



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity
of the Epiphany of Our Lord - 4 January 2026

WE SAW HIS STAR IN THE EAST

Vidimus stellam eius in Oriente

When most people have packed away all trace of Christmas for another year, probably because they were celebrating it much too early (from the middle of November, in some instances), the Church continues her celebration of this holy season with the *Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*. Our ancestors believed firmly in the Twelve Days of Christmas - twelve days of celebration after Christmas itself. I think we should too!

The Epiphany remembers the arrival of the *Magi* or Wise Men, who following a Star, journeyed to Bethlehem, with gifts for the Christ-Child. We have added the Wise Men figures to the Crib in the Church. By the side of the Crib, we have placed gold, frankincense and myrrh - the gifts they brought. Please have a look at them up close - smell them, touch them... If you have children, let them do the same!

The word *Epiphany*, from the Greek, means 'revelation' - we celebrate Christ's Epiphany to the Gentiles, represented by the Wise Men from the Persia (modern-day Iran), whose coming to Bethlehem is told by Saint Matthew in his Gospel - which we will hear read at Mass today.

Although Matthew's Gospel does not tell us how many Wise Men there were; nor tell us their names, Western tradition says there were three Wise Men, probably because of the three gifts they brought. In the Eastern Churches, however, the number of Wise Men is twelve!



As early as the Third century, they were considered to be kings, probably interpreted as the fulfilment of the prophecy in the Old Testament Book of Psalms - Psalm 72, verse 11 says: "May all kings fall prostrate before him and offer him their gifts."

In the Eighth century, the names of three Wise Men appear in a chronicle known as the *Excerpta latina barbari*: Balthasar, Gaspar and Melchior. According to Western Church tradition, Balthasar is often represented as a king of Arabia, Melchior as a king of Persia and Gaspar as a king of India.

They came with gifts for the new-born child; gifts which would prefigure his future life: gold for a king, incense for a priest, and myrrh for someone who would suffer and die.

Gold was even rarer in the ancient world than it is today, and because of its incorruptibility, people connected it with immortality and divinity.

Frankincense and myrrh are fragrant gum resins that come from trees found in the Middle East. One tree can produce about ten kilos of resin a year. The harvesting methods have not changed in two thousand years - a cut is made in the tree trunk, causing the gum to seep out; it eventually hardens into resin and is scrapped off the bark and collected for use.

Frankincense was the main component of incense - when burned, its aroma was thought to be pleasing to God. It was used in the religious rituals of the peoples of the ancient world. Myrrh means 'bitter' in Arabic. Principally a luxury item, it was used in perfumes, cosmetics and medicine (for indigestion, to heal wounds, as a pain killer...). At the crucifixion, Jesus, wracked with pain, was offered myrrh, mixed wine, but he refused it. In fact, Saint Luke tells us that Christ's body was prepared for burial with a mixture of aloes and myrrh.

Fr McGachey

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK



Monday is the memorial of Saint John Neumann (+1860). Born in Budweiser, Bohemia (the modern-day Czech Republic), a talented linguist, he felt a drawn to help in the American missions. After coming to the United States, he was ordained in New York. Entering the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) in 1840, he worked in establishing parishes and Catholic schools. In 1852 he was consecrated Bishop of Philadelphia. On Tuesday, we keep the memorial of Saint André Bessette (+1937). Born near Quebec, he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a brother. Carrying out the most menial of tasks for more than forty years, he entrusted the poor and sick, who flocked to him asking for prayers, to the care of Saint Joseph. During his life he was able to have a chapel built to the Saint. After his death, the chapel grew into the great basilica known as Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. Wednesday is memorial of Saint Raymond of Peñafort (+1275). Born in Barcelona, Raymond, became the Superior-General of the Dominican Order. He wrote five books of *Decretals* which are now a valuable part of the Canon Law of the Church, and the *Summa Casuum*, which deals with the fruitful celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.



Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord, and the end of the Season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second 'manifestation' or 'epiphany', which occurred when he was baptised in the River Jordan, by his cousin John the Baptist. At Mass next weekend, we renew our Baptismal Promises and have the Rite of Sprinkling with Holy Water afterwards.

RETIRING COLLECTION - NEXT SUNDAY

This will help support the work of the Justice and Peace Commission, an arm of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. I am sorry that this falls so soon after Christmas!

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE..?

After 10am Mass on Monday 12th January, could anyone please spare an hour to help us take away the Christmas trees, the Crib figures etc? We would really appreciate any help you can give.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Will go to the Saint Margaret's Adoption and Child Care Society. Please be generous as you always are.

WE RETURN TO OUR NORMAL SCHEDULE AS OF TOMORROW
Exposition 9.15am, Rosary 9.30am and Holy Mass (Monday to Friday) 10am.

THE 10am MASS ON SATURDAY MORNING

In common with other years, we have decided to take the 10am Mass off the schedule until the beginning of February. The Saturday morning Mass is by far the least well-attended Mass of the week at Saint Bride's. This will allow the parish clergy to take some time off before Lent begins. There will be a 10am Mass in at least some of the other Catholic parishes in East Kilbride on Saturday mornings. Our own Vigil Mass of Sunday, on Saturdays at 4.30pm, will take place as usual, preceded by Confessions at 4pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will recommence next Sunday, 12th January, at 9.30am Mass.

BLESSING OF HOMES IN THE NEW YEAR

It is longstanding custom of the Church to bless homes in the month of January. Father Martin has offered to do that again this year. Remember, our homes can be blessed more than once. Any parishioners who wish to have their home blessed, should speak to Father Martin after Mass, or contact him by email at frmartin@rcdom.org.uk

SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

A heartfelt thanks for your generosity to the Christmas Collection this year. £9,810 was contributed from envelopes, online donations, and the basket collection. God reward you for your generosity and support for Saint Bride's Parish!

200 CLUB

Last week's winner was Jacqueline Stenhouse, and this week's winner is Louise McAinsh. The quarterly winner is George Paterson.

DIARY DATES

MONDAY 19th JANUARY - The resumption of Monday night Devotions to Our Blessed Lady, beginning at the Lady Altar, followed by a Torchlight Procession, the recitation of the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, starting at 7pm.

SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY - The Sunday nearest Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (Candlemas Day). The Blessing of Candles for home use at all Masses this weekend. Modestly priced candles will be on sale after each Mass today.

WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY - Ash Wednesday - Holy Masses with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7am, 10am and 7pm.

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

LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

Thank you for your generous contributions to last week's collection - £2,500. This will help to provide fresh produced and warm winter clothing for families in the New Year.

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, Morag Mitchell.

