



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Twenty-Second Sunday
of the Ordinary Season - 3rd September 2023

CARFIN GROTTO AND FATHER THOMAS TAYLOR

For more than a hundred years, the Grotto at Carfin has been a special place of pilgrimage. In July 1920, a group of parishioners from Saint Francis Xavier's parish, Carfin, took part in the Scottish National Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Upon their return, they decided to build a small shrine, on an acre of ground across from the old parish Church: in September 1920, the first sod was cut and the site was blessed; the next day volunteers set to work, including many local men who were idle during a time of strikes and mass unemployment.

By September 1922, statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette had arrived, along with a tiny piece of rock from the niche where Our Lady had appeared at Lourdes. Over two thousand pilgrims watched Father Thomas Taylor (pictured) consecrate the Lourdes Grotto.

He was born at Greenock in 1873, where his father James, was Head Teacher at Saint Lawrence's Primary School. He was the eldest of four brothers, three of whom went on to become priests: Thomas, Alexander and James; while Henry became the father of a priest. He began his studies at Saint Mary's College, Blairs in 1889, and continued them at Saint Sulpice Seminary, Paris, where he was ordained in 1896.

Returning to Scotland Father Taylor was sent as curate to Saint Patrick's, Dumbarton. Four years later, he was appointed professor at Saint Peter's College, Bearsden and 1915, he was made Parish Priest of Saint Francis Xavier's, Carfin, a post he held for forty-eight years.



In 1893, he had made a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and this was the beginning of his love for the shrine in the Pyrenees: while lecturing in Bearsden he published a book entitled *Lourdes and its Miracles*, which helped to make Lourdes better known in Scotland.

The Grotto was formally opened on 1st October 1922, and through it he was able to promote devotion not only to Our Lady of Lourdes but also to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux; he was in fact a close friend of the Saint's three blood sisters in the Carmel at Lisieux. Moreover in 1911, he was called as one of the principal witnesses to the widespread devotion to the 'Little Flower', as Saint Thérèse had become known, in the English-speaking world when the cause for her canonisation was opened.

Perhaps Father Taylor's most famous book was his translation of *L'Histoire d'une ame* (The Story of a Soul), the autobiography of Saint Thérèse. It was given a tremendous reception by English speakers, as was its successor *A Little White Flower*, with one reprint following another. He had the privilege of being present at her canonisation in Rome in 1925. Monsignor Taylor died on 1st December 1963 and is buried at Saint Patrick's, New Stevenston.

Since its inception, many thousands of people, through their prayers, sacrifices, practical help and financial generosity have helped to sustain and expand the Grotto. Open 365 days a year, the Grotto attract pilgrims from across the country and around the world. The National Pilgrimage takes place today at the Grotto beginning at 3pm. Father McGachey

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am 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 with the Litany of Our Lady of Sorrows

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 - 9am-7pm, except a Friday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

After our summer break, Children's Liturgy will return today, Sunday 3rd September, at 9.30am in the Parish Centre. We have a full programme planned between now and June 2024 including our regular Liturgy, sacramental preparation for children making their First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation and Advent and Lenten projects. Please bring your Primary School Children along! If you would like to join the Leaders' Group, please let Fr McGachey know or speak to one of the Leaders. This does not commit you to participating every week, because we all have varying commitments, holidays and periods of sickness to contend with. Maybe you have a child who already attends our Liturgy Group. Helping out is rewarding. Please consider the opportunity.

TODAY - THE NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN

Praying in solidarity with Ukraine

Please join the Archbishops and Bishops of Scotland in praying for this intention. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, Bishop of Aberdeen. The homily will be given by Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Ukrainian Bishop of the Holy Family in London. The Archbishops and Bishops, as well as priests, will be available to hear Confessions in the Grotto from 2pm-2.40pm before the Mass.

THE STALL

There is a variety of religious objects: crucifixes, rosaries, holy water fonts etc. on sale at the stall in the Church. There are new designs too of many religious cards. If you do not see what you want, or would like to order something in particular, please ask Frances or Marie. Copies of 'My day by day' for September are on sale at the Stall - £1.00.

GIFTAID

If you use the envelopes numbered 44 and 45, could you please speak to me after Mass.

FOOD BANK

There was a tremendous response from Saint Bride's Parish to last week's Foodbank Collection. *Loaves and Fishes* were overwhelmed: 573 food items were collected, as well as cash donations of £170 and £100 worth of food vouchers. May thanks from the Foodbank Team. The next collection will be on the weekend of Saturday 30th September/Sunday 1st October. If you need an uplift of food, please speak to the Foodbank Team.

FONTES MAGAZINE

The September edition of the Diocesan magazine, *Fontes*, accompanies today's bulletin.

THIS WEEK

In addition to continuing my visits to the sick and housebound this week, I will celebrate Mass in Ryan Meadows Nursing Home on Monday 4th September and celebrate a Requiem Mass for Eric Dougan in Saint John's, Cumnock on Tuesday 5th September at 12.30pm.

FROM THE DIOCESAN FAMILY AGENCY

Following two meetings of the Working Group regarding the setting up of a Pro Life Cell in each parish, the next meeting will take place on Thursday 28th September 2023 at 7pm in Saint Augustine's Parish Centre, Coatbridge. If there are any interested parishioners who would like to attend, please speak to Father McGachey.

FROM THE FAMILY OF DAN GRAY

On behalf of the Gray Family, Anthony would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to all the congregation who attended our Father's Requiem Mass, such an uplifting and memorable occasion. A fitting tribute to his sixty-six years in the Parish.

CLUB 200

This week's winner is Frances McLaughlin. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

HOLY MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Will take place at 10am on Thursday 21st September, Feast of Saint Matthew. Please join us afterwards for a light breakfast in the Parish Hall.



THE NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF MARGARET SINCLAIR - SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

The 2023 National Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of Venerable Margaret Sinclair [the Edinburgh woman, who became a Carmelite nun in London] (-1925), will take place on Sunday 17th September, from 12.30pm until 6pm, at St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh. Refreshments and the sale of candles and goods, from 12.30pm until 1.50pm; Holy Hour with Rosary, Confession and Benediction from 2pm; Reflection and Novena Prayers from 3pm. Holy Mass at 4.30pm. All welcome.

FABRIC MATTERS

The new signs indicating 'Saint Bride's Parish House' have been mounted on the carpark wall. The repair and repainting of the window frames of the Library and the Church House will begin this week. As is clearly visible, they are in a state of disrepair, having been painted in the past with water-based rather than oil-based paint. A new hard-wearing carpet will be fitted in the sacristy on Monday, the old one having been damaged in July.

We have two new servers at the 9.30am Mass today, Arlo and Sam. Unfortunately, the candlesticks that they have to carry are too big and heavy for them, not to mention the fact that they are in a very poor condition. We will have to buy two new candlesticks. If any other child at the 4.30pm or 9.30am Mass would like to serve, please speak to me.

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07873 263801

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Frankie Logan, 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.

RECENTLY DEAD - Nancy Kane, Sheila Martin, Mary Gillen, Dan Gray, Sandra Mullen, Derek Fry, Eric Dougan.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - James McCabe, Cathie Hughes, Charlie and Nora Rooney, Danny Graham, Alex McNamara, John McNamara, Luisa Facenda, Tony Jenson.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

For the week ending 27th August 2023 - £2398. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £177,000. 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.