



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for Palm Sunday - Passiontide
29th March 2026

THE EASTER TRIDUUM A LETTER TO THE PARISHIONERS OF SAINT BRIDE'S



Dear Parishioners,

Twenty-five years ago, on a flight back from Rome, I read a book called *Liturgia e Bellezza - Nobilis Pulchritudo* (Liturgy and Beauty - Noble Beauty) written by Archbishop Piero Marini, who was the Master of Ceremonies of Pope Saint John Paul II for more than thirty years.

He writes that he came to love the Church's Liturgy because of the rich splendour of the days of the Easter Triduum. He was inspired by a line we will hear in today's Passion according to Saint Matthew: the disciples ask Christ "Where do you want us to make preparations for you eat the Passover?" Marini writes that we too ask the same question of Christ, and in doing so, we invite him to be with us during these days of the Triduum. For that reason, we should celebrate them with the "utmost beauty and care, with splendour and true devotion."

If there were three days when Roman Catholics should want to go to Church to pray, they are: **Holy Thursday**, **Good Friday** and **Holy Saturday** - the Easter Triduum.

They celebrate the most sacred mysteries of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord - the most important days in the Church's Calendar.

Please make it a priority to go to Church to celebrate these three days this year. Reserve the time! Rearrange your schedule if necessary! Suspend errands or jobs around the house! Drop everything! And come to Church!

Plan to attend the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on **Holy Thursday**, to honour, the Holy Eucharist which was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper. Come to pray for your Priests, who pray for you, God's Holy People, five times every day, and who despite their limitations and weaknesses, try to serve you as best they can. This is a beautiful Mass - make a special effort to be there!

On **Good Friday**, to Commemorate the Passion and Death of Our Lord, and venerate, according to ancient tradition, the "wood of the Cross, on which is hung our Salvation."

On **Holy Saturday**, for the Great Easter Vigil, celebrating the Resurrection, when Christ conquered Death with Life.

Enter the mystery of these three Holy Days at Saint Bride's! **Father McGachey**

PALM SUNDAY - DOMINICA IN PALMIS

“Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest.” (Matt 21,9)

Today is Palm Sunday (*Dominica in Palmis*) and the beginning of Holy Week. This Sunday is synonymous with the blessing and carrying in procession of Palm branches in imitation of those carried by the Hebrew people who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem.

In the ancient world Palm branches were a sign of triumph and victory; they were carried by Romans and Greeks in their great state processions and often used as adornments and decorations in public buildings called ‘basilicas’.



In the Holy Land, as in most parts of the Middle East, the type of Palm Tree that typically grows is called in Latin *Phoenix Dactylifera*, the Date Palm Tree, from which succulent dates are harvested. *Dactylifera* simply means ‘date bearing’.

These trees apparently grow to heights of eighty feet, although forty feet is more common. They yield dates suitable for eating six years after they have been planted; they continue to produce fruit for around one hundred years. Its trunk is straight and tall, unlike the Tropical Coconut Palm Tree (*Cocos Nucifera*) whose trunk often leans at an angle of forty-five degrees. The Date Palm is crowned with a crown of fronds.

As its Latin name indicates, Palms were associated with the mythical bird, the Phoenix, because it was thought that the bird would land on the fronds of this majestic tree, then combust in flames. From the ashes of the old bird, a new bird would rise through a kind of regeneration.

For obvious reasons the early Christians came to associate the *Phoenix Dactylifera* with Christ, who rose from death to new life.

Many familiar Biblical places have a connection with Palm Trees: Jericho, for example, was known as the ‘City of Palm Trees’. Bethany, where Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived, means the ‘House of Dates’. Phoenicia, mentioned in the *Acts of the Apostles*, is in all probability derived from the Greek word for Palm Tree. In Psalm 92, the familiar comparison is made: “The righteous shall flourish like the Palm Tree.” In the final book of the Bible, the *Book of Revelation*, the saints are described in heaven as: “clothed with white robes and with Palms in their hands.” Palms became symbol of the martyrs in the early Church.

Blessed Palms are Sacramentals. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacramentals are “sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the Sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church.” Other Sacramentals include: relics, the Holy Oils, Holy Water, a Rosary, a Crucifix etc. They should therefore be treated with respect and given a place of honour in our homes.

