

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for Christmas Day

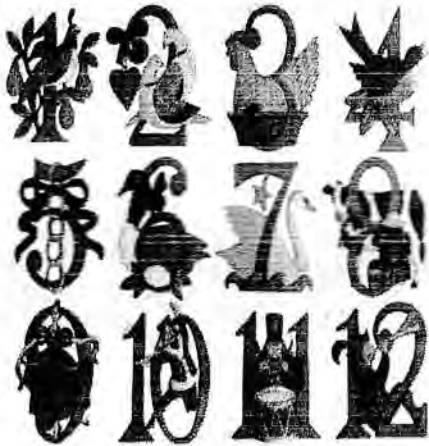
25th December 2023

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

We are no doubt familiar with the Christmas song 'The Twelve days of Christmas'. To most it is a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had quite a different purpose when it was written. Between 1558 and 1892, Catholics in England were prohibited by law from practicing their faith in any public way. 'The Twelve days of Christmas' was written as one of the 'Catechism Songs' to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to Catholicism would mean automatic imprisonment.

The 'true love' mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor but God himself.

The 'me' to who the gifts are given is every baptised person.



The Partridge in a pear tree is Christ. He is symbolically presented as a mother partridge who feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. Remembering the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem as he travelled along the streets of Jerusalem in the direction of Calvary: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not listen!"

The two Turtle Doves are the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

The three French Hens are the theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity.

The four Calling Birds are the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five Gold Rings are the first five books of the Bible known as the 'Pentateuch': Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The six Geese a-laying are the six days during which God created the world.

The seven Swans a-swimming are the seven Sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Confirmation, Eucharist, Holy Orders and Marriage.

The eight Maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes in Saint Matthew's Gospel: Happy the poor in spirit...; Happy the merciful...; Happy the gentle...; Happy the pure in heart etc.

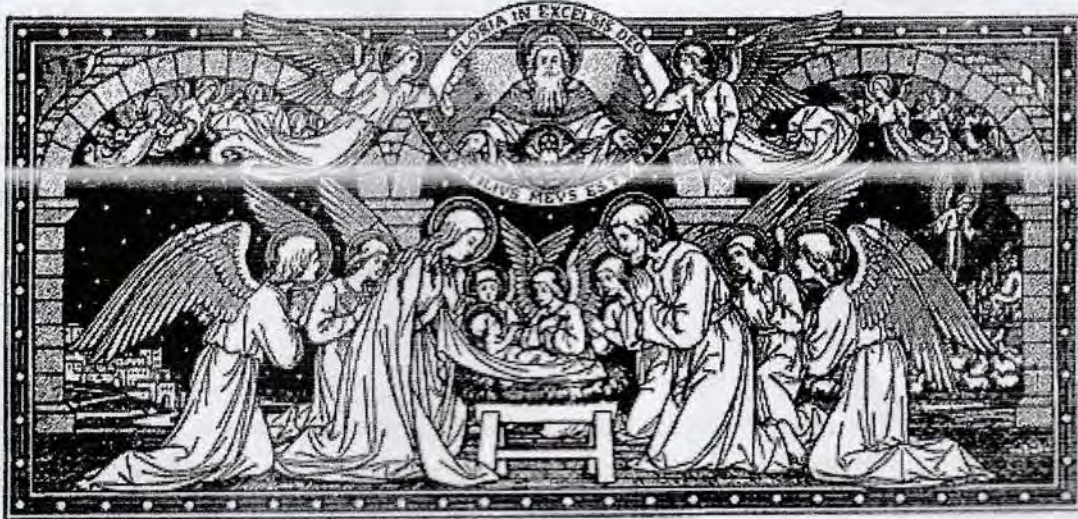
The nine Ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The ten Lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

The eleven Pipers piping are the eleven faithful Apostles: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alpheus, Bartholomew, Jude Thaddeus and Simon.

