



# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the First Sunday of Advent  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

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## CO-PATRON OF THE MISSIONS, SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

On Monday evening, Saint Francis Xavier parish in Carfin, will mark the Golden Jubilee of its Opening and Dedication by Cardinal Gordon Gray in 1973. Today, Sunday, in fact, is the feast day of Saint Francis Xavier, one of the greatest missionaries in the Church's history.

He was born in 1506, at the family castle (which can still be visited today), in the picturesque village of Javier (hence 'Xavier') in the Navarra region of Northern Spain. When he was nineteen, he went to Paris to study at the famous Sorbonne University, residing at the College Sainte-Barbe, where he lived with fellow Spaniards, including Saint Ignatius of Loyola. As student, he was blessed with the rare combination of academic ability and athletic prowess - he was a high jumper! Francis achieved a Master of Arts degree and had a highly promising career in academics ahead of him - he had been asked to teach Philosophy at the Sorbonne.

It was Saint Ignatius who would often remind Francis the words of Our Lord: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to ruin his very life?" Xavier did not act on these



words at first but eventually he came to understand that Lord was calling him in another direction. He would make a thirty-day retreat called the *Spiritual Exercises*, which Ignatius had devised, and in 1534 at Montmartre in Paris, he took three vows: poverty, chastity and apostolic service, according to the directions of the Pope, along with seven other men - and so the *Society of Jesus*, better known as the Jesuits, was born.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Francis Xavier went on to Lisbon, and in 1540 he sailed to the Portuguese East Indies, where the Pope had made him Nuncio or Papal

Ambassador. He landed at Goa in south-western India, and began an apostolate that would last over ten years.

Wherever he went he lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and humble surroundings. He spent hours every day ministering to the sick, particularly those with leprosy. There were days when he baptised thousands of people - it is said he baptised upwards of thirty-thousand people. Very often he had no time to sleep or even say his Breviary.

Francis travelled through the islands of Malaysia, and from there to Japan, learning enough Japanese to preach a simple sermon and to baptise. He established missions for those who were to come after him.

He had dreamed of visiting China, but this plan would never be realised. He died on the island of Sancian, a hundred miles south-west of Hong Kong. A group of Portuguese sailors, on whose ship he was travelling, were forced to leave him ashore because he was suffering from a high fever. On the island, he was taken care of by a Portuguese merchant, Antonio Alvarez. Francis Xavier lingered for two weeks, praying between spells of delirium, and finally died.

He was buried in a shallow grave and his body covered with quicklime. When it was exhumed three months later, it was found to be incorrupt. It was subsequently taken back to Goa, where it is still enshrined today. Saint Francis was named co-patron the Missions along with Saint Therese of Lisieux, by Pope Saint Pius X. Father McGachey

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**O** Come,  
**O** Come,  
**Emmanuel**

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The Season has a twofold character: a time of preparation for the Feast of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God as a child is remembered, and likewise a time when we look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectation. The liturgical colour of Advent is royal purple

which underlines these the themes of preparation and expectation. Please make a special effort to find time to make Advent a truly spiritual time for yourselves and your families.

The **Advent Wreath** will be blessed at the beginning of all the Masses today.

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

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, a *Lucernarium* (a Thanksgiving for Light), the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. [Please note the change of day from Monday to Tuesday].

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.

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

On this special feast of Our Lady, when we remember how she was conceived without stain of original sin in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, we will have a special Mass for the Sick, during which the Anointing of the Sick will be given to all those who wish to receive it, at 10am.

The Mass will be followed by rolls and sausage, tea and coffee and biscuits, in the Parish Centre. All welcome.



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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-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

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

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### 200 CLUB

This week's winner is **Marjory McGinnis**. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

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## 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.

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## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

As we begin the season of Advent, for the next two weeks our Children's Liturgy will concentrate on preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. After Children's Liturgy on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we will be taking a break, resuming in 2024. Thanks to all of the children for their attendance.

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

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.

Raffle tickets are on sale this week, and for the next few weeks, 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, deluxe whiskey etc.

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!



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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 today 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 taken after each Mass to the Library. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

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## MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

Will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December in St James' Parish, Coatbridge, at 7pm.

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## FOODBANK COLLECTION FOR 'LOAVES AND FISHES'

Last weekend's collection was truly wonderful: a record breaking 1862 food items, £680 cash and £800 of food vouchers. God reward your generosity.

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## CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING

Can I ask for your help please? I would like to have a big church clean on the Thursday before Christmas, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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## SAINT HILARY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saint Hilary's Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10 am until 12 noon. If you would like to help out or have a donation to make to the raffle, our email address is [sthilarysparents@gmail.com](mailto:sthilarysparents@gmail.com)

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
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**WEBSITE** www.sbek.org    **TWITTER** @StBrideEK    **FACEBOOK** @StBrideEK  
**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, Mary Connor (Canada), Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahon, Chris McBain, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Jimmy Waite, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Therese Martin.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Frank Cullen, Monica Martin, Paul Westwood, Justin Addison-Smyth.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Nancy Corrigan, Jack McLaughlin, Pat Power, Josie McDonald, Dominic Butler, Elizabeth Burns, Michael McGee, Jane McNamara, John Timmins.

**FUNERALS**

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 £2477. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £164,000. 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.