

# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Thirty-Second Sunday of the Ordinary  
Season - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - Remembrance Sunday

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## FATHER WILLIAM FINN MC AND THE GREAT WAR

On this Remembrance Sunday, we pray for the millions who died in the wars and conflicts of the Twentieth Century and for an end to war and bloodshed in the world.

Over the past few days, I have been reading in my free time, about Catholics priests, and their participation, especially in the First World War, and what it came to mean for Catholicism in Britain in the years that followed.



One notable priest of this period was Father William Finn. He is believed to be the first Catholic chaplain killed in the Great War, when he fell in action during the Gallipoli (in modern-day Turkey) landings of April 1915.

He came from Hull, and after a period as a curate in the Cathedral, he enlisted as a chaplain and was attached to the first battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, joining them on their return from India.

They sailed from England on Saint Patrick's Day 1915 to join the rest of the 29th Division who were to be part of the landing force at Gallipoli in the Dardanelles. Their responsibility was a beach at the southern tip of the peninsula called Cape Helles. Strategically, it was a disastrous choice for a landing place. The troops were to be landed by means of a 'Trojan Horse' strategy,

which took the form of an old steam boat, the SS River Clyde, that would be run aground. A pontoon, made up of barges towed behind it, would then be anchored in a line to the shore, enabling the men to jump ashore dry and ready to fight.

Given the terrain of the beach, and the inadequate planning of the entire campaign, the landing was a complete disaster. As the men poured off the SS River Clyde into a hail of bullets, Fr Finn was ordered to remain on the boat, but seeing the men being mown down, he managed to scramble ashore in order to minister to the dying. Despite being hit by several bullets, he continued to crawl to wounded and was finally killed while giving absolution to a dying soldier. An eyewitness who survived the carnage later wrote:

Dear Joe, the worst of all was we had a priest who came along with us. He was in the boat; he insisted on coming with us, as he said he would be wanted for the poor boys. They were all calling for him, but the poor priest could do nothing for them. He got out of the boat afterwards and made a great run for the beach, but the Turks got him as soon he landed, for he was hit four times. He died that evening, but he was still asking for us up to the time he died.

Fr Finn was awarded the Military Cross, although many felt he deserved the more prestigious Victoria Cross - this was refused on the grounds that he had disobeyed orders by going ashore.

From the battalion of 25 officers and a 987 men who sailed to the Dardanelles, only one officer and 374 men survived the carnage, and by the time they left the area on 1st January 1916, only 11 of them were still alive.

The heroism of Father Finn was commonplace among Catholic chaplains in the Great War and is the reason that a higher proportion of them were killed in comparison to chaplains of other denominations who were not allowed to minister in forward positions. Frank Finn, brother of Father Finn, built the Sacred Heart Church in Hull in memory of his brother. But there was another response to the actions of the Catholic chaplains: there was a notable increase in conversions to Catholic Faith from of troops returning home 'after seeing how Catholic priests looked after the soldiers during the War'. **Father McGachey**

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### **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-Thursday at 9.15am

**HOLY ROSARY** - Monday-Thursday and Saturday at 9.35am

**PRO-LIFE ROSARY** - Wednesday after 10am Mass

**HOLY MASS** - Monday to Saturday 10am (Requiem Mass on Friday)

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

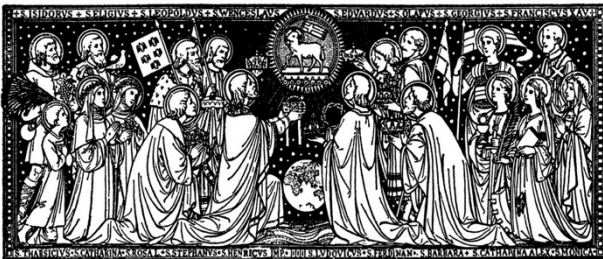
**THE CHURCH IS OPEN** - Monday-Sunday 9am-6pm

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### **DEANERY MISSION APPEAL BY THE KILTEGAN FATHERS**

Every year the Bishops of Scotland allow a Missionary Order, based in Scotland, to make an appeal in one Deanery in their Diocese. This year, our Deanery has the honour of hosting the Saint Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers), who are based in Buchlyvie. **The Appeal will take place this weekend at all Masses.** There will be a Second Collection to support their work - please be generous as you always are.

