



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the First Sunday of Lent  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

## ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD AND HIS CONNECTION WITH CARFIN

In the past few weeks, the Holy See has announced the good news that the cause for Sainthood of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, which opened in 2002 and which has been marked by many challenges and delays, can now proceed to the next stage known as Beatification. Sheen was one of the greatest voices of evangelisation in the Church and the world in the 20th century. It is interesting to note that Sheen worked for a period in London, and visited twice the Grotto at Carfin in our Diocese. Why is he on the path to Sainthood?

Born in 1895 in El Paso, Illinois, the eldest of four sons, he was baptised Peter John Sheen. Later he adopted his mother's maiden name 'Fulton' in honour of his uncle who paid for his seminary education. The family moved to nearby Peoria where he was an altar boy in the local Cathedral. Feeling called to the Priesthood, he pursued his vocation in Minnesota and was ordained in 1919.



After ordination he was sent to do further studies at *The Catholic University of America* in Washington DC. He went on to earn a doctorate from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, in 1923. After completing his studies on the Continent, he became assistant priest at Saint Patrick's, Soho Square, London, while teaching theology at Saint Edmund's

College, Ware. It was during this time that he came to Carfin Grotto and was afforded the honour of leading a major procession with more than ten thousand people present - see the photographs. He returned to Washington DC, where he taught philosophy until 1950. A year later he was consecrated auxiliary bishop of New York where he served until 1965.

Sheen wrote over seventy books - all of which are a great read! Personally, I would recommend two: *Treasure in Clay* which is his autobiography and a great introduction to his life - an excellent read for Lent, and *The Holy Hour Prayer Book* - Sheen made a promise to spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament every day - although we may not have the time make a Holy Hour each day, it is book that can be dipped in and out of when praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Both are available on Amazon.

In 1930 began a weekly Sunday night radio broadcast, *The Catholic Hour*. Two decades later, the broadcast had a weekly listening audience of four million people. In 1951, he began a weekly television programme, *Life is Worth Living*. It consisted of Sheen speaking in front of a live audience without a script, occasionally using a blackboard, on matters of faith. In 1952,



he won an Emmy Award for his efforts. When he accepted award, he famously said "I feel it is time I pay tribute to my four writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." The show ran until 1957, with an audience of 30 million. In 1958, he became National Director of the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*: in his own lifetime he donated nearly 10 million dollars to the Missions from the royalties earned from his books.

Sheen was credited with helping convert a number of notable figures to the Catholic faith, including the car dealer, Henry Ford and *The West Wing* actor Martin Sheen whose birth name is Ramón Gerardo Antonio Estévez; he adopted 'Sheen' as a stage name in honour of the Archbishop whose radio broadcasts he admired since childhood.

In 1979, two months before Sheen's death, Pope Saint John Paul II visited Saint Patrick's Cathedral, New York, and as he entered the sanctuary, he spotted Sheen and went over to him and embraced him, saying "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You are a loyal son of the Church." This clip can be seen on Youtube and shows a very emotional Sheen. He died on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1979 and is buried in the crypt of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Father McGachey

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PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

## THE SEASON OF LENT AT SAINT BRIDE'S

MONDAY TO FRIDAY - Holy Mass at 7am

MONDAY-SATURDAY - Stations of the Cross 9.30am

MONDAY-SATURDAY - Holy Mass 10am

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS - Mass at 12.30pm in the Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's HS

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS - Mass at 1.20pm in Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's HS  
Everyone is welcome to attend these Masses in the High School

MONDAYS OF LENT - Devotions in honour of Our Lady: with Torchlight Procession, prayerful recitation of the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAYS OF LENT - Evening Prayer at Our Lady's Altar at 7pm

CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 9.30am to 9.50am, after Mass. 4-4.20pm, and after Vigil Mass

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### MASS FOR THE SICK - THIS THURSDAY



Holy Mass with the Anointing with the Oil of the Sick at Mass on Thursday at 10am. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre. Please join us.

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## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy continues at 9.30am with our focus on Lent, preparing for Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

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### FUTURE EVENTS

**TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH - FIRST RECONCILIATION** for the children of Primary 3 at Saint Kenneth's Primary School. Beginning at 5.30pm.

**TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH - HOLY MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT PATRICK** with Organ and Incense at 10am.

**THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH - THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH** - At 9.40am special service of Prayers and Intercessions before the stained-glass window of Saint Joseph, in honour of this great Wonder-Worker. Holy Mass with Organ and Incense at 10am.

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### 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. Kateri, 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 Quebec to escape persecution. Kateri was the first Native American person to be canonised. Ann has left a sign-up sheet if you wish to order a copy. They cost £5.00 each, and she has kindly donated all monies from the sale of the book to Saint Bride's Parish. It is well worth reading!

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### LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

Our next collection will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> February/1<sup>st</sup> March. Again, no food donations, but cash and food vouchers, please.

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### FATHER MARTIN IS ON HOLIDAY FROM TUESDAY - FRIDAY THIS WEEK

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### LENTEN STUDY GROUP - OLD PARISH CHURCH, THE VILLAGE

Our Lenten Study Group this year will focus on the film *The Theory of Everything*, based on the life of Stephen Hawking. We will discuss the idea of mystery and how faith functions in a world where there are so often things that cannot be explained. The sessions begin on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon in the Lower Hall. They will end at 1pm with soup and fellowship. It is helpful to have watched the film in advance. It is available on Amazon Prime, and the Church has a few copies on DVD, if anyone would prefer to borrow one.

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### 200 CLUB

This week's 200 CLUB winner is Brian Finnigan. Collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

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### THANK YOU

To Studio 32 and everyone who supported the fundraising night for The Peter Gough Foundation. £1673.77 was raised for the foundation.

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## A GENTLE REMINDER

Over the past week several envelopes requesting Masses were handed in, either to the Sacristy or Chapel House. While the names were clearly stated, there was no indication as to the intention, be it: Sick, Recently Dead, Months Mind, Anniversary, Mass for the Living etc. While these Masses have been said during the last week, the names have not been included on the back page of the Bulletin because we did not know *where* to include them. Please help us by stating clearly the intention. If a name you handed in was not included on the back page this week, please speak to Father McGachey or Father Martin, so that it can be included in next week's Bulletin under the correct heading. Thank you for your help.

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## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers the five catechumens from our parish who are being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil in a few weeks' time. This afternoon, they will attend the *Rite of Election* in the Cathedral in Motherwell, along with more than one hundred others from across the Diocese, who similarly are being received into the Church at Easter. The Rite of Election marks the final period of preparation for the candidates before receiving the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist - at the Easter Vigil. It signifies the Church's formal acceptance of catechumens, who then become known as the *Elect*.

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Could Eileen Hannah and Patricia McCulloch, please speak to Father McGachey after Mass?

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## FABRIC AND FINANCE

After the very generous contribution of £100,000 given by parishioners a few weeks' ago, to help pay off the parish debt, we continue to pay down the remaining part of the debt to the Diocese, to pay for a new roof. As of this week, we still owe £6,000.

The boilers and the wall-mounted gas heaters in the Church are due to be serviced in mid-March, along with the Organ. I reckon this will cost somewhere in the region of £2,500. This past week we had gas and electricity bills for £2,300 combined.

Work started this week on the garden around the Chapel House with removal of overgrown bushes, the pruning back of others, as well as the raking of leaves to create a much tidier area. The Celtic cross in Sister Shelia's Garden has to be varnished and a new bench bought. The fence at the side of the Chapel House leading to garage has to be creosoted. This work will be done at the end of March - weather permitting!

As we continue to raise the liturgical standards at Saint Bride's, we find that we need to buy several black cassocks for the servers: not only do we have three new teenage servers, but the servers we have are growing out of the cassocks which were bought several years ago. Thinking ahead to the Easter Triduum, we would like to purchase two new chasubles, a matching humeral veil for the procession to the Altar of Repose and matching *ombrellino* to cover the Blessed Sacrament during the procession, for use on Holy Thursday. Additionally, we need a red humeral veil for use on Good Friday. All these items every parish should have...but we do not have here.

If anyone would like to make a contribution to help defray the cost of these new items, then your help would be gratefully received. We can add your name, or the names of families or individuals etc., to the items, if so desired, so that their memory may live on. Thank you for your support.

# THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

Were today, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, not the First Sunday of Lent, it would be the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, one of the oldest commemorations in the Church's calendar.



When a Bishop takes possession of his Diocese for the first time, he is led to his cathedra - from the Greek, meaning 'chair'. From this chair, where he alone may sit, the mother church of a diocese takes its name - the 'cathedral'. In the English language this 'chair' is usually referred to as 'see', hence the expression 'the Holy See'. Some European languages still use the word 'chair' in their name for the Holy See: 'la Santa Sede' (Italian and Spanish), le Sainte Siège (French) and in German 'Heillger Stuhl'.

So, what was the 'Chair' of Saint Peter? Chosen by Christ, Peter was the "rock" on which he would build the Church. Peter began this ministry in Jerusalem, therefore the Church's first 'seat' was the Upper Room, that is to say, the place of the Last Supper. After the Ascension of Jesus into heaven Peter, along with Our Lady and the other apostles, gathered in the Upper Room to await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is likely that a special place was reserved for Peter in that room for him to preside over those assembled there.

Subsequently, the See of Peter was Antioch in Syria, the third largest city of the Empire, after Rome and Alexandria in Egypt. Peter was the first Bishop of Antioch, and it was there, the *Acts of the Apostles* tells us that "the disciples were first called Christians".

From Antioch the Holy Spirit led Peter to Rome where he was martyred for the Faith. The See of Rome thus came to be recognised as the See of the successors of Peter, the Popes. The Pope's *catherda*, or bishop's chair, is not at Saint Peter's in the Vatican, as you would perhaps think. Rather it is in the Cathedral of Rome - the Basilica of Saint John Lateran. Peter, as the Bishop of Rome, and his successors the Popes, came to be known as *primus inter pares*, that is to say, *first among equals*, in regard to the other bishops around the world.

In the apse of Saint Peter's Basilica, behind the Papal Altar, is the *Altar of the Chair*, where Mass is celebrated daily. This area of the Basilica takes its name from the sculpture by Gian Lorenzo Bernini (+1660), known as 'The Chair Saint Peter': a bronze throne supported by the statues of four Doctors of the Church: two from the West: Saint Augustine and Saint Ambrose, and two from the East: Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Athanasius. Effectively, Bernini's bronze monument acts as a massive reliquary for an historic wooden chair, dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, but with parts of the chair, dating back much further.

For the first time in more than a century, this wooden throne, symbolising the Pope's magisterial authority, was removed from the bronze reliquary in Saint Peter's Basilica and displayed for public veneration in December last year. The last major public viewing of the throne occurred in 1867, when Pope Pius IX exposed the Chair of Peter for the veneration of the faithful for twelve days on the 1,800th anniversary of the martyrdoms of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. It was the first time that the centuries-old wooden throne had been seen since 1666 when it was first encased Bernini's sculpture.

The recent restoration of Bernini's Sculpture in the Basilica, which was funded by the Knights of Columbus in the USA, was done in preparation for the 400th anniversary of the consecration of Saint Peter's Basilica in November 2026. **Father McGachey**

## SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
Rev. Colm E. Martin, *Assistant Priest, High School & Hospital 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, 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 Cochran, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, Colette Roxburgh, John Paul Quinn, Susan and Robin Topping, Arthur Connor (Canada), Thomas Finnigan (Prestwick), George Kelman, Ann Marie Kane, Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, John Convery, Neil McCready, Michael Conroy. Paul Tollan, Fiona Jane Anderson, Lindsay Sweeney, Robert Ward, Margaret Boyle, Kenneth McEwan.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Frank McShane, Tommy Clark, John May, Don Giovanni Guidi, Evie Mackerlich-Maule, Gerard Bradley, Paul McDermott

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Mary Friar, Margaret Tollan, Doreen Warren, Danny Herson, Frank Corrigan, Austin Toner, Vittoria Simmi, Ray Crossan, Eddie Finnigan, Monica McTavish.

## WEEKLY OFFERINGS

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February** - off donation to the Parish or of the Parish. Offerings can be of which are as follows: St 97 or by scanning the to a secure web page. If you your offering - the parish will basis of the donation you



£3,025 You may wish to make a one-take out a Standing Order in favour made by Bank Transfer, the details 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 the give.