



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Thirty-Third Sunday of the Ordinary  
Season - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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## THE MARTYRS OF VIETNAM

'The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians' Tertullian (+220AD)

**F**riday of this week is the feast day of one hundred and seventeen saints - the Martyrs of Vietnam, who died between 1625 to 1886. Among them were ninety-six Vietnamese: priests and laity, and twenty-one missionaries, Spanish and French, priests and bishops. Some were suffocated, others burned alive or mutilated, while other died in prison after being tortured.

Catholic missionaries arrived in Vietnam at the beginning of the sixteenth century. In the two hundred years that followed, it is thought that about one hundred thousand Christians were martyred. Despite of this, during the decades of the nineteenth century, Christianity continued to grow in Vietnam, but this growth was interrupted by the persecutions unleashed by emperors Minh-Mang and Tu Đức.

In 1832, Minh-Mang (nick-named the 'Vietnamese Nero' after the Roman Emperor who began the persecutions in Rome in 64AD), expelled all missionaries and ordered Vietnamese Christians to renounce their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Many people suffered extreme hardship or even death: the clergy were stripped naked and imprisoned in bamboo cages, tied to trees, for public mockery. Some of the laity were murdered, others endured terrible tortures, including the cutting off of their limbs, joint by joint. Their foreheads were branded with the words *ta dao*, meaning 'false religion'.



A Vietnamese priest who suffered martyrdom during these years was Andrew Dung-Lac. Born in 1795, to a Buddhist family in North Vietnam; they moved to Hanoi where his parents could find work. There he met a catechist, and was given not only food and shelter, but a Christian education, and was baptised with the name Andrew. In 1823, he was ordained to the priesthood, and through his holiness and good example. proved the catalyst for many conversions. In 1835, he was imprisoned but his ransom was paid by donations from his congregation. To avoid further persecution, he changed his name to Dung-Lac, and moved to another region. In 1839, he was arrested again, but freed, if only briefly, in

exchange for money. He was arrested for a third time and taken to Hanoi, where he was tortured and beheaded.

Persecutions flared up again in 1847, when Christians were suspected of complicity in the national rebellion. Foreign missionaries, as well as native clergy and laity, were murdered. The most notable was the French priest, Théophane Venard. Born in 1829, he joined the Paris Mission Society, and in 1854, he was sent to Vietnam. Expelled from a province in the north in 1856, he went to Hanoi. However, the persecutions obliged him to hide in caves and sampans (boats). He was arrested, humiliated for weeks in a bamboo cage and eventually beheaded for the faith. His life story inspired Saint Therese of Lisieux to volunteer for the Carmelite community in Hanoi, but tuberculosis meant she could not go. Vénard's body is in his Order's motherhouse in Paris, but his head remains in Vietnam.

In 1862, a treaty between France and Vietnam guaranteed religious freedom in the country and marked the beginning of the end of the persecutions. The martyrs were beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1900. In 1960, Pope Saint John XXIII established the first Catholic hierarchy in Vietnam. Today there are about 6 million Catholics in Vietnam - these are the fruits from the seed of the martyrs' blood. They were canonised in 1988 by Pope Saint John Paul II. Not surprisingly, there was no official delegation in Saint Peter's Square from the Communist regime in Vietnam for the service, but eight thousand expatriates (the so-called *Vietnamese Boat People*) from the worldwide diaspora, represented their catholic countrymen, who not were allowed to leave the country. **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-Friday at 9.15am

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

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

**HOLY MASS** - Monday to Saturday 10am

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

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

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### **CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK**

There is a retiring Collection next week to help support the work of the *Scottish Catholic Education Commission* (SCES). A pupil representative from Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School will read the First Reading at the 9.30am Mass next Sunday. Several pupils will distribute special leaflets at the end of this liturgy.

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### **CEMETERY SERVICE**

Father Dougan will lead the Annual Cemetery Service today at 2pm in Philipshill Cemetery, East Kilbride, for those buried there.

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

It has been wonderful to see the increased number of children and families generally at the 9.30am Mass over the past two weeks taking part in the preparation for First Reconciliation early next year. It has been great to have you with us. Please consider joining us each Sunday! The Parish needs you! My thanks to the Children's Liturgy leaders for taking care of this preparation. We have more chocolates for the children at the end of the 9.30am Mass today.

We intend to take some photographs of Children's Liturgy in progress on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November which we hope to publish in a future edition of the Diocese's *Fontes* magazine. We wanted to let parents and children know in advance.

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### **THE STALL**

There is a wide selection of modestly priced Advent calendars, children's books and Christmas cards, cribs and other gifts on sale. We are waiting for a new supply of Christmas cards to arrive; they should be here by next week, along with the 'Sleeping Saint Josephs'

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### **200 CLUB**

This week's winner is R. Docherty. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

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## THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2023 AT SAINT BRIDE'S

The Season of Advent begins this year on **Sunday 3rd December**. The **Advent Wreath** will be blessed at the beginning of all the Masses that day.

We will pray a special **Litany for the Advent Season** after the Rosary each morning.

On the **Tuesday** 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, a *Lucernarium* (A Thanksgiving for Light), the **Joyful Mysteries** of the Rosary and **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**.

On the **Thursdays** of Advent, we will introduce two short **Novena Prayers to Saint Monica** at the end of the 10am Mass - these prayers are especially for children and grandchildren who have lapsed from the practice of their faith. I am sure we all have some such people in our families who need our prayers.

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER - MASS FOR THE SICK

On this special feast of Our Lady, we will have a **Mass for the Sick**, during which the **Sacrament of the Sick** will be given to all those who wish to receive it, at the 10am Mass. The Mass will be followed by rolls and sausage, tea and coffee, in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

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### DIOCESAN YOUTH GROUP

The next meeting of our **Diocesan Youth Group** will take place today, 19<sup>th</sup> November, in **Motherwell Cathedral** at 7.30pm. The last meeting was a great success, with lots of young people from through to the Diocese gathering in prayer and socially. Please think about joining us if you are aged between 17-30.

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

Our preparations are going well so far. But we need bottles (of all sorts) for the **Bottle Stall**, unwanted gifts and prizes for the **Wheel of Fortune** and any prizes for the **Raffle**. Your support in this venture for **Parish Funds** is much appreciated.

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### CANON RYAN'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Our annual appeal for Christmas gifts and toys for less fortunate children in the **East End of Glasgow** begins next Sunday and will run until the 10<sup>th</sup> December. The items can be left beside the gate to the **Choir Loft**. Since the Church is open each day, the gifts will be taken after each Mass to the **Library**. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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### FOOD BANK NEWS

Please collect a leaflet this weekend with a list of the essential goods for next weekend's collection. This is the last collection before Christmas. Let's make a special effort to help make the lives of the needy a bit cheerier this Christmas.

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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, Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood, Mary Easton, Pat McElroy, Patricia Williamson, Jean O'Neil, May Connor, Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahon, Chris McBain, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Tony Jenson, Frank Kirk, Jimmy Waite, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy,

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Frankie Logan, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Rosemary Lorenzelli, May O'Neil, Joe Peel, Martin Travers (Donegal).

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - John Kennedy, Helen Hendry, Mark O'Prey, Paul Gallacher and all those who died in the Clutha Disaster, Francis L. Moran.

### FUNERALS

Frankie Logan - Requiem Mass, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 12noon in Saint Alphonsus' Church, London Road.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 £2327. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The special collection for the Kiltegan Fathers realised £2,115. The current loan stands at £166,000. 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.