

SAINT BLAISE, PATRON AGAINST ALL ILLNESS OF THE THROAT

Next Sunday, as well as blessing candles for use in our homes - it is the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, the fortieth day after Christmas, sometimes called Candlemas - we will be offering the traditional Saint Blaise Blessing of Throats (his feast day actually falls next Tuesday).

We know only a handful of facts about him: he was a fourth-century bishop in the city of Sebaste, in modern-day Turkey. As a physician, he was a well-respected man, and that he was elected bishop by his fellow citizens.

In the fourth century, the Roman Empire was divided between the Emperor Constantine in the West and the Emperor Licinius in the East. While frequently at odds, they came together in 313AD at Milan, to sign what would become known as the *Edict of Milan* - intended to end the persecution of Christians. Most historians agree that Licinius only signed the *Edict* for political reasons and continued the persecution.

At first Blaise avoided arrest by withdrawing into the hills near Sebaste, where he lived in a cave. Eventually he was discovered. According to tradition, as he was being marched by the soldiers to prison, two things happened: firstly, he met a poor woman whose pig had been seized by a wolf. At Blaise's command, the wolf restored the pig to its owner, alive and unhurt. This same woman, to repay his kindness, would come to visit him in prison, bringing wax candles to light up his prison cell. Again, enroute to the prison, a mother came to plead with Blaise to help her son who was dying because a fishbone was lodged in his throat. Blaise prayed over the boy, and he was healed. For this reason, he is always depicted with: candles, a pig and fish bones - see right.

The Roman governor of Sebaste, Agricola, demanded that Blaise deny Christ or be tortured. Refusing to do so, he ordered that the flesh be torn from Blaise's body with steel combs. No amount of torture, however, would push Blaise to deny Christ, and so he was beheaded.

The similarity of the instruments of his torture - two wool combs - led to him being named the patron saint of wool combers, and of the wool trade in general, especially in England in the Middle Ages. In fact, the fourteenth century King, Edward III, ordered the Lord Chancellor of his government to sit on a wool bale, now known as the *Woolsack*, in order to underline the importance of wool to the economy. The *Woolsack* is still in the House of Lords today - it is the large wool-stuffed seat, covered with red cloth, with neither back nor arms, and upon which the Speaker of the House of Lords sits, along with the Lords Mace - the symbol of royal authority to meet and pass laws.



The miraculous cure of the boy meant that Blaise was invoked against all ailments of the throat, and by the fifteenth century, the ritual *Blessing of Throats* was widely given on his feast day. We will offer this blessing next Sunday. It is given with two candles, which will be blessed at Mass. The Priest places the candles around the throat, using the formula: "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, may God free you from every disease of the throat, and from every other illness beside." Father McGachey

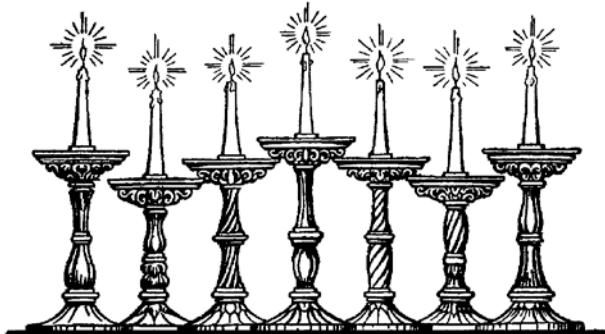
CHILDREN'S LITURGY - PREPARATION FOR FIRST COMMUNION

We continue our 4-week programme of Preparation for Primary 4 children who will be making their First Communion later this year. This will take place in the Main area of the Parish Hall and will start at 9:15am each week. The children will come back to the Church at 10am. Our usual Children's Liturgy will take place at 9.30am.

SUNDAY 1st OF FEBRUARY - FEAST OF OUR PATRONESS, SAINT BRIDE, AND THE SUNDAY NEAREST THE FEAST OF PRESENTATION



As well as marking in a special way at each of the Masses next weekend, the Feast of Saint Bride, our parish patroness, Sunday the 1st of February is the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple - see below. We will bless candles for use in our homes at each of the Sunday Masses. These candles, modestly priced, may be purchased, if so desired. Every Catholic home should have two blessed candles - a custom of our faith.



MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The fortieth day after Christmas and the commemoration of how the infant Jesus was presented by Mary and Joseph, in the Temple in Jerusalem, and met by the elderly Simeon and Anna. For centuries, it has been the day for

blessing the candles used in the Church; it is sometimes called Candlemas Day. At the 10am Mass today, we will bless candles for use in the Church over the coming year, followed by a candlelight procession around the Church and sung Mass, with organ and incense. Please join us, if you can, for this beautiful Feast.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS BEGIN ON MONDAY EVENING, THIS WEEK AT 7pm - AS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED

Gathered at Our Lady's altar we will offer her our day: our joys and sorrows, and ask her to present them to her Son, while commanding ourselves to her protection and guidance.

After reciting the Angelus, we will form a torchlight procession and move off to the main part of the Church, where we will recite the Holy Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us if you can.



CELEBRATING THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN



It is always a pleasure and a joy to baptise the children of parishioners and to see parents bring their little ones to the Lord and to the Community of Faith. Please do not hesitate to ask to have your child baptised. We will do our very best to have you prepared and to accommodate a time when it can take place. Naturally, it is expected that when an infant is baptised, there will be parents, or others very close to the child, who will take the sacred responsibility of handing on the Faith to the child so that there is the realistic possibility the child can be raised in the Catholic Faith.

Infants are to be baptised as soon as possible after birth. Thanks to better health and the possibility of relatives and friends travelling from distance or overseas, perhaps there is not the urgency of past years to have an infant baptised quickly, but that should not mean postponing baptism for an inordinate period of time.

If you have a child to be baptised, please speak to us, so that it can be arranged.
Father McGachey and Father Martin

SATURDAY MORNING MASS

Will resume on Saturday 14th February at 10am.

HOLY MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am - Thursday 26th February. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.



LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

We have a collection this weekend. Cash donations and food vouchers, please, to buy fresh produce for our clients, can be made in the boxes at both entrances to the Church. Thank you.

STUDIO 32

Will be performing on Friday 6th of February in the Church Hall to raise funds for *The Peter Gough Foundation*. Doors open 7pm with access to the Bar/raffles etc. Performance will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased from Sharon Greig on 07799 167108 or after 9.30am Sunday Mass. After a four-year battle with bowel cancer, Peter passed away in 2023, at the age of 51 His family, and friends set up the foundation in his name to help others just like Peter did when he was alive. They have just completed their 1st year and have successfully raised £26,000 and given to the following charities: Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Kilbride Hospice, Beatson Cancer Charity, and East Kilbride Loaves and Fishes. Thank you for your support.

CURRY NIGHT IN SUPPORT OF HCPT GROUP 23

A curry night is being held on Friday 20th February at 7pm in Christ the King Church Hall, 220 Carmunnock Rd, Glasgow. Tickets cost £20 per ticket. Enjoy a delicious curry provided by the Turban Tandoori, while helping us raise vital funds to support HCPT Group 23, who take disabled and disadvantaged children on a pilgrimage at Easter. If you would like to purchase tickets or to secure a table of 10, please get in touch with Eileen on 07950262348. If you're unable to come, you can still support us by donating a raffle prize or making a donation via our just giving page: https://www.justgiving.com/page/23hcpt?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL. Every bit of support makes a real difference. Thank you for supporting HCPT Group 23.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, <i>Parish Priest</i> Rev. Colm E. Martin, <i>Assistant Priest, High School and Hospital 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

CONFESIONS - 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

THE CHURCH IS OPEN - Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

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 Cochrean, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, Paul Ellis, Colette Roxburgh, John Paul Quinn, John Saroli, Lizann O'Hare, Susan and Robin Topping, Arthur Connor (Canada), Thomas Finnigan (Prestwick), George Kelman, Linda Simi, Ann Marie Kane. Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, John Convery, Neil McCready, Michael Conroy. Paul Tollan, Fiona Jane Anderson.

RECENTLY DEAD - John Saroli, Edward Seix, Anna Devine (Bishopbriggs), Hugh Leonard, Frank Torrance, Sally McDonald, Grace Chlougherty, John Sweeney.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - James Hunter, Father Bill Tollan MHM, Father Pierre Potie, Stuart McDermott, Bernardino Pacciti, Lawrence Dean, John Hunter, Sadie Rooney, Norma McTavish, Gerard O'Neill, Phyllis Boyle, Matthew Lawler, Nora Folan,

FUNERALS

John Saroli - Requiem Mass, Tuesday 27th January, 10am.

Edward Seix - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 4th February, 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 18th January - £2,990 You
the Parish or take out a Standing
can be made by Bank Transfer, the
Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-12-
code. It will take you to a secure
can Giftaid your offering - the
percent on the basis of the donation



may wish to make a one-off donation to
Order in favour of the Parish. Offerings
details of which are as follows: St
97 or by scanning the adjacent QR
web page. If you pay Income Tax, your
parish will receive a further 25
you give.