Father McGachey

HOLY WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S - 2026



PALM SUNDAY

Holy Mass with the Blessing of Palms 4.30pm

Holy Mass with the Blessing of Palms Sunday 9.30am

Holy Mass with the Blessing of Palms 11.30am

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Holy Mass 7am

Stations of the Cross 9.30am

Holy Mass 10am

Devotions in honour of Our Lady 7pm Monday

Evening Prayer of the Church 7pm Tuesday and Wednesday

HOLY THURSDAY

Solemn Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am

Mass of the Lord's Supper with the *Mandatum* (the Washing of the Feet) and Procession to the Altar of Repose 7pm

'At Gethsemane' Night Prayer of the Church at the Altar of Repose 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY

The Church opens at 9.30am

Solemn Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 10am

Confessions until 11.15am

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion, with a Special Collection for the Holy Places 3pm

Stations of the Cross with Veneration of the Cross 7pm

HOLY SATURDAY

Solemn Office of Readings and Morning Prayer of the Church 10am

Confessions until 11.15am

The Great Easter Vigil 8pm

Easter Water will be distributed for you to bless your homes

EASTER SUNDAY

Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling with Easter Water 9.30am

Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling with Easter Water 11.30am

Easter Water will be distributed for you to bless your homes

ROLLS AND SAUSAGE, TEAS AND COFFEES AND SOFT DRINKS

Are available in the Hall after the 9.30am Mass today in aid of the HCPT (Handicap Children's Pilgrimage Trust). We hope you go in and enjoy something to eat and drink, and help this good cause.

EASTER REMEMBRANCES

If you would like your dead relatives and friends to be remembered at the three Easter Masses at Saint Bride's, then please hand them in by Holy Thursday evening. We will offer these Masses for them, and their names will feature in the special Easter Sunday Bulletin.

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE...?

Could you spare a couple of hours on the Wednesday of Holy Week to help us give the Church a thorough clean after 10am Mass? If you can, we would love to see you, men and women, young and old. It may be an idea to bring your own bucket since there does not seem to be enough to go round. Cloths and suitable detergents will be provided. Thank you.

MUSIC FOR THE EASTER TRIDUUM AT SAINT BRIDE'S

We have invited Elaine Trower, organist, and James McShane, cantor, who provide the music most Sundays at the 9.30am Mass, to provide the music during the Easter Triduum this year. Johnathan Naylor, trumpeter will join them for Easter Vigil.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK - THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Join the Legion of Mary on Good Friday morning, as we walk, visiting all four Catholic Churches in East Kilbride. Throughout the walk we will pray the mysteries of the Rosary, also spending time walking in silent prayer. We stop at each of the Churches to pray the Stations of the Cross. The walk begins at Saint Vincent de Paul's Church at 9am, followed by Our Lady of Lourdes, Saint Bride's, and finishing the walk at Saint Leonard's Church around Midday. Please come and in us by walking all or part of the way. Draw close to Jesus in this beautiful prayerful Good Friday walk.

GOOD FRIDAY - IS A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

CLUB 200

This week's winner is Joan McHugh. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

THE EASTER COLLECTION

You should find with your bulletin today the traditional 'Easter Collection' envelope. This is the old 'Quarterly Collection'. Income from this Collection is used to help support the Parish's daily liturgical life, the costs of heating and lighting the Church (last month our combined bills were £2,825 - truly eyewatering!), as well as looking after the general fabric of the properties. We are lucky not to have a weekly second collection. This is not the case in many other parishes. This the only time, apart from Christmas, when we ask for a little extra help. Please give only what you can afford. Thank you very much! If you are a member of the Giftaid scheme, then please mark as 'Giftaid' and add your name or number.

A NOTE FROM FATHER MARTIN



Father Martin will be travelling to Lourdes as a helper with HCPT (Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) on Easter Sunday until Easter Friday. If you have any petitions you would like to be taken to the Shrine of Our Lady, he will gladly deliver them there. Please hand them into the sacristy in a sealed envelope, clearly marked.

It is a longstanding tradition of the Church to wash one foot of twelve men during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening. Rather than approach twelve men individually, Father Martin asks for twelve volunteers. If you feel you would like to do this, then please add your name to the list in the Sacristy.

CLUB 200 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Firstly, thank you for your continued support of the Parish through the Club 200. It is much appreciated! For those who pay the 200 Club subscriptions each 6 months by cheque or cash, the subscriptions of £30 fall due on the 1st April 2026. Those wishing to pay by cheque should make their cheques payable to 'St Bride's Club 200'. Cheques can be mailed to Saint Bride's or handed in to the Chapel House or Sacristy. Envelopes with cash can be handed into the Chapel House or Sacristy. Please mark Club 200 and your name on the envelope. Thank you. If you are interested in joining Club 200, please speak to Father McGachey.

GIFTAID ENVELOPES - PLEASE COLLECT FROM THE SACRISTY

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The new Giftaid envelopes are available from the Sacristy. Please go into collect them. About half of them were collected last week. Help us - we do not have the time to deliver them this week because it is Holy Week. They are needed for next Sunday.

If you pay Income Tax and would like to sign-up for the Giftaid scheme to help the Parish, please collect a form from the Sacristy. Last year our Giftaid claim from the Government was £25,000. Please consider joining. Thank you.

