



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for Feast of the Holy Family

31st December 2023

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA

At the end of this week, we honour three saints who are associated with North America: on Thursday, we remember Saint Elizabeth Anne Seaton, foundress of the parochial school system in the USA; on Saturday, Saint André Bessette, the apostle of devotion to Saint Joseph in Montreal, Canada, and on Friday, the young Bishop of Philadelphia, Saint John Neumann, who died at forty-eight.



John Neumann was born in 1811 in Budweiser, Bohemia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. By the time he was twenty-four, he had learned six languages and had completed his studies for the priesthood. He was not ordained, however, because his bishop thought there were too many priests in his country, and he advised him to find a job in the country's Diplomatic Service because of his linguistic skills. John, however, decided to leave for America, hoping to be ordained there. He said goodbye to his parents and brother and sailed from Le Havre in France for the United States. When he arrived, he had one suit of clothes and one dollar in his pocket. Three weeks later, the bishop of New York, the famous John Dubois, ordained him.

John's first task was among the German-speaking Catholics in mission parishes near Buffalo, upstate New York. Priests at that time travelled on horseback and went long distances to care for people in neighbouring towns and villages. People laughed at the clumsy way Father John rode his horse - because he was short, his feet did not reach the stirrups; even children made fun of him. John remained silent, and continued his ministry, teaching Catechism, visiting the sick, and training teachers.

Father John felt drawn to community life and joined the Redemptorist Order: he was the first Redemptorist to make perpetual vows in the United States, and later became the superior of the American branch of the Order. When he was forty-one years old, Pope Pius IX named him the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. Still, some people did not welcome him: they did not care for his accent and his plain style of speaking. Besides these people, John had to deal with a strong anti-Catholic group that was burning convents and schools in the city. He felt incapable of doing his job, and asked to be sent to a smaller diocese, but he was told by the Pope to stay.

John began Catholic schools in his diocese, since he believed it was very important for children to be educated and taught the ways of the faith. In eight years, Philadelphia's two Catholic schools grew to more than one hundred schools. John brought many teaching Orders to his diocese. One of the highlights of John Neumann's life was his participation, in Rome, in the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pius IX in 1854. Through his efforts, the *Quarante Ore*, the 'Forty Hours' Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament was introduced in Philadelphia. He founded the first parish in the United States for Italian-speaking people.

During a snowstorm, on the 5th January, John Neumann died of a heart attack while walking back to the Cathedral - he had been visiting the sick. Throughout his life, he went about his work quietly and humbly, no special honours were ever given him; he was even unpopular at times. Only after his death did people begin to talk about their humble, good bishop who worked so hard for God. He was canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1977. **Father McGachey**

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH

Today, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph of Nazareth. As we honour them, we worship God who shared the life of a human family, and we thank him for all the gifts we receive through each other. We remember today in a special way, those families where there are problems of any kind - we ask for the intercession and protection of the Holy Family.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Solemn Mass, with organ and incense, to mark the beginning of the New Year, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and the World Day of Prayer for Peace, on Monday at 10am.

After Mass today a small bottle of holy water will be given to all those who wish to receive one, to sprinkle their homes with and ask God's blessing and protection.



THANK YOU

Sincere thanks once again to all those who have sent me cards and gifts at this time. I have been overwhelmed and deeply touched by your generosity. May God bless you for your kindness. I wish all our parishioners a holy and happy New Year.

THANK YOU

To John Henvey and his brilliant team who organised the Christmas Raffle and Fayre a few weeks ago for all their hard work in the service of the parish. Thank you, too, to all those who donated items for the event. A total of £5,055 was raised - a brilliant sum which will pay for the gas pipe to be re-laid by the entrance on Platthorn Drive in the early Spring! God reward all those who helped and took part.

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.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



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

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Last Sunday's Collection and Christmas Day Collection realised the magnificent sum of £9,010. Sincere thanks for your generosity to our parish.

CALENDAR

On **Tuesday** we remember **Saints Basil the Great (+379) and Gregory Nazianzen (+389)**. Basil was born into a Christian family in Caesarea, Turkey. He lived as a monk for several years and would write a Monastic Rule, still followed today in the Eastern Church. He vigorously fought the Arian heresy (the belief that Jesus is not divine) and became Bishop of Caesarea. Saint Gregory was also from Cappadocia in Turkey. A friend of Basil, he was ordained to the priesthood, and in 381 became Bishop of Constantinople.

Thursday is the memorial of **Saint Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton**. Born in New York City in the late 1700s and raised as an Episcopalian. She married the shipping magnate, William Seton, with whom she had five children. The loss of their fortune so affected William's health, that in 1803, they went to stay with friends at Livorno, Italy. William died six weeks after their arrival, and when Elizabeth returned to New York six months later, she was already a convinced Catholic. Abandoned by her relatives, Elizabeth was invited to found a school for girls in Baltimore, and so laid the foundations for the American parochial school system. Seton was canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1975.

Saturday is the memorial of **Saint André Bessette (+1937)**. Born near Quebec, he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a brother. He performed humble tasks around the monastery for over forty years and entrusted all those who flocked to his cell to the care of Saint Joseph. During his lifetime, he was able to have a chapel built in honour of the Saint. After his death, the shrine grew into Saint Joseph's Basilica famous in Montreal.

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

This week's 200 Club winner is **Maureen Bonner**, and the quarterly winner is **Susan Timmons**. Please collect your cheques from the Sacristy.

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.

FUNERALS - Thursday 4th January, Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Spicer at 10am.

MONTHS MINDS, ANNIVERSARIES AND CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES - His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, 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, May Cheney, Andrew O'Neil.