



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for Pentecost Sunday - 24th May 2026

SEAT OF WISDOM, MIRROR OF JUSTICE...

Twenty-nine years ago, on the 31st of August 1997, the day Princess Diana was killed in Paris, I began work in my first parish, Saint Bridget's, Baillieston. The Church there had been completed in 1893 and is typical of the early decorated Gothic style favoured by the famous Pugin and Pugin architects in the churches which they built in the Lanarkshire area like Saint Mary's, Whifflet, Saint Patrick's, Coatbridge etc. Among the special features of the Baillieston Church are the Sacred Heart and Lady side chapels, which are beautifully appointed in marble, with rich inlays of mosaics. The Lady Altar on the righthand side is especially stunning: the mosaics and stained glass depict some of the titles Our Lady from the Litany of Loreto: *Speculum Justitiae* (Mirror of Justice), *Sedes Sapientiae* (Seat of Wisdom), *Turris Davidica* (Tower of David) and *Rosa Mistica* (Mystical Rose) and several others besides.

At Saint Bride's, we pray the Litany of Loreto after the Rosary in the morning and at other times too. What is the origin of the Litany and why is it still recited today?



Any litany is essentially a processional prayer, whose origins can be traced back to Old Testament times. Psalm 136, for example, which we use as the Liturgical year draws to a close at the end of November each year, has the refrain 'For his love endures for ever', repeated after every line. The litany is a simple form of prayer in which everyone can take part. During the heyday of the Roman Empire, there were many solemn processions, and so in the fourth century, as paganism gave way to Christianity, the processions took on a new meaning, and with them processional litanies evolved. Over the centuries, numerous litanies arose, especially in honour of Our Lady. In the 1570s, Pope Saint Pius V had to curb the proliferation of many of these litanies. The Litany of Loreto, however, survived. Why?

In Middle Ages, pilgrimages had become popular. But it was difficult to get safely to the Holy Land because of piracy in the Mediterranean. Loreto was a small town in the north of Italy, which claimed to have the house where Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. It had been brought, stone by stone, by the wealthy De Angeli family, because the Holy Land had fallen in to the hands of the Saracens, and the Holy House, which had been preserved for centuries, was in danger of being destroyed.

As the pilgrims came to the Holy House of Loreto (which is nowadays is encased in a large ornate basilica), they heard the Litany of Our Lady, that would become known as the Litany of Loreto, being sung. When they returned home to different part of Europe, they took with them printed copies of the text. Being printed meant that the text was fixed and so it began to spread. In 1601, Pope Clement VIII decreed of that the Litany of Loreto, could be used for public worship.

The Litany is divided into five sections: the first is the Trinitarian Invocations which opens with a plea to the Blessed Trinity: **Lord have mercy, Christ hear us...** The second, the holiness and motherhood Mary, praising her purity and role in the history of salvation:

Mother of Christ, Mother Most Admirable, Virgin Most Prudent... Thirdly, the Old Testament titles which prefigure Mary: Tower of David, House of Gold, Ark of the Covenant... Fourth, as Advocate and Helper, with petitions for her intercession: Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comforter of the Afflicted... Fifth, praising her Queenship: as Queen of Angels, of Patriarch, Saints, and Peace... before finishing with the triple Lamb of God to redirect our prayers back to Christ.

However, the Litany of Loreto is a *living* prayer, that is still evolving, because the Popes through the ages have added particular invocations, as different needs have arisen. These include in 1814, Pius VII added the title **Queen of all Saints**, in thanksgiving for his safe return from captivity in Napoleonic France. In 1854, the title **Queen conceived without Original Sin** was added by Pius IX when he declared of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In 1903, Saint Pius X added the title **Mother of Good Counsel** because of the trials he had to undergo while defending the Church against the Modernist heresy. In 1915, after the horrors of the First World War, Pius XI added **Queen of Peace**. In 1951, when the dogma of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven was declared, the title of **Queen Assumed into heaven** was added by Pius XII. In 1980, the title **Mother of the Church** was added by Saint John Paul II and in 1995, with the family under attack, he added the title **Queen of Families**. In 2020, Pope Francis, stressing the importance of compassion in the difficult circumstances of the early twenty-first century, with its mass movements of peoples escaping terrorism and famine, and in the face of the Covid 19 pandemic, introduced three new invocations: **Mother of Mercy, Mother of Hope, and Solace of Migrants**.