DECEASED - Peter McCarthy, Flora Broderick, Brian McFarlane, David Blake, Margaret McGregor, John Harkin, Theresa Cohen (USA), Frank Kirk, Mary McFall, John Kelly, Margaret Hannigan, Michael Larkin, Roger Kennedy, John Glen, John Ward.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS, CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES - Ellen Moran, Tom Lochrin & members of the Lochrin, Knight, and Melvin families, Margaret Gibbons, Charles McGlynn, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, Jo and Peter Reilly, Frank and Nancy Corrigan, John McIntyre Muldoon, Alexander Warren, Doreen Warren, James Tollan, Margaret Tollan, Veronica and Robert Andreson, Raymond Porelli, James McAulay, Clive Dowie, Phil and Bett McAulay, Terry Cassidy, Peter, Elizabeth and Philip McAulay, Margaret and James Hendry, John Russell, Christina Farrell, Maria Kochanska, Anna Hendry, William Hendry, Philip Trainer, John, Ellen and Gerard Thompson, Frances and Willie Maxwell, Frank Armstrong, Danny McQuade, Maisie Love, John Love, Margaret Martin, Damian Martin, Patrick Doohan, James McCabe, Nancy McCabe, John Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Josephine Kelly, Gerald Kelly, Tony Rooney, Claire Carroll, Charles Carroll, Dymphna Horan, Margaret Shields, John and Margaret McAulay, David McLeish, Jean McMurray, Shuggy Docherty, Hugh and Teresa Docherty, Eugene and Phyllis Boyle, Matthew Lawler, Kevin Cleary, Jim Graham, the Graham Family, Isabella and Robert Kinghorn, Betty and Cormack Cunningham, Matthew Lormier, Margaret Sinclair McCrear, William McCrear, James and Annie Kennedy, James McVittie, Helen and Robert Hendry, Maureen and Tommy Kilroy, Margaret Gillan, Mary Gillan. Dennis O'Neill, Jean O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill, Catherine Yardley, Mary O'Neill, Ioin Dunn, Shya Pugoy, Nestor Poorsut, Generosa Calderon, Peter, Francis Jimmy and Agnes Feeley, Hugh, Joe, Josephine and Hughie Coll, John and Annie Wright, John and Mary Ann Mitchell, James Stevenson, Helen and William Stevenson, Louis and Ina Lennon, Edward Lennon, Alice Murphy, Rose McCabe, Alice Mary Nisbet, Rose Mary Goddard, Ralph Kurdell, May Kurdell, Noel Kurdell, May Kurdell, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, John McCash, Rose Ferguson, Joseph Ferguson, Jessie Ferguson, Tommy Cartwright, John McGregor, Stewart Williamson, Gordon Cameron, Daniel Oke Oniko, McConville Family, Cameron Family, John McEnaney, Garry Family, Garrity Family, Dominic Saroli, Maria Conway, Frank and Margaret Downie, Paul Downie, Bernard Phimister, David Blake, Cathie Blake, Edward Phimister, Kevin D'Arcy, Bill McLaren, Duncan McSporran, Tennant Family, Twigg Family, Burke Family, Dynan Family, France Burke, Michael Burke, Clare Burke, Rosie Larkin, Kathleen Casey, Mary Brannan, Matthew Lawler, Phil Boyle, Eugene Boyle, Phyllis Boyle, Nora Folan, Rose Folan, Matthew Folan, Sheila Folan, Bartley Folan, Thomas Cranford, Peggy Ward, O'Pray Family, Garden Family, Watson Family, McGee Family, Douglas Family, Margaret Reilly, Patsy McVey, Betty Spicer, Canon Ryan, Canon McNamee, Norah Toner, Austin Toner, Hugh Simpson, Nonie Gilroy, Steven McKinnon, William Connell, May Connell, James Corr, Vera McGinty, Margaret and Robert Purdie, Peter McCarthy, Stewart Williamson, Agnes Stent, Max Jones, Charles Lochrin, Peter McDonald, Jane Ann Lochrin, Darcy Family, Conlan Family, Shaw Family, John and Alice McFadden, Cameron Slorach, Claire Keane, Maria O'Brien, Helen Wooley, Gerry McDonald, Gregory Bell, Former Members of the Teaching Staff at Our Lady and Saint Patrick's Dumbarton who died in 2025, McGregor Family, Roberts Family, McCartney Family, Mair Family, John