donnell - Requiem Mass, Thursday 6th August at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 26th July - £2,965. This Standing Orders in favour of the donation to the Parish or take out a **Offerings can be made by Bank follows: St Brides Parish 10246966 adjacent QR code.** It will take you to **Tax, you can Giftaid your offering - percent on the basis of the donation. you give.**



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a one-off Standing Order in favour of the Parish. **Transfer, the details of which are as and 80-12-97 or by scanning the a secure web page.** If you pay Income the parish will receive a further 25