

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for Palm Sunday

24th March 2024



THE EASTER TRIDUUM

A LETTER FROM FATHER MCGACHEY

Dear Parishioners,

If there were three days when Roman Catholics should want to go to Church to pray, they are: **Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.**

They celebrate the most sacred mysteries of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord - the most important days in the Church's Calendar.

Please make it a priority to go to Church to celebrate these three days this year. Reserve the time! Rearrange your schedule if necessary! Suspend errands or jobs around the house! Drop everything! And come to Church!

Plan to attend the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on Holy Thursday, to honour, the Holy Eucharist which was instituted at the Last Supper. And to pray for your Priests, who pray for you, God's Holy People, five times every day, and who despite their limitations and weaknesses, try to serve you as best they can. This is a beautiful Mass - make the effort to be there!

On Good Friday, to **Commemorate the Passion and Death of Our Lord.**

On Holy Saturday, for the **Great Easter Vigil**, celebrating the resurrection, when Christ conquered Death with Life.

Enter the mystery of these three Holy Days at Saint Bride's!

Father McGachey, Parish Priest

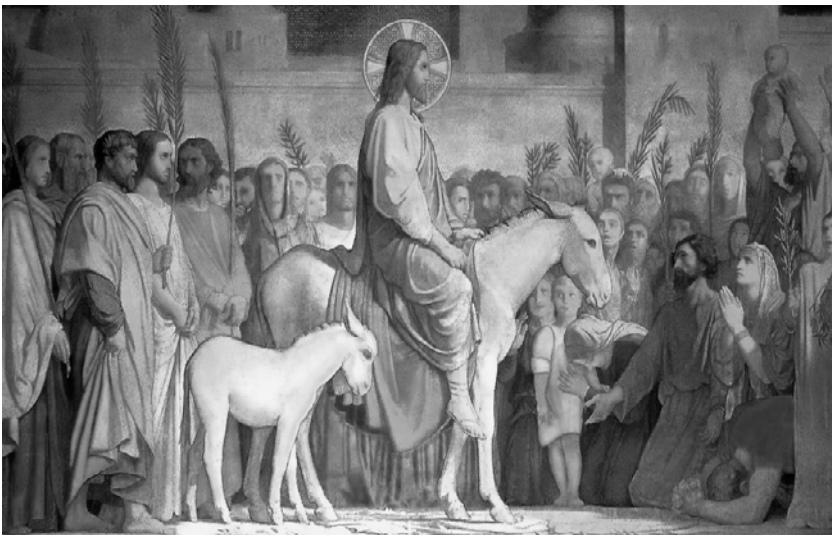
PALM SUNDAY - DOMINICA IN PALMIS

Today is Palm Sunday (*Dominica in Palmis*) and the beginning of Holy Week. This Sunday is synonymous with the blessing and carrying in procession of palm branches in imitation of those carried by the Hebrew people who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem.

In the ancient world palm branches were a sign of peace and victory; they were carried by Romans and Greeks in their great state processions, and often used as adornments.

In the Holy Land, as in most parts of the Middle East, the type of palm tree that grows is called in Latin *Phoenix Dactylifera*, better known to us today as the Date Palm, from which succulent dates are harvested. These trees apparently grow to heights of eighty feet, although forty feet is more common, and they yield dates suitable for eating six years after they have been planted; they continue to produce fruit for around one hundred years. Its trunk is straight, tall and unbroken, terminating in a crown of fronds.

As its Latin name indicates, palms were associated with the mythical bird, the Phoenix, because it was thought that the bird would land on the fronds of this majestic tree, then combust in flames, and from the ashes of the old bird a new bird would rise through a kind of regeneration. For obvious reasons the early Christians came to associate the *Phoenix Dactylifera* with Christ, who rose from death to new life. *Dactylifera* simply means 'date bearing'.



Many familiar Biblical places have a connection with palm trees: Jericho, for example, was known as the "city of palm trees". Bethany, where Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived, means the "house of dates". Phoenicia, mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, is in all probability derived from the Greek word for palm. In the Book of Psalms, Psalm 92, the familiar comparison is made: "The

righteous shall flourish like the palm tree." In the Book of Revelation, the saints are described in heaven as: "clothed with white robes and with palms in their hands." Palms became symbol of martyrdom in the early Church.

Blessed palms are sacramentals. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, sacramentals are: "sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church." Other sacramentals include relics, holy oils, holy water, a rosary etc. They should therefore be treated with respect and given a place of honour in our homes. **Father McGachey**



HOLY WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S 2024

PALM SUNDAY - NEXT SUNDAY

Holy Masses with the Blessing of Palms at Vigil 4.30pm, Sunday 9.30am and 11.30am

Confessions before the Vigil Mass from 4pm-4.20pm and after each Mass for 30 minutes

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

The Church opens at 6.30am and closes at 6pm (Monday and Wednesday)

Holy Mass 7am, followed by Confessions

Stations of the Cross 9.35am

Holy Mass 10am followed by Confessions

Tuesday - Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots, with Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction at 7pm, followed by Confessions

HOLY THURSDAY

Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am

The Chrism Mass in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Good Aid, Motherwell, 11.30am with the Renewal of Priestly Commitment and Blessing of the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick, and the Consecration of the Oil of Chrism

7pm Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose

10pm 'At Gethsemane' - a Special Service for Holy Thursday with Night Prayer of the Church at the Altar of Repose

GOOD FRIDAY

10am Morning Prayer of the Church, followed by Confessions

3pm Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, Collection for the Holy Places and Holy Communion

7pm Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, Collection for the Holy Places and Holy Communion

HOLY SATURDAY

10am Morning Prayer of the Church, followed by Confessions

6.30pm The Great Easter Vigil, with The Liturgy of Light, of the Word, of Baptism and the Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Mass of the Resurrection with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises at 9.30am and 11.30am. Easter Water will be distributed after Holy Mass for you to bless your home

EASTER REMEMBRANCES

If you would like your dead relatives and friends to be remembered at the three Easter Masses at Saint Bride's, then please hand them in by Holy Thursday evening. I will offer these Masses for them, and their names will feature in the special Easter Sunday Bulletin.

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS

Will be taken-up today at all Masses.

200 CLUB

200 Club winner is Carol Lipton. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

WE CONTINUE OUR NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS ON TUESDAY EVