



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

7th of May 2023

DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI - SAINT OF THE LEPERS

Wednesday of this week is the feast of Saint Damien of Molokai, often called the *Saint of the Lepers*. He was born into the De Veuster family in 1840 at Tremolo in Belgium, and given the name Joseph at his Baptism. When his eldest brother Pamphile entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, his father had wanted Joseph to take charge of the family farm. God, however, had other plans for him - in 1859 he would follow his brother into the same Order at their house in Louvain, and took the religious name of Damien.

In 1863, Pamphile was due to leave for the missions in the Hawaiian Islands, known in those days as the Sandwich Islands, but could not travel because of serious illness. Damien volunteered to take his place, and sailed from the port of Le Havre in France at the end of 1863, resigned to the fact that he would see his family again.

The sea voyage took several months, and he arrived in Honolulu in March 1864. He was ordained to the Priesthood the following May.



At that time, the Hawaiian Government was determined to stop the spread of leprosy, began forcibly deporting to the island of Molokai of all those infected; in those days leprosy was thought to be an incurable disease. The Church was concerned about the plight of the lepers, and the local Bishop, Louis Maigret, spoke to the priests about the problem. He did not want to force any of them to go, but asked them to volunteer to serve on Molokai for six months at a time.

Four priests offered to go and Damien was first to leave in May 1873. After a few weeks, and at his own request, he decided to remain indefinitely on Molokai. He brought new hope to this desperate place - he provided consolation and encouragement for the lepers; he treated them equally, without any distinction of race or religion. Damien contracted leprosy in 1885, but drew strength from the Holy Eucharist, and would often say that "it is at the foot of the altar that we find the strength we need in our isolation..."

Father Damien died on the 15th of April 1889, having served the lepers on Molokai for sixteen years. His remains were transferred in 1936 to Belgium where he was interred in the crypt chapel of the Church where he had begun his Religious life in Louvain. His fame spread around world thanks in no small part to Robert Louis Stevenson. He was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI on the 11th of October 2009 at a magnificent Canonisation Mass.

You can watch the 1999 film drama about his life, available on Youtube, called 'Damien of Molokai'. It is well worth watching! **Father McGachey**



MAY DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

With the Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6pm. Join us in honouring the Mother of God in this her month of May.

PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am
CONFESSIONS - After the Vigil Mass

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday and Friday at 9.30am

HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday at 9.40am

PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesday after 10am Mass

HOLY MASS - Monday to Saturday 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - Tuesday this week after Mass

NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS - Wednesday at 7pm



NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS WEEK 2

This powerful Novena continues on Wednesday evening at 7pm. It was wonderful to see so many people here last Wednesday, around 200, I estimate. If you missed the first night, do not fear, there are leaflets with the Novena Prayers for the first week on the ledge at the Notice Board. Please take a copy and pass it on. Better still, encourage others to take part. Our Lady will not be outdone in rewarding our efforts.

FIRST COMMUNIONS AT SAINT BRIDE'S

Congratulations to the child from Greenburn School and the first group of children from Saint Kenneth's Primary who have made their First Holy Communion. Thank you to their parents, and to the staff of the schools for preparing them so well. I hope and pray that it will be the first of many Holy Communions during their lives.

On Saturday 13th of May the second group from Saint Kenneth's Primary School will make their First Communion at 10am and Saint Hilary's Primary School at 12noon. Please remember the First Communicants and their parents in your prayers during these weeks.

ASCENSION THURSDAY - HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Thursday 18th May is the fortieth day after Easter and the Feast of Our Lord's Ascension into heaven. It is a holyday of obligation - that is to say, a day when we are duty bound to attend Holy Mass. Masses will be celebrated on Ascension Thursday at 10am and 7pm. Please note that there will be no Vigil Mass because of the Novena to Our Lady Uniter of Knots. I will offer Mass in Saint Kenneth's Primary School at 2pm. Father Dougan will celebrate Masses for Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School throughout the school day.

THE NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT - before the Feast of Pentecost will begin on Friday 19th of May. It will be said at the 10am Mass.