Cassidy, Shilla and Chris Torrance, Tommy and Peggy Ferguson, John and Margaret McGregor, Dorothy Henvey, Anthony Henvey, James Henvey, Patricia Henvey, Joseph Henvey, Margaret Hopkinson, Timothy Hopkinson, Mary Baker, James Doyle, Jim Doyle, John Doyle, Marie Doyle, Theresa Doyle, George and Blanche Baker, Ken Baker, Stan Morris, Jean and Bill Watton, Alice Dowling, Dylon Affleck, Elizaneth (Betty) Smith, David Cook, McShane Family, Jo Maule, John Maule, Eileen McGuigan, James McGuigan, John and Catherine Crews, Helen McCann, Paul Dyt, Catherine and Hugh Slaven, John M Muldoon, Margaret M Muldoon, Elizabeth B Richmond, Alan Richmond, Eddie Donnachy, Margaret Donachy, Terry Dolan, Ted O'Donnell, Tony Rooney, Jack and Babs Kelly, Joseph Wilson, Catherine Denholm, Thomas Deholm, James Denholm, John Carson, Sheila Denholm, Frank Roy, Martin Roy, Paul Todd, Edward and Hannah O'Neill, Elizabeth O'Neill, O'Neill Family, Frank and Margaret Roy, James, Esther and Mary Roy, Des and Margaret Annesley, Agnes Tyrrell, John Callaghan, John and Bridget McNally, Michael, Mary Therese, Michael and Sarah Keenan, Theresa Hughes, Mary McGinn, William McGinn, John, Rose, Carolan and Kathleen Flynn, Rosemary Farrell, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, James Patrick, John and Mary Kirkwood, May Cheney, David Cook, Andrew, Anne, Drew and John McShane, Bobby Hughes, Joan, Catherine Hughes, Pat Hughes, Mary McKenzie, Margaret McKenzie, Morag Mitchell, Myles Murray, Margaret McDonnell, Michael McDonnell, Maria Rothwell, Josephine Logan, Michael Logan, Patrick and Grace Healy, Joe and Jean Griffiths, Tom O'Hara, Andrew O'Neil, Mary and Con Sweeney, Agnes and Andrew O'Neil, Francis Lynch, Anne Marie Gillen, Deceased members of the McDermott Family, the Deceased members of the Lorimer Family, Ann Spicer, Michael Spicer, Barry Spicer, Mario Tamburrini, Catherine Tamburrini, Richard Tamburrini, Robert Tamburrini, Duncan Mitchell, John Mitchell, Allan Hendry, Edward Decon, Gale McFadden, Nancy McNamara, Charles McCann, Darren Joling, George Thomson, Jean Thomson, Robert McGuigan, Frank McLaughlin, Thomas Crawford, Jim Thomson, Harry Robertson, Jean O'Neil, Bert Robertson, Margaret McFadyen, Thomas and Mary Lee, Elizabeth Murphy, Frank Armstrong, Helen and Peter Armstrong, Betty McCrindle, Jim and Sandra Boyd, Steven John Russell, Anna Murphy, James Conway, Annis Conway, McTaggart Family, O'Connor Family, McDonald Family, John and Mary Clark, Therese and John Wilson, Tom and Maureen Smith, Jim Devlin, Andrew Strain, Charlie and Nellie Strain, Con and Mary Campbell, John and James Campbell, Bernie and Cecilia Kelly, Pat McGinley, Paul Duffy, Owenie McFadden sen., Owenie McFadden jnr., Maureen Donnelly, Elizabeth Spicer, Kathy Boyle, Strain Family, Campbell Family, Boyle Family, Barrett Family, Doherty Family, John Reilly, Burns Family, McGowan Family, Savage Family, Patrick Heffernan, Angela Heffernan, Heffernan Family, Ellen Quinn, William Quinn, Quinn Family, McAlpine Family, Margaret Johnston (née Connelly), Peggy Campbell, Mary Friar, Bridget McGowan, Henry McGowan, Patrick and Mary McCafferty, Cathy Glendinning, Peter Connelly, The Harvie Family, John, Margaret and Gerald Ferrie, Alex and Jane Smillie, Nicola Harvie, Jane Underwood, Ryan Sneddon, Mark Divers, Liam Currie, Trevor Horton, Patrick Naughton, James Naughton Sen. And Jnr., Winifred Naughton, Alex Graham, John McKeown, Thomas McKeown, Anna Cullen, Bernie Cullen, Mary Aiton, Theresa McIntyre, Paul McAllister.

FUNERALS

Michael Larkin - Reception, Tuesday 13th January 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 14th January 10am.

Roger Kennedy - Requiem Mass, Monday 19th January 10am.