



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Twenty-Third Sunday of the Ordinary
Season - 6th September 2026

TO TOLENTINO, TO TOLENTINO...

Thursday of this week is the memorial of a Saint, not so well-known in our part of the Celtic fringe, but beloved of the Italians - Nicholas of Tolentino. There is a well-known Nursery rhyme in Italian that begins "To Tolentino, to Tolentino to see Saint Nicholas..." I think he deserves to be better known for two reasons: he was *peacemaker*, quickly gaining a reputation for making peace in his troubled town of Tolentino (halfway down the Eastern side of Italy). Perhaps we need his intercession when on those occasions when there is an absence of peace in our homes and families, as well as our troubled world! He is also the *patron saint* of Holy Souls in Purgatory: we all have loved ones who have died and who need our prayers. They would benefit from his intercession.



Nicholas was born in 1245, in the town Sant'Angelo in Pontano, in the Marche region of eastern Italy, near the Adriatic coast. His parents were childless for the first six years of marriage. They prayed at the shrine of Saint Nicholas of Bari (+343), noted in life for his generosity (it is from him that our 'Santa Claus' is derived!) When their child was born, they named him Nicholas in honour of the *Barese Saint*.

He was a timid but studious boy, and at the age of eighteen, Nicholas entered the Augustinian novitiate. He was ordained in 1270, at the age of twenty-five, having gained a reputation for his excellent preaching. Famously he is said to have had a vision of angels, who said to him "To Tolentino, to Tolentino" - hence the Nursery rhyme.

In 1274 he moved to that town, where he would spend the rest of his life. While there Nicholas worked to counteract the decline of morality and religious observance which had come about in the late thirteenth century. Moreover, the town had suffered from prolonged civil strife between two groups: the *Guelphs*, who supported the Pope, and *Ghibellines*, who supported the Holy Roman Emperor, both of whom were struggling for control of Italy. Nicholas ministered to everyone, without exception, never taking sides.

Once, when severely ill, he had a vision of Our Lady, Saint Augustine and Saint Monica telling him to eat a certain type of bread roll that had been dipped in water. He did so and made a full recovery. He then began to bless and distribute this bread to the sick and poor. He became so enthusiastic about it, that his Prior accused him of squandering the community's resources. The rolls became known as *Saint Nicholas's Bread* and are still distributed in his memory in many parts of Italy today. Most notably he had the reputation for being a gentle, sympathetic confessor - a real "lamb of the Confessional" to use the famous phrase of Saint Alphonsus Ligouri (+1787).

Nicholas is said to have received several visions of Purgatory and the spiritual pain of the Holy Souls. As a result, he offered up many penances and prayers for them. Once a fellow friar, who had died a few days before, spoke to him in a vision from Purgatory and urged him to celebrate Holy Mass for the Souls there, so that they would be set free. Nicholas did

so for seven continuous days. The friar appeared to Nicholas again in a vision, thanking him, and telling him that many Holy Souls were freed from Purgatory and enjoying the vision of God in heaven because the penances and Masses he offered up. So, Nicholas was proclaimed Patron Saint of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, by the pious Pope, Leo XIII, in 1884.

Nicholas realised the infinite power of having Holy Mass offered for the Faithful Departed. The words of the hymn *They are waiting for our petitions* come to mind "We have made them all too weary, with long delay." How often do we pray for or have Holy Mass offered for our departed loved ones? In many Augustinian parishes throughout the world, there are weekly devotions to Saint Nicholas on behalf of the Holy Souls. Below is one of the prayers that is always said. Why not save it, and pray it every day? Perhaps the Faithful Departed, whom we help to get to heaven, will pray for us, when our time comes to leave this earth.

O Holy Saint Nicholas of Tolentino, whom the Church has named Patron of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, I commend to your charity the souls of my relatives, friends, and benefactors, and all the faithful departed. Through your powerful intercession, may they be speedily admitted to the joys of heaven. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...

Saint Nicholas of Tolentino, pray for us and for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Father McGachey

NATIONAL RETIRING COLLECTION - TODAY

To help meet the cost of educating our seminarians who are preparing for the Priesthood. It is a major expense every for the Diocese – please be generous, as you always are.