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### **ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASS**

The Annual Mass for the family and friends of those whose funerals took place in Saint Bride's over the past twelve months, will take place this **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.**

During the Mass, there will be opportunity, for everyone present, to light a candle and place it before the altar, in memory of the dead. We will be remembering, too, all the dead of the parish, priests and people alike. All parishioners are most welcome.

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### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY - BIG HUG PROGRAMME**

Beginning on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, and continuing over the following three Sundays, we will be running the Big Hug for the students in Primary 3 of St Kenneth's Primary School. This will take place in the Parish Hall at 9:30am. Big Hug is a programme of sacramental preparation for the children who will make their First Reconciliation next March. This will run in addition to our normal Children's Liturgy which will take place at the same time.

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### **THE STALL**

Copies of 'My day by day', with a reflection and prayers for each day of the month of November, are on sale at the Stall - £1.00. There is a wide selection of Christmas cards and cribs and other religious gifts too. If you have ordered items, they arrived this week. Please collect them.

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## PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023

The Minutes of the first meeting of the Organising Committee are posted on the noticeboard. Thank you to those who came along to enthusiastically offer their services. If you would like to help, please get involved through the WHATSAPP number listed on the Minutes. We are looking for prizes for the raffle: unwanted gifts, bottles of all kinds, especially wine etc. These can be left in the sacristy. There will be rolls and sausage, as well as mince pies and spiced shortbread, with tea and coffee on sale on the day, a selection of Stalls, Wheel of Fortune and Children's activities. We need your help! Please spread the word! Any monies made will be used to benefit our parish, allowing us to carry out essential work that has to be done.

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## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

The theme this year is *Pilgrims of Faith*, in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year. Our Annual Motherwell Diocesan Education Mass will take place in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Saint Margaret, at 7pm. All are invited to the Mass, especially those involved in Education. A Retiring Collection to support the work of the Scottish Education Service, will be taken-up on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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## MASS TO CELEBRATE THE 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MOTHERWELL DIOCESE

We will celebrate Mass for the Solemnity of the Dedication of Our Lady of Good Aid on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, as this year marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Motherwell Diocese draws to a close. A special board detailing the clergy who have served in the Cathedral will be blessed and the part played by the Diocesan Choir in the Cathedral and Diocesan Liturgies will be recognised as some of its senior members are honoured.

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## MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR PRESENT 'MAY THEY REST IN PEACE'

The Diocesan Choir will present a programme of music and readings to mark the Month of the Holy Souls. The performance will include elements of the Latin Plainsong Requiem Mass with traditional music of the Holy Souls, and the *Requiem* by John Rutter, on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Motherwell Cathedral 7.30pm. Admission is free - all are welcome.

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## CEMETERY SERVICE

Father Dougan will lead the Annual Cemetery Service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November beginning at 2pm at Philipshill Cemetery, East Kilbride, for those buried there.

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## FOOD BANK NEWS

The last Collection before Christmas will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Essential items needed will be listed on leaflets to be distributed next week. Thank you for your tremendous support.

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## MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

The Annual Mass for the Deceased Clergy of Motherwell Diocese will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December in St James' Parish, Coatbridge, at 7pm. All welcome.

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## 200 CLUB

This week's winner is John McGarry. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

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**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
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**HALL BOOKINGS** Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org  
**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, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Patricia Williamson, Jean O'Neil, Arthur Conner, Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahan, Chris McBain, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Tony Jenson, Frank Kirk, Jimmy Waite, Mary O'Brien.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Paul Dyet, Frankie Logan, Fred Stone, John Jordan, Sharon Clancy, Eugene Kent, Ian Hughes, Gertie Gallagher.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Betty Barbour, James McGowan, Madge Curran, Gerard McMahan, Pauline Dawson, Teresa Rodriguez.

### FUNERALS

Paul Dyet - Reception Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 6pm; Requiem Mass Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 10am.

Frankie Logan - details to be confirmed.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 £2504. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £167,000. 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.