



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Second Sunday of Advent
10th December 2023

THE SLEEPING SAINT JOSEPH...

At Mass on the feast day of Saint Joseph the Worker, on the 1st of May this year, I spoke about the statue of the *Sleeping Saint Joseph* which Pope Francis has on his writing desk (pictured) in the small apartment that he occupies in the Santa Marta Residence in the Vatican City.



Since he became Pope, he has spoken often of his special love for the Saint. In fact, the Inaugural Mass of his Pontificate, was on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on the 19th March 2014. He asked that Saint Joseph's name be included during the Eucharistic Prayer at each Mass, after the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

During an Apostolic Visit to the Philippines in 2015, he said that Saint Joseph was his favourite saint: "I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church!"

He spoke again about Saint Joseph while addressing Superiors General of Religious Congregations: "If there's a problem, I write a note to Saint Joseph and put it under a statue that I have in my room. It is the statue of Saint Joseph sleeping. And now he sleeps on a mattress of notes! That's why I sleep well." During the same discourse, he claimed to have had: "a very special experience of profound peace since I was elected. It does not abandon me. I live in peace. I cannot explain".

Continuing to speak about the Foster-father of Jesus, the Pontiff went on to say: "The Scriptures seldom speak of Saint Joseph, but when they do, we often find him resting, as an angel reveals God's will to him in his dreams...". Saint Joseph experienced four different dreams in Saint Matthew's Gospel: he is told by an angel to continue with his plan to marry Mary, even though she has been found with child; after the birth of Jesus, Saint Joseph is warned in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt; while in Egypt, Joseph is told in a dream to return to Israel and then in another dream is told to go to Galilee instead of Judea.

Pope Francis went on to say that: "In each moment of our rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God speaks to us. Do not forget Saint Joseph who sleeps! Remember Jesus slept sweetly under the protection of Saint Joseph."

Since the Holy Father spoke about this pious custom, tens of thousands of statues of the *Sleeping Saint Joseph* have been made. In our Church today, you will find a large version of statue of the *Sleeping Saint* that was gifted to me when I was Parish Priest in Carfin by a regular visitor there. I have blessed several smaller versions of these statues that parishioners have bought from the Stall; I know there are others on order from our suppliers and they will order more tomorrow> If you would like one, then please let Frances or Marie know, or speak to me after Mass today. I would imagine that they will arrive in time for Christmas. A wonderful gift for someone who has everything! **Father McGachey**

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am

CONFESSIONS - Saturday after 10am Mass; 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am

HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Friday at 9.35am

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesday after 10am Mass

HOLY MASS - Monday-Saturday 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesday after Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA FOR THE LAPSED - on Thursday after Mass

THE CHURCH IS OPEN - Monday-Sunday 9am-3.30pm - please note the change of time

ADVENT DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

On the Tuesdays of Advent, we will have Devotions in honour of Our Lady at 7pm. They will begin with a Torchlight Procession from Our Lady's Altar, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, and the obligation to attend Sunday Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve morning stands as normal. So, Masses will be at the usual times: Saturday 23rd December at 4.30pm and Sunday 24th December 9.30am and 11.30am.

24th December 4pm, The Vigil Mass of Christmas, with Organist and Cantor

24th December 8pm, The Mass of Christmas Night, with Organist and Festival Choir

25th December 9.30am, The Dawn Mass of Christmas, with Organist and Cantor

25th December 11.30am, The Day Mass of Christmas, with Organist and Choir

Could I ask that those who draw-up the rotas for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, as well as those who take-up the Collection, to ensure that the Christmas Masses are covered in the usual way, and to please inform me of the names of those involved in good time.

CONFESSION TIMES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

We do not have the permission this year to celebrate a General Absolution Service. No parish has been given this permission. Father Quinn at Saint Leonard's will host a Penance Service with an opportunity for individual Confession on Tuesday 19th December at 7pm

I will hear Confessions at the following times in Saint Bride's:

- Saturday after 10am Mass; from 4pm until 4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass
- After the 9.30am Mass and after the 11.30am Mass on Sunday 17th December
- After 10am Mass each morning, Monday to Saturday, 18th-23rd December
- From 6.15pm until 6.45pm on Tuesday 19th December, before Devotions

Please consider making a new start with God and with those around you, by making a good Confession. It may be a long time since you were last at Confession... Come and experience the healing power of God's mercy.

THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF THE LATE FRANKIE LOGAN

Annemarie and Gerard, Frankie's children, would like to sincerely thank all those who sent Mass Cards and Sympathy Cards, as well as other expressions of condolence at the time of their father's death. Thank you to those who attended his Requiem Mass in Saint Alphonsus' Church, the parish where he grew-up. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 2023

We hope that you will come along to the Christmas Fayre in the Parish Hall next Sunday, even if you do not attend the 11.30am Mass. There will be rolls and sausage, season mince pies and other sweet treats, as well as teas and coffees and soft drinks.

Raffle tickets are on sale for the last time this weekend, before and after weekend Masses. Amongst the prizes are: £500 cash, a Fortnum and Mason's Luxury Christmas Hamper in its traditional wicker basket, another Luxury Christmas Hamper, Chocolates, Johnny Walker Blue Label whisky etc.



We are looking for donations of all sorts of bottles for the Wheel of Fortune and Bottle Stall. We also looking for Ladies coats, jackets, handbags and shoes, in good condition. for the Ladies' Fashion Stall.

On the day of the Fayre, we have two *bona fide* football shirts to auction: one is a Brazil National shirt signed by Pele and the other a signed Celtic shirt. They would make special presents for Christmas!

The money the Fayre generates will be used to help fund some essential work to enhance our parish Church, including new lighting for the sanctuary area of the Church, which we hope will be in place for Christmas.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is James Gallagher. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

CANON RYAN CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Appeal closes today. Thank you for your generosity.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

Can I ask for your help please? I would like to have a big church clean on the Thursday before Christmas, 21st December, after 10am Mass, for two hours. We would like to wash down the benches and kneelers, as well as the other woodwork, along with the altars and candlesticks, and too, to bring the Crib figures from the basement and have them washed. Please bring your own buckets, we will provide cloths and suitable detergents. Thank you.

THE STALL

There is a wide selection of modestly priced Advent Calendars, children's books, as well as a new selection of Christmas cards. There are cribs and other seasonal gifts too. On sale is the December edition of 'My day by day' price £1.00. *The Western Calendar 2024* is on sale - it contains many useful details including Mass times in every parish in Motherwell, Glasgow and Paisley Dioceses. Price £3.50.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

In some parishes it is traditional for the Priest to offer the Masses he says on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for our dead relatives and friends. I will do this at the four Christmas Masses here at Saint Bride's this year. Their names will also be included in a special Christmas Day edition of the Bulletin. These are called 'Christmas Remembrances'. If you like to have your loved ones remembered in this way, then please hand in their names to the Sacristy or the Chapel House, by the evening of Saturday 23rd of December.

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BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or bulletin@sbek.org
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07873 263801

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Patricia Williamson, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Jimmy Waite, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Therese Martin, Lewis Repper.

RECENTLY DEAD - John McConnachie, Chris McBain, Gerard Ernest McAvoy, Oliver McCrossan.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - John Thompson, Clive Dowie, Maria Conway, Noah Repper, Peter Jordan, Alexander Warren, Matthew Lormier, Anne Mooney, Bert Robertson, Peter Berry, Mary Berry, Frank Armstrong, Jane Anne Lochrin.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 3rd December 2023 £2489. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £163,000. You may wish to make a one-off donation to the Parish or take out a Standing Order in favour of the Parish. Offerings can be made by Bank Transfer, the details of which are as follows: Stbrides, Sort Code 82-62-24, Account Number 40500017.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you wish to donate by Bank Transfer to Saint Vincent De Paul Society, the details are: SSVP, Sort Code 82 - 62 - 24, Account No. 20538417. If you are in need, or know someone who is in need of help, please contact John Mullen on 07712 903732.

CATHOLIC TEACHER APPROVAL

Those wishing to teach in the Catholic sector are reminded that it is first necessary to obtain approval from your Parish Priest to show that you accept and live Catholic Faith. For those living in Saint Bride's, this means from Father McGachey. This applies to those about to enrol in the teacher training Course, those about to start as probationary teachers and all those applying for teaching posts (promoted or otherwise) within the Catholic Sector. If you have any questions, please speak to Father McGachey.