



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the First Sunday of Advent - Beginning of
the New Liturgical year - 1st December 2024

SAINT ANDREW - PATRON SAINT OF SCOTLAND

It must be said that Saint Andrew, whose feast we celebrated yesterday, Saturday, has not always been a major focus of devotion among Catholics in Scotland- within living memory Saint Patrick's Day was a local school holiday, in deference to the Irish origins of many of our ancestors. But strong Catholic support for the proposal to make Saint Andrew's Day a public holiday suggests that we wish to make more of this great Saint and his feast.



Andrew, this 'Peter before Peter' as the Greeks call him, was a native of Bethsaida in Galilee, a fisherman by trade. A disciple of Saint John the Baptist, he is credited in John's Gospel with introducing his brother Peter to Jesus. At other points in that same Gospel, we see him bringing the boy with the basket loaves and fish for Jesus to feed the multitudes. Andrew also introduced to Jesus Greek visitors to the Holy Land who wanted to speak with him. We can think of him as approachable man and ready to approach Jesus on behalf of others.

The manner of his crucifixion at Patras, one of the Greek islands, and his address to the Cross - "*Salvame, O bona crux, spes unica*" (Save me, O good cross, my only hope) - are beautiful but unconfirmed second-century stories. He is said to have told his executioners that he was not worthy to be crucified on the same style of cross as Jesus was and persuaded them to alter its shape. If this is true, it is a remarkable example of resignation displayed by a man who was staring death in the face.

The legend about Saint Regulus (Rule) being inspired to bring his relics from Patras to 'the ends of the earth' (ie. Scotland) and King Angus of the Picts being helped in battle by a vision of his Cross, are less likely still. More likely is that his relics were brought from Rome by Wilfrid of Northumbria (+709) who came north to Scotland with a certain bishop Acca (+742) who took refuge with King Angus I.

Sadly, the relics themselves disappeared at the time of the Reformation - they were probably destroyed or hidden for safe keeping. What remains is part of a beautifully sculpted stone casket which may well have been the reliquary in which they were displayed. Close to the ruins of the great Cathedral Church in the town of Saint Andrews, stands the 900-year-old tower of the Church of Saint Rule, built it would seem to house the relics and allow them to be venerated by the crowds of pilgrims coming north from Earlsferry and Queensferry.

Perhaps one day Andrew will be given his due place in Scots Catholic devotion. Let us ask for his prayers and intercession that our homeland may not forget its Christian roots but that the people of Scotland may rediscover them. **Father McGachey**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2024

Today marks the beginning of the Season of Advent and new Liturgical Year. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin phrase *Adventus Domini*, and simply means 'the Coming of the Lord'.



The Season, which spans the days from Sunday until Christmas Eve, has a twofold character, in which Lord's *two Comings* are remembered: his First Coming as a child at Bethlehem. Likewise, his Second Coming at the end of time, to bring the world to its completion.

The liturgical colour of Advent is royal purple, underlining the theme of preparation. Advent is *not* a penitential time like Lent, but a period of joyful expectation.

One of the symbols of the Season is the Advent Wreath, with its evergreens, red berries and four candles. The evergreens represent the life of God which is everlasting and always new; the red berries represent the blood that Christ shed for our sake on the Cross; and the four candles, representing the four Sundays of Advent, with the rose-coloured candle standing for

Gaudete (or Rejoice) Sunday - the Third Sunday of Advent - the halfway stage in the Season. The Wreath will be blessed at all Masses this weekend.

Please make Advent a holy time for yourselves and your families.

ADVENT AT SAINT BRIDE'S

We will begin to use today the **new translation of the Lectionary**. It will take a while to get used to, and require of all of us who read publicly at Mass, Priests and People alike, more preparation, and a slower delivery of the of Sacred Texts.

If you are unable to attend daily Mass, you can follow the Scripture Readings each day, by getting hold on a copy of *My Day by Day*, on sale at the Stall.

Father Martin will say an additional Mass on the **Mondays** and **Fridays** of Advent, a ***Rorate Coeli*** Mass by candlelight, at 7am. Traditionally celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church is only lit by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world. As a votive Mass for the Blessed Mother, white vestments are worn instead of the violet normally used during Advent. The Mass readings and prayers highlight the prophecies of the coming of Christ and Mary's role in bringing the Light into the world.