The twelve Drummers drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, the Creed we profess on a Sunday and Solemnity. **Father McGachey**

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The Mass of Christmas - 4pm

The Mass of Christmas - 8pm

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The Mass of Christmas 9.30am

The Mass of Christmas 11.30am

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26th - FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

There will be no 10am Holy Mass or Eucharistic Service today at Saint Bride's

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27th - SATURDAY 30th

Holy Rosary 9.35am, 10am Holy Mass

There is no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this week

SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Holy Mass (Vigil Saturday) 4.30pm, 9.30am and 11.30am

MONDAY 1st JANUARY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

World Day of Prayer for Peace

Festal Holy Mass 10am After Mass today, bottles of Holy Water, blessed during Mass, will be distributed to those present

TUESDAY 2nd JANUARY - FEAST OF SAINTS BASIL AND GREGORY

There will be no 10am Holy Mass or Eucharistic Service today at Saint Bride's

TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY - SATURDAY 6th JANUARY

Holy Rosary 9.35am, 10am Holy Mass

There is no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this week

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY - THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Vigil Mass Saturday 4.30pm. Sunday 9.30am and 11.30am

THANK YOU AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Season of Advent has been made special this year, by the great attendances at our seasonal liturgies. Particular thanks is due to the people who regularly attended the daily Holy Mass - between 55 and 65 each day, which is very good indeed. As well as the many hundreds who attend Holy Mass here each Sunday; at the most recent census in November, the Sunday attendance was 737 - which is fantastic!



As the Parish Priest of Saint Bride's, I am humbled by the financial support you give your parish. This is very much to your credit, given the financial pressures we all find ourselves under this time. Sincere thanks for your generosity. Your support for the collections for the Loaves and Fishes Foodbank, as well as the Canon Ryan Appeal, not to mention the Parish Christmas Raffle and Fayre, has been truly magnificent!

My sincere thanks to those who are committed to the service of the Parish - the sacristans, servers, church cleaners, musicians and choristers, readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, those who look after the altar linens and sacred vestments, the pass keepers, the Children's Liturgy group, the counters and those who bank the collection, those who assist me in putting together the weekly Bulletin, those who curate our parish website and media platforms, and those who stream our Sunday Mass. Moreover, I should like to thank the others who work in the background to ensure the smooth running of the parish, in particular those men and women who give of their time to work in the Hall; those who administer the 200 Club; my thanks too to the parish Legion of Mary and the parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society, the parish Third World Group, the parish Bereavement Group. May God reward you all!

On a personal note, I should like to thank all those who have sent me cards and gifts at this time. I am truly humbled. I look forward to opening these on Christmas afternoon with my family. I wish all our parishioners a Holy and Happy Christmas, and some time to relax with your family and friends. **Father McGachey, Parish Priest**

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER FRANK DOUGAN

On your behalf, I would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to Father Frank Dougan, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, our near neighbour, who on Friday was nominated by Pope Francis as the new Bishop of Galloway Diocese.

Reacting to his appointment, Father Dougan said "I am humbled and more than a little bit nervous that Pope Francis has asked me to take on this office. I feel confident however that I will not be alone in spreading the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be joining with every single person in Galloway Diocese all of whom have a role to play, my role being just one of them. With God's grace and the deep faith of the Church in Galloway, we can continue to build on the solid foundations left by those who have come before us, stretching back to Saint Ninian who first planted the seeds of the Christian faith in Scotland here in Galloway. My mother was from Ayr, and I spent many childhood summers here, so you could say there is a little bit of coming home for me! But most importantly, we must proclaim a Church where everyone can feel at home and welcomed." We wish him well and promise him our prayerful support.

SAINT MARGARET'S ADOPTION AND CHILD CARE

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

STALL

The January edition of "My day by day" is on sale at the Stall, priced £1.00. The ordered statues of the Sleeping Saint Joseph have arrived and can be collected at the back of the Church.