CALENDAR

Wednesday is the feast of **Saint Damien of Molokai** (+1889). He was a missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary who is revered by Hawaiians for having dedicated his life in service of the lepers of the island of Molokai. **Thursday** is the memorial of **Saint John of Avila**. Known as the Apostle of Andalusia (Spain) and the spiritual advisor of Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint John of the Cross amongst others. After studying law at the University of Salamanca, he was ordained to the Priesthood and drew great crowds not only because of his fiery sermons but also because of his compassion and care. His writings have become classics of the Spanish language. On **Friday** we remember **Saints Nereus and Achilleus** (+98), Roman soldiers in the household of Flavia Domitilla, who were instructed in the faith and converted by Saint Peter. They in turn converted Domitilla. Aurelianus, her fiancée, reported all three to the Roman authorities for being Christians. They were martyred for the faith. On Friday we remember too **Saint Pancras** (+ 290), a Phrygian (modern-day Turkey) by birth, who came to Rome at the age of fourteen and was martyred in 275 because he refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan gods. **Saturday** is the memorial of **Our Lady of Fatima**. In 1917 the Virgin Mary appeared to three young children, Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, and revealed herself as Our Lady of the Rosary. She asked the visionaries to encourage people to pray, do penance, and to make reparation for sins.

CLUB 200

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

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

On Monday morning I was training two new altar servers, Daniel and Jacob. You will see them over the next few weeks. If any other young person would like to serve at Mass, please speak to me after Mass today. You will be most welcome.

BUS PLACES FOR 11.30am MASS

A few places have become available on the bus that bring some of our older parishioners to the 11.30am Sunday Mass. If you wish to have a place on the bus, please give your details to Father McGachey, a member of the Saint Vincent De Paul Society or telephone Helen Biggins on 01355 229841.

STALL

A selection of modestly priced First Communion and Confirmation cards and gifts are on sale at the stall. There are other piety objects as well as a wide range of cards.

HOSPICE FUNDRAISER

Kilbryde Hospice is holding a Coronation Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 9th of May, 12:30-14:30 at Stewartfield Community Centre, East Kilbride, to help raise much-needed funds for the hospice. There will be sandwiches, cakes, endless tea and coffee, and the wonderful Paul French singing for our guests on the day! Tickets (£6.50 per person) can be purchased by contacting the fundraising team fundraising@kilbrydehospice.org.uk or on 01355 202020.

I have used the remainder of the generous sum of money donated to cover the cost of the Easter flowers in memory of a loved one to replace them with more fresh flowers.

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07873 263801

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Samantha Beach, Lorraine O'Donnell-Brown, Richard O'Donnell, Ray O'Donnell, Joanne Barrett (England), Brian McKenna, Eileen Biggins, Satya B Metha, Patricia McCormack, Helen Walton, Fiona Docherty, Margaret Deehan, Patricia Williamson, John Lang, Francis and John Reilly, Terry Cassidy, Theresa Fleetwood, Bailey Barnes, Liam Greig, Nicholas Oakes, Gillian Congdon, Liz Knight, Rita Baxter, Jean O'Neill, Ann Dillon (Dublin), Sarah Collins, John Thomson, Nora Houston, Claire (Slorach) Keane, Liz Nicol, Patrick Gahagan, Malcolm Buchanan (New Zealand), Maureen Macrae, Kate Milligan, Drew and Monica McShane, Catherine Morris, Amanda Sherwood.

RECENTLY DEAD - Tony Marzella, Frank Mulligan, Thomas Harkins, Father George Donaldson, Gerald Daly, Barbara McCory, Raymond Murphy, Michael Duffy.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Sheena Park, Bridget Conway, Helen and Peter Orsie, Margaret Anne Kennedy, Gerard Kennedy, Steven Boyle, Antonio and Lorenzo di Vito.

FUNERALS

Frank Mulligan - Reception - Tuesday 9th May 6pm. Requiem Wednesday - 10th May 12noon.
Father George Donaldson - Requiem Mass on Friday 12th May at Saint Augustine's, Coatbridge 11.30am.

Thomas Harkins - Reception - Tuesday 16th May 6pm. Requiem Wednesday - 17th May 10am.
Tony Marzella - Reception and Requiem Mass Monday 22nd May 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

For the week ending 30th April £2649.00. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. The current loan stands at £195,000. 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.