STALL

A selection of Easter Cards and Easter Mass Bouquet Cards are available from the Stall at the back of the Church. There is also a new selection of statues, including the Sleeping Saint Joseph and Our Lady, Untier of Knots, Fridge Magnets, large and small candles etc. Please have a look! If there is anything you would like and do not see, please speak to Marie or Frances. Copies of 'My day by day' for the Easter Season are on sale, priced £1.00 each. There are a few more copies of Dr Anne McDowall's book on Saint Kateri Tekakawitha. Also, on sale are copies of a new publication called *The Great Adventure - a Journey through the Bible*, a Bible timeline chart, with dates, people and events from Bible History. Place all monies in the wall-box marked 'Stall'.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A brand-new selection of *Catholic Truth Society* pamphlets has arrived. They are on sale on the wall-mounted stand under the choir loft.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy continues over the Sundays in Lent. In addition, on Good Friday we will be holding a Children's Passion in the Parish Hall, starting at 3pm (at the same time as the Church Service). The Children's Passion will include initial prayers and hymns. The children will then enact episodes from the Passion - we have costumes for the various parts and related craft activities. There will be an Adoration of the Cross, and the children will have a opportunity to receive a blessing or communion (depending on age) at the same time as Holy Communion will be distributed in the Church. The children will remain in the Hall until their parents pick them up at the end of the church service.



SCIAF LENTEN ALMS BOXES

Please return these by the end of the week, either to the porch or the sacristy.

MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR

Sacred Music for Holy Week and Easter performed by the Motherwell Diocesan Choir in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Good Aid, Coursington Road, Motherwell on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 31st March, at 7pm. Admission free.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Will be celebrated in St Vincent De Paul's Church on 12th April. Devotions will begin at 3pm with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout. Mass will be celebrated at 4pm. Tea and coffee will be available in the Hall afterwards.

KILTWALK - KILBRYDE HOSPITAL

On 26 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

SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM AND THE GREAT WEEK

Sandwiched between the feasts of Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph, on the 18th of March, is the memorial of a saint who deserves to be better known, and to whom we owe a great deal: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem.

Little is known of his early life, save that he was born in Jerusalem around 315, and that his parents, who were Christian and wealthy, provided him with a good education. Ordained by Bishop Maximus, he was given the responsibility of preparing catechumens for Baptism: eighteen of his pre-baptismal discourses (*catecheses*), and five post-baptismal discourses (*mystagogia*), survive; they provide us with a snapshot of the theology and ritual of the time.



When Cyril was growing up, Jerusalem was not considered an important diocese. This changed when the emperor Constantine legalised Christianity in 313, and particularly when his mother, Helen, visited the Holy Land and began building the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre over the place where Jesus had been crucified and buried. In 350, Cyril was appointed bishop of Jerusalem and led efforts to make it a place of pilgrimage, keen to underline the fact that most momentous events of our salvation happened there.

As we approach Easter, it is good to remember that it was likely Cyril who devised the liturgical framework that we still use during Holy Week, or the 'Great Week' as he called it, for visiting pilgrims. We have a good window on these thanks to the *Itinerarium* or travelogue of Egeria, a Spanish woman, who made the pilgrimage in the early 380s. She describes, not only how the days of the Great Week were lived out, but the beauty of the Basilica where these liturgies took place. It is well worth reading if you get a chance!

The Great Week, she says, began with a triumphal procession, with branches of palm and olive carried by the faithful from Bethany to the Basilica, amid chants and hymns. The three days that followed were a time for contemplation of the events chronicled in the Gospels leading up to Jesus' arrest – we still listen to the same Gospels today.

On Holy Thursday, after a solemn Eucharist commemorating the Last Supper, the faithful would go to the Mount of Olives to spend the night in prayer – remembering Christ's agony in the garden. After an early start on Good Friday, and the Evangelists' accounts of the Passion having been read, the True Cross, discovered by the Emperor's mother, was displayed, and the faithful, barefooted, come forward to venerate it. On Holy Saturday night, the Basilica, festooned with oil lamps, and arrayed in its finest furnishings, hosted the Easter Vigil, with its various parts: of Light, of the Word, of Baptism and the Eucharist. This service was celebrated with much solemnity and rejoicing throughout the entire night.

The pilgrims, on returning home to Europe, brought Cyril's liturgies back with them, and those services, rich in ritual and symbolism, served as models for our Holy Week worship today. With the Great Week beginning today, as we accompany the Lord through the events of our salvation, let's take time to give thanks for Cyril, and the rich seam of worship that he has left us! **Father McGachey**

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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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, 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, 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, Simon Loftus, Rosie Maher Law, Stuart Gibbons.

RECENTLY DEAD - William Maloney, Michael Cleary, Bill Stewart, Jacky Moore, Peter James Bruce, Alan Dunbar, Frank Tierney, Colette Roxburgh.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Robert Hendry, Betty Mooney, John Crews, Paul Dyet, Margaret Downie, John McAuley, Brother Kentigern, Mary McCann, James Hendry, Bill Crossan, Michael Spicer, Luisa Faccenda, Alberto and Elio Faccenda, Susan Stewart.

FUNERALS

Colette Roxburgh - Requiem Mass, Tuesday 14th April, 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 22nd March - £3,105 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.