We often think of the litany as being recited at the end of the Rosary as if Rosary would be incomplete without it. In fact, this is a relatively recent innovation, introduced by Leo XIII in 1880s, at a time when governments were trying to eliminate religion from public life. Leo XIII, a year into his pontificate, strongly encouraged renewed devotion to its use. He declared that the feast of the Holy Rosary should be celebrated at the beginning of October and that the tenth month should be the Month of the Rosary. And he asked for the Litany of Loreto to be recited at the end of the Rosary, and that is why we still do it today. **Father McGachey**



TODAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

This Sunday is the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday, and the Solemnity of Pentecost, when we recall the coming of the Holy Spirit on Our Lady and the Apostles, recorded by Saint Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. The Pentecost event is closely linked with the Sacrament of Confirmation, for this reason we will renew our Confirmation promises at Mass.

At the end of all Masses today we will offer an anointing with the Oil of Gladness. This anointing is mentioned in the Prophet Isaiah when he says, "To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning." In the Old Testament this anointing was considered as a powerful means of transmitting the gift of God's Spirit.

The Oil of Gladness brings spiritual, mental, emotional and physical healing. All of us can benefit. I hope that many of you will come to receive this blessing.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Patricia Corrigan.

MAY IS MARY'S MONTH

There was a great attendance at the third week of the Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots on Monday. It was most edifying! I hope Our Blessed Lady has begun to answer your prayers. She will not be outdone in her kindness towards us. The fourth week of the Novena is on Monday evening at 7pm.

OUR NEXT MASS FOR THE SICK

This Thursday at 10am, we will have our next Mass with the anointing with the Oil of the Sick, as well as organ and incense. Mass will be followed by rolls and sausage and tea and coffee, in the Parish Centre. All very welcome.

DIARY DATES

- **THE MONTH OF JUNE - MONTH OF DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS -** We will recite the Litany of the Sacred Heart after the Rosary each morning.
 - **FRIDAY 12th JUNE - SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS -** In place of the Rosary today at 9.30am we will have the traditional prayers to the Sacred Heart, including the prayer of Consecration to the Heart of Jesus.
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AFTERNOON TEA - FUNDRAISER FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF HALL

Please join us at our fundraiser on Sunday 31st May, from 1pm-4pm. You will be welcomed with a glass of Prosecco or orange juice on arrival, and a sumptuous Summer Afternoon Tea. Various Raffles with some stunning prizes will take place on the day. Tickets cost £12.50 and will be on sale after all Masses from this weekend. The event is open to everyone. Please support your parish and have an afternoon of fun.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY MORNING MASS UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER

PROPOSED PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO PARIS, 5th-9th OCTOBER

A full spiritual and excursion programme walking in the footsteps of the French saints. Mass in Notre Dame Cathedral, Basilica of Sacré-Coeur, the Convent of the Miraculous Medal at the Rue du Bac. Bed and Breakfast with lunch provided in Paris each day. The overall cost is dependent on numbers and fluctuating flight prices. At the moment, it looks like being around £1100, which is very reasonable for Paris. A deposit is required of £550 to secure your place. There is a £234 single room supplement. To book, contact Anne Marie Cairns at Alba Tours on 01698 262941 or annemariecairns@yahoo.co.uk Father Martin.

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 prayer cards.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The children of Primary Seven at Saint Kenneth's Primary school who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Joseph Toal last Wednesday.

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>
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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

PARISH SCHEDULE

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am
CONFESSIONS - Saturday 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am
HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Friday at 9.30am
HOLY MASS - Monday to Friday 10am
NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesdays after Mass
NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - on Thursdays after Mass

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 Cochran, 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.

RECENTLY DEAD - Harry Burns, Simon Loftus, John Cunningham, Nan Shaw, Mary Downie.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Elio Alberto and Luisa Faccenda, Jacqui Cadwallender, Ellen Thompson Gerard Thompson, Annie McShane, Paul Dyet, William McCrear.

FUNERAL - Harry Burns - Reception Sunday 24th May 7pm. Requiem Mass Monday 25th May 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 17th May - £3,035.
Parish or take out a Standing
made by Bank Transfer, the
10246966 and 80-12-97 or by
to a secure web page. If you
the parish will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation you give.



You may wish to make a one-off donation to the Order in favour of the Parish. Offerings can be details of which are as follows: St Brides Parish scanning the adjacent QR code. It will take you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid your offering -