CALENDAR

The days of Christmas Week are known as **Octave of Christmas**. Like Easter, Christmas is followed by eight days of solemn and joyous celebration which will end on January 1st with the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. **Saint Stephen** is honoured on **Tuesday**. Known as the 'Proto-Martyr', he was the first follower of the Lord to be martyred. **Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist** is remembered on **Wednesday**. Described in his Gospel as the "beloved disciple" who rested on Our Lord's side during the Last Supper. **The Holy Innocents** - the male children of Judea who were slaughtered at Herod's order in his search for the Christ-child - whose feast falls on **Thursday**. **Friday** is the memorial of **Saint Thomas Beckett** (pictured). He was the Archbishop of Canterbury who was killed in 1170 by the King Henry II's soldiers, after the king exclaimed "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?"



CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

Thank you to all those who took part in the Christmas Fayre last Sunday, which, despite the bad weather, was very well attended. A special thanks is due too to the group of parishioners who helped to plan and organise the event. The Parish Christmas Raffle was drawn during the Fayre. The following were prize winners:

- 1st Prize - £500 - George Paterson
 - 2nd Prize - Fortnum and Mason Hamper - Liam McGuigan
 - 3rd Prize - Luxury Hamper - Brian Curley
 - 4th Prize - Johnnie Walker Blue Label Whisky - John Cassidy
 - 5th Prize - Chocolates - Anne Kane
 - 6th Prize - A Calendar by Frank McCabe - Maureen Reid
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SUNDAY 7th JANUARY - SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

It has been the custom on this Sunday to take up a retiring collection for the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland

FUNDRAISER COFFEE MORNING

On Sunday 21st January 2024, after 9.30am and 11.30am Masses, to help raise funds for The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. Everyone is very welcome to pop into the hall for a cup of tea or coffee and some home baking to help raise funds for the Hospice. There will also be a raffle.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Storach) 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, Father Bill Tollan.

RECENTLY DEAD - Elizabeth Spicer (Funeral 4th January at 10am), Kenneth Woods (Funeral in the Heritage Funeral Parlour, Friday 29th December 1115am), Maureen O'Keane.

