



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December 2024

'TO GO IN HEART AND MIND, EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM'

For the past thirty years or so, on Christmas Eve afternoon, I have tried to make time to listen world's most famous carol service: the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* from King's College, Cambridge, broadcast live on BBC Radio Four at 3pm.

King's College was Roman Catholic in its origin: it was founded, along with its sister college at Eton, in 1441 by King Henry VI. The King asked that Masses be offered there every day, along with other religious services, and that a boys' choir be formed to sing at these liturgies.

The first *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* was held at King's College on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Rev. Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four had been appointed Dean of the College. Milner-White had experienced the ravages of the First World War, serving as a Chaplain at



the Western Front for four years. I don't suppose we can truly imagine the effects of the First World War upon the people of Britain: nine hundred thousand Britons died (three times as many as would be killed in the Second World War); these experiences convinced Milner-White that a more imaginative style of liturgy was needed.

Except for a lucky handful of courtesy ticket holders, everyone in the congregation has waited for hours, or even days, to spend ninety minutes at the Service. Around six hundred people are seated in the chapel, with millions listening on the radio around the world.

The service was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928, and has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War. Today, as well as being broadcast here in the UK, the BBC World Service broadcast it via shortwave and the internet. The broadcasts have become part of Christmas for many who live far from Cambridge, with many listening at home, busy about their own Christmas preparations.

Since 1919 the service has always begun with the carol 'Once in royal David's city', with the opening verse being sung by a boy treble. Several choristers train to perform the solo, but the boy who will sing it is only told a couple of minutes before the service starts, so he doesn't get too nervous! The *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* has nine Bible readings (or Lessons), that tell the Christmas story, with two carols between each reading.

The backbone of the service is, as its opening prayer suggests: 'the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'. The true meaning of the *Festival* is still found by those who in faith, 'go in heart and mind, even unto Bethlehem' as the opening prayer concludes, and who allow themselves to be moved once more by the greatest story ever told, that God's Son became one of us, so that we could become God's sons and daughters.

If you get the chance, listen to the *Festival* live on Radio Four. I am sure you will enjoy it. **Father McGachey**

TODAY, SUNDAY, THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING AFTER THE 9.30am AND 11.30am MASSES

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the two morning Masses today for Second Annual Christmas Coffee Morning. If you go to the Vigil Mass, please consider coming back in the morning for the Coffee Morning.

Enjoy some festive eats with hot tea or coffee or soft drink and a hot sausage roll and cake for £3.00.

There will be a quality Bottle Stall: tickets priced 50p each or £2.00 for a strip of five.

Children's activities are free of charge and include face painting, temporary tattoos, snakes and ladders, amongst many other activities, including making reindeer lollipops, pin Rudolph's nose on his face...

The tickets for this year's Christmas Raffle are on sale in the Hall, price £1 each.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

We would like to have a big Church clean on Monday morning, beginning at 11.30am (we have a funeral that morning - so it cannot start earlier) for two hours. We would like to wash down the benches and kneelers, as well as the other woodwork, along with the altars and candlesticks, and bring the Crib figures from the basement and have them washed. We would like to position the Crib and Christmas Trees on Monday morning too, since there will be no 10am Mass on Christmas Eve. Men and women, young and old, are needed to help that day, and would be made most welcome. Please bring your own buckets, we will provide cloths and suitable detergents. Thank you for your assistance.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

In some parishes it has been the tradition for the parish clergy to offer the Masses they say on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the dead relatives and friends of the parishioners who hand in their names. Both priests will do this at the five Christmas Masses here at Saint Bride's this year. Their names will also be included in a special Christmas Day edition of the Bulletin. These are called 'Christmas Remembrances'. If you like to have your loved ones remembered in this way, then please hand in their names to the Sacristy or the Chapel House, by the evening of Monday 23rd of December at 6pm.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

You should find with your bulletin today the traditional 'Christmas Collection' envelope. This was one of the old 'Quarterly Collections' of the past. This income from this Collection is used to help support the Parish's daily liturgical life, the costs of heating and lighting the Church, which are very considerable (combined, they were almost £3,000 in November), as well as looking after the general fabric of the Church properties.

We are fortunate in this Parish not to have a weekly second collection, as many other parishes do. Therefore, this the only time, apart from Easter, when we ask for a little extra help. But please, give only if you can afford to give, because of the cost-of-living crisis and

the financial demands that we are all under at this time. If you are a member of the Giftaid scheme, then please mark as the envelope 'Giftaid' and add your blue envelope number or write your name on the envelope. Thank you very much for your continued support of Saint Bride's. It is much appreciated and will help us face the new year with more confidence.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE

No 10am Mass on Christmas Eve morning

Vigil Mass of Christmas, with incense, organ and cantor, 4pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas, with incense, organ and choir, 8pm

Midnight Mass of Christmas, **by candlelight**, with incense, with organ and cantor
12 o'clock midnight

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

Dawn Mass of Christmas with incense, organ and cantor 9.30am

Day Mass of Christmas with incense, organ and cantor 11.30am

THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER

There will be no Holy Mass today at Saint Bride's

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER AND SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Holy Mass at 11am. No Exposition or Rosary on these days

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Confessions at 4pm-4.20pm; Vigil Mass 4.30pm

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Holy Mass 9.30am and 11.30am

MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER AND TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Holy Mass 11am. No Exposition or Rosary on these days

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Holy Mass, with incense, organ and cantor at 11am

After Mass Holy Water will be distributed for you to sprinkle your homes

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
Rev. Colm E. Martin *Assistant Priest, High School Chaplain*

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HALL BOOKINGS Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org

BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org

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, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey. Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Rev. Fr. Bill Tollan MHM, Raymind Porrelli,

RECENTLY DEAD - Jean O'Neill, Thomas Kilroy, Baby Jackov Golmsic, Anne Marie Flynn,

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - John M. Muldoon, Jo Maule, John Maule, Eileen McGuigan, James McGuigan, Eleanor Stirling, Alyson Foley, John Corrigan, Vincent Corrigan, Margaret Sinclair McCrear, Catherine Slaven, Catherine Crews,

FUNERALS

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

Thomas Kilroy - Requiem Mass, Saturday 28th December 10am.

Bernadette Ward - Requiem Mass, Tuesday 7th January 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 15th December - £2,800. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. 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: St Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97.