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

On the **Mondays** 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.



MONDAY 9th DECEMBER - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

Is kept this year on Monday 9th December, rather than on Sunday 8th December. Our 10am Mass on that day will be a Solemn Mass with organ and incense. In the evening, at 7pm, we will have special Devotions in honour of Our Lady for the feast.

Please join us in honouring the Mother of God.

RADIO BROADCAST FOR 'ADVENT SUNDAY'

On Sunday at 3pm BBC Radio 3 will broadcast the traditional 'Advent Sunday' service live from Saint John's College, Cambridge, at 3pm. It is a beautiful liturgy of readings and congregational and choral music for the Season of Advent. I am sure you would enjoy it, if you get the chance to listen. You can listen any time on 'BBC Sounds'.

CALENDAR

Tuesday is the memorial of the Spaniard **Saint Francis Xavier** (+1552), co-founder of the Jesuits with Saint Ignatius Loyola. In 1540 he was sent to evangelize India, but laboured in Ceylon, the Philippines and Japan too. He spread the Gospel and baptised countless converts. **Saint John Damascene** is remembered on **Wednesday**. He was a theologian and hymn writer (some his hymns survive to this day); for this reason he was made a Doctor of the Church. **Friday** is the memorial of **Saint Nicholas** (+346). Not much is known about this bishop, but that doesn't diminish his popularity around the world, both in the East and West. He was generous, strove to help the poor and disadvantaged, and worked tirelessly to defend the faith. **Saturday** is the memorial of **Saint Ambrose** (+397), who was born at Treves in Gaul. He studied in Rome and later became governor of Milan. While supervising the election of a new bishop of Milan in 374, he himself was acclaimed the bishop. He was only a catechumen at the time and was ordained a priest and consecrated a bishop. He wrote much on the Scriptures and the Liturgy.

THE STALL

Copies of 'My day by day' for December are now on sale at the Stall, priced £1.00 each. New Christmas merchandise is on display, including Cribbs, Christmas ornaments and Christmas Cards, Christmas Books and Advent Calendars....

Ten New Sunday Missals have still to be paid for and collected from the Sacristy. If you ordered one, please uplift it leave the payment in the Sacristy as soon as possible, in the envelope provided and put your name on front of the envelope.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND COFFEE MORNING



The tickets for this year's Christmas Raffle are on sale before and after Mass this weekend. Price £1. Prizes this year include: a *Fortnum and Mason's* Luxury Christmas Hamper, a Celtic football top and a Celtic football - signed by the current team members, a Voucher for the *Bond Restaurant* in the Village, a bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label whisky amongst many other items. Please support your parish: the monies raised will help us face the Winter months with slightly more confidence

We are looking for donations of bottles for the Bottle Stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning which will take place on Sunday 22nd December, after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. These can be handed into the sacristy at any point. Sincere thanks to those who have already done so. There is a meeting for volunteer helpers on Tuesday 3rd December at 6.30pm.

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 next weekend and will run until the weekend of the 15th/16th December. The items can be left beside the gate to the Choir Loft - since the Church is open each day, the gifts will be taken after each Mass to the Library. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you for your generosity and support.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is John Hastings. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, <i>Parish Priest</i>
	Rev. Colm E. Martin <i>Assistant Priest, Chaplain</i> to St Andrew's and St Bride's
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ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07712 903732	

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Grace McHugh, Leo McCrear, Kenneth Cunningham, Margaret Hannigan, John Rimmer, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey. Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney.

RECENTLY DEAD - Phoenix Spencer-Horn, Nancy Spence, Josie McDonald, Thomas Ward, Jean O'Neil, Deborah Carroll, Thomas Mackie,

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Thomas Butler, Gerard Kennedy, Paul Smith, Andres Rodriguez, Pauline McNairn

FUNERALS

Margaret (Josie) McDonald - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 4th December 10am

Thomas Ward - Reception, Thursday 12th December 7pm. Requiem Mass, Friday 13th December 11.30am

Jean O'Neill - Requiem Mass, Monday 23rd December 10am

Deborah Carroll - Details to be confirmed

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 25^h November - £2,515. Offerings can be made by Bank Transfer, the details of which are as follows: St Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97.