There are three men who recently completed the Propaedeutic Course at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca: Craig Paterson (Saint Mary's, Hamilton), Aiden Quinn (Saint Ignatius', Wishaw), and Matthew Graham (Saint John the Baptist's, Uddingston). They will now continue their formation at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome. They will be joined there by Aidan Kelly (Saint Ninian's, Hamilton) and Matthew O'Neill (Saint Mary's, Whifflet), who will be returning to the College after completing the Pastoral Year in the Diocese. Our five men in Rome will be part of the enlarged Scots College Community who will continue to live in the Pontifical Beda College during the coming year. It is hoped that with the sale of the Scots College on the *Via Cassia* having been completed, a new building will be purchased soon and be ready for use next year.

Please pray for our seminarians, and for those who will follow them. It is hoped that several young men, who have been meeting with our Vocations Director, Fr Charlie O'Farrell, will join the Propaedeutic Period in Salamanca in January. **Saint Charles Borromeo, Patron of Seminaries, pray for them.**



NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN

The National Pilgrimage to Carfin will take place today, 6th September. This year's 800th Anniversary of the Death of Saint Francis of Assisi will be marked. The Pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated at 3pm, with the Right Rev. William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow, as Presider and Preacher. All welcome.

TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER - FEAST OF OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY



The Church celebrates on Tuesday the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nine months after the 8th December, feast of her Immaculate Conception. Our Lady was the child of Joachim and Anne, and although the circumstances her infancy are not recorded in the Bible, they are mentioned in other documents, oft quoted by Christian writers of the early Church.

One such document is called the *Protoevangelium of James*, written in the early second century. It describes Mary's father as a wealthy man and a member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. After Mary's birth, when she was one year old, her father laid on a great feast, and invited the priests of the Temple, who subsequently decided that she would be dedicated to God's service for the rest of her life.

Saint Augustine described the Birth of Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Christ: "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley".

If you can, today the end of Mass, spend a moment before Our Lady's altar, and offer her your own birthday gift.

FATHER MARTIN

Father Martin is covering this weekend in Saint Teresa's Parish, Newarthill. He will be in Rome, with Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School, from Monday to Friday this week.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN EACH DAY FROM 9am UNTIL 7pm

DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY - MONDAY AT 7pm

WEDNESDAYS - EVENING PRAYER WITH THE SAINTS

will take place on Wednesday at 7pm, at Our Lady's Altar. Please join us.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A ROMAN CATHOLIC?

Several of you have expressed an interest in becoming Roman Catholic. Our new RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Course 2026-2027, will begin at the end of September. We invite anyone who has been thinking of becoming a Catholic to get in touch with us formally by email: frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

MASS FOR THE SICK - CHANGED DATE

WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK ON THE THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A Ceilidh is being held on Friday 30th October in the Parish Hall. Tickets will be on sale after all weekend Masses from Saturday 3rd October. All welcome. Further details will be forthcoming. Please support your Parish.

200 CLUB WINNERS - This week's winner is Catherine Carr. Please collect your cheque.

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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BULLETIN NOTICES	Contact Fr. McGachey or Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org
SAINT 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, 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, John Paul Quinn, Thomas Finnigan, George Kelman, Ann Marie Kane, Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, Neil McCready, Michael Conroy, Fiona Jane Anderson, Lindsay Sweeney, Robert Ward, Margaret Boyle, Kenneth McEwan, Rosie Maher Law, Stuart Gibbons, Sadie Elliot, Billy Wilson, Marie Quigley, Christopher Bailey, Margaret Saroli, Louise Brannan, Raymund Brannan, Louise MacFarlane, Brendan Darcy.

RECENTLY DEAD - Iain McFadyen, James McGhee, Mary Edwards, Gerard John Pressley, Wolfgang Deitrich.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Hugh McGovern, John McShane, Drew McShane, Margaret Downie, Jim Thomson, Carol McNeish, Sylvia Lamont, Lorenzo De Vito, Antonio Di Vito, Alexander McNamara, John McNamara, Luisa Faccenda, Elio Faccenda, Christina Farren, Maria Kochanska, James McCabe.

FUNERALS

James McGhee - Reception - Wednesday 9th September at 5.30pm. Requiem Mass - Thursday 10th September at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 30th August - £3,015. This Standing Orders in favour of the one-off donation to the Parish or take the Parish. Offerings can be made by which are as follows: St Brides by scanning the adjacent QR code. page. If you pay Income Tax, you parish will receive a further 25 donation. you give.



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a out a Standing Order in favour of Bank Transfer, the details of Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97 or It will take you to a secure web can Giftaid your offering - the percent on the basis of the