MONTHS MINDS, ANNIVERSARIES AND CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES - Patrick Henratty, Morison Henratty, Peter Berry, Mary Berry, Georgina Millar, Alexandra McGovern, Lillian Callam, Francis McGlynn, Sarah McGlynn, James McSorley, Jane McSorley, Mary Allan, James Allan, Peter Allan, Andrew Strain, Charlie and Nellie Strain, Con and Mary Campbell, John Campbell, Bernie and Celia Kelly, Pat McGinley, Owenie McFadden sen., Owenie McFadden jnr., Maureen Donnelly, Strain, Campbell and Boyle Families, Helen Spicer, Margaret Purdie, Robert Purdie, Purdie Family, Catherine Crews, John Crews, Catherine Slaven, Helen McCann, Paul Dyet, May Kurdell, Anna Murphy, Tony Rooney, Jack and Babs Kelly, Gerry Kelly, John Muldoon, David Blake, Joseph Blake, Rena Blake, Paul Ridge, Patrick Ridge, Margaret Shields, John and Margaret McAuley, Hugh and Theresa Docherty, Shuggy Docherty, James and Kathleen Dunn, McEntaggart Family, Phyllis (Philomena) Boyle, Patty, Hugh, Mary, Hugh, Kathleen, Vincent, Maureen, Gerry McGorry, Theresa Ramsden, Agnes, John, Rosemary Madden, Jeanette and James McGorry, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, Gerard Kennedy, Margaret-Anne Kennedy, Patrick Leddy, Tony and Susan Lynam, Bill and Mary Kane, Anne Usai, Neil and Anna McGinley, Kathleen and Hugh McGarvey, John and Neil Lynam, James Lynam, James and Bridget McGonigle, Rose and John Reilly, Michael Tracy, Denis and Olive Tracy, Olivia Anderson, James and Margaret Quinn, James Quinn, Harry Findlay, Bernadette Lynch, Rachel Lynch, Storach Family and Friends, Stewart Williamson, Ian Williamson, Papa Robertson, Max Jones, Peter Gough, Tommy, Anne and Thomas Flaherty, John M. Muldoon, Margaret M. Muldoon, Elizabeth B. Richard, Alan Richmond, Sister Sheila Clancy, Canon Michael Ryan, Mary Smilie, George and Annie McLellan, Hugh and Joan McLaughlin, John Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Josephine Kelly, Gerald Kelly, Tom Lochrin, David and Evelyn Knight, Chas and Jane Anne Lochrin, Knight, Lochrin, Melvin and Duffy families, David Cook, Andrew, Annie and John McShane, James and Annie Kennedy, May Smith, Robin Lyon, Mr and Mrs Harvie, Eddy Harvie, Mr and Mrs Callaghan, James McCabe, Mary Agnes McCabe, Paul McCabe, John McEnaney, Davidson Family, McDonald Family, Bonner Family, Claire and Jim Fox, Ralph Kurdell, May Kurdell, Noel Kurdell, Terry Cassidy, Burke Family, Dynan Family, Tennant Family, Aitken Family, Duncan McSporran, Bill McLaren, Dylan Affleck, Twigg Family, James McVittie, Helen and Robert Hendry, John Corrigan, Vincent Corrigan, John Connor, Tilly Coyle, Gina and Francoise Martinez, Frank Armstrong, Gina Muirhead, Jim and Sandra Boyd, Tony Rooney, Phyllis and Pat McCluskey, Isobel Murray, Anna Morgan, Helen and Peter Orsie, Lisa Orsie, Mr and Mrs Dowds, Fleetwood Family and Friends, George MacLellan, Margaret Sinclair McCrear, Davie Blake, Bernadette Mehigan, Cornelius Mehigan, George Phimister, Queenie Phimister, William Magill, Brother Raymond Hynes OFM, Francis Gabriel McNeill, Elizabeth Patricia McNeil, Jim Graham, William, Margaret, William, Jim Graham, Isabella and Robert Kinghorn, James and Margaret Paterson, Cathie Rett, Anne Caird, David Drennan, George Stevenson, James Stevenson, Helen and William Stevenson, Ina and Louis Lennon, Edward Lennon, Alice Murphy, Josephine Maule, John Maule, Eileen McGuigan, James McGuigan, Maria Conway, Peter Reilly, Jo Reilly, Ann Spicer, Michael Spicer, Catherine Tamburrini, Mario Tamburrini, Robert Tamburrini, Gail McFaddyen, Allan Hendry, John Mitchell, Robert Robertson, Edward O'Pray sen., Edward O'Pray jnr., Mark O'Pray, Tommy, Barney and Mamie McGee, Michael Todd, Joe and May Watson, Cilla and Peter Gordon, Pat and Gretta Watson, Baby Daniel, Edward and Annemarie O'Pray, Sarah and Neil McGready, Father McNamee, Bishop Ward, Sister Sheila, Father Ryan, Father McIlhone, Flaherty Family, Gallagher Family, O'Hara Family, Mary, Eddie, John and Madge O'Brien, Ellen Moran, Elizabeth (Betty) Smith, Alberto, Luisa and Elio Faccenda, Don Smeaton, Dennis O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill, Catherine Yardley, Mary O'Neill, Frank Cassidy, Frankie and Annemarie Logan, Charlie Logan, Maxine Brown, Brian Curran, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, Alfonso Faccenda, The Roberts Family, The McCartney Family, The McGregor Family, Patricia Burns, Bonnie McMenamin, Ian McWilliams, Mary Nolan, Elizabeth McPeak, Joseph McPeak, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, The O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, Julia Perkins, Ellen and Richard Mullen, Richard and Cathie Mullen, Joseph Mullen, John Ferguson, Margaret Kelly, Tommy Glencourse, James and Amelia O'Donnell, James and Frances Collins, Bernard and Elizabeth Cullen, Gibb Family, Neal McDermott, Roderick McSween, Gordon Cameron, Elizabeth Kew, Agnes Sweeney, Brian Curran, Anne Campbell, Irene Hossack, Lormier Family, McDermott Family, Mooney Family, Donnachie Family, Brown Family, Alan Paterson, Patrick, Bridget and Sadie Skeffington, Terry Gallagher, Brian Gallagher.