



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Third Sunday of the Ordinary Season
21st January 2024

SAINT LOUIS AND ZELIE MARTIN - PARENTS OF THE SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX



Born in 1823 into a military family, Louis spent his early years in a variety of garrison towns throughout France, where he absorbed the sense of discipline that army life offers. At the age of twenty-two, Louis felt drawn to the Religious Life, and wanted to become an Augustinian Canon of Saint Bernard, in the Alps: the courage and charity of the monks, and their famous dogs - the large Saint Bernards, rescuing travellers in Alpine snows - appealed to Louis. The Abbot insisted the young candidate learn Latin but despite his best efforts, he failed. He became ill and dispirited and so abandoned the idea of the monastic life. After a time in Paris, where he trained as a jeweller, Louis settled in Alençon, a small town in northern France, as a watchmaker.

Zelie Guerin was born in 1831. She, too, felt drawn to the Religious Life, and tried unsuccessfully to enter the Sisters of the Hotel-Dieu. Zelie learned the Alençon lace-making technique and soon mastered this painstaking craft. Talented and creative, she started her own business and became successful. Notable as these achievements were, Zelie was yet to reveal the depths of the faith and courage she possessed.



Louis and Zelie attended early morning Mass in Alençon, and from a chance conversation one morning, a romance blossomed, and they married in 1858. Within the next fifteen years, the Martin's had nine children, seven girls and two boys. But delight in their children soon turned to sorrow: within three years, the two baby boys, a five year old daughter, and a six-and-a-half week old infant girl were all dead.

The tragic loss of their children only intensified their love for each other. They poured out their affection on their five surviving daughters, educating them in the ways of the faith, with devotion and piety, and submission to the will of God. They were: Marie, 12, Pauline, 11, Leonie 9, Celine, 3, and their new-born, Marie-Francoise-Therese Martin - a century later people would know her as Saint Therese, and call her the "Little Flower".

Towards the end of 1876, Madame Martin was diagnosed with breast cancer. Discovered too late, it was inoperable, and six months later, she was dead. Therese was only four and half years old. It was at this time that the family moved to Lisieux, and the five daughters began to enter the Religious Life. The last years of Louis life were marked by several health problems: a nervous break-down with a long hospitalisation in Caen, where he filled those around him with admiration and respect. Returning to Lisieux he was paralyzed and almost unable to speak, he died peacefully in July 1894.

In 2008, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared inexplicable by science the healing of Pietro Schiliro, of Monza, Italy. Born in 2002, Pietro had suffered from a serious

respiratory condition. The unexpected healing came after a novena to Louis and Zelig Martin. Pope Benedict XVI approved the miracle of Pietro's healing, accomplished by God through the intercession of Martins.

Louis and Zelig Martin were made saints by Pope Francis on 18th October 2015. With Saint Isidore of Madrid and Saint Maria de la Cabeza, they are the only married couples honoured as Saints by the Church. Father McGachey

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 to Friday 10am

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

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA FOR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN - Thursday after Mass

THE CHURCH IS OPEN - Monday-Sunday 9am-3pm



THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY - FEAST OF SAINT BRIDE - OUR PATRONESS

To mark the feast day of the Fifth century Irish Saint, Bride, who is Patroness of our Parish, we will celebrate a Festal Mass, with organ and incense, at 10am. All most welcome to attend. Please join us in the Hall afterwards for rolls and sausage, biscuits and tea and coffee.

FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

This Feast falls on the fortieth day after Christmas and commemorates how the infant Jesus was presented by Mary and Joseph in the Temple in Jerusalem, and met by the elderly Simeon and Anna.

For centuries, it has been the day for blessing the candles used in the Church; it is sometimes called Candlemas Day. The beautiful ceremony will take place at the beginning of the 10am Mass today, and will be followed by a short candlelight procession around the Church and sung Mass, with organ and incense. Please join us if you can for this beautiful Feast.



We will bless candles for use in our homes at each of the Sunday Masses, 3rd and 4th February. These candles, modestly priced, may be purchased, if so desired. Our faith teaches us that every Catholic home should have at least two blessed candles for use when the Blessed Sacrament is brought to someone sick or housebound, for the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick, to burn in the presence of a corpse - as a mark of vigil and respect - and at times of danger, blessing or family prayers. Do you have blessed candles at home?

FUNDRAISER COFFEE MORNING - TODAY

Today, 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

On Sunday 28th January at the 9.30am Mass, there will be a Commitment Service for the children who will be making their First Reconciliation (Primary 3) and First Communion (Primary 4) over the next few months, so there will be no Children's Liturgy next Sunday.

On Sunday 4th February, Children's Liturgy will take place in the Parish Centre at 9.30am. We will also commence a programme of Sacramental preparation for children making their First Communion this year. This is a 4-week programme over the four Sundays in February and will also take place in the Parish Centre at 9:30am.

CALENDAR



Wednesday is the memorial of the Bishop of Geneva, **Saint Francis de Sales (+1622)**. A beloved phrase of his was "A spoonful of honey, does more good than a barrelful of vinegar", that is to say, small kindnesses go a long way in doing good and bringing about happiness

Thursday is **Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul**. He became a bitter persecutor of Christians. While on his way to Damascus, he was converted by apparition of Christ. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He died in Rome in 66AD.

Friday is the feast of **Saint Timothy (+ 97)** and **Saint Titus (+96)**. Timothy, born in Galatia (Turkey) he was baptised by Saint Paul. He became bishop of Ephesus, where he was stoned to death thirty years after Saint Paul's martyrdom, for having denounced the worship of the goddess Diana. Saint Titus was a convert from paganism, Paul made him bishop of Crete, a difficult charge because of the character of the inhabitants, who did not like him because of his youth.

200 CLUB

Last week's 200 Club winner was Margaret Hendry, and this week's winner is Stella Brylka. Please collect your cheques from the Sacristy.

DIARY DATES

WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY - Ash Wednesday - Holy Masses with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7am, 10am and 7pm.

TUESDAY 20th FEBRUARY - Annual Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots at 7pm, with Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction. And on the eight subsequent Wednesdays. **Please note the change of day, from Wednesday to Tuesday.**

THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY - Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.

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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 McMahan, Chris McBain, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Jimmy Waite, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Father Bill Tollan.

RECENTLY DEAD - Rosa Maria Mesa Moreno, John Ross, John Russell, Margaret Toner, John Shearer, Sarah Tierney,

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Josephine Maule, Lynn Toner, Gerry Buchanan, Frances Smith, James Hunter, Kathleen and James Dunn, Charles Lochrin, Peter McDonald.

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 7th January 2024 £2467. Sunday 14th January 2024 - no figure available. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish.

The current loan stands at £159,000 - repayments are temporarily suspended to allow essential work to be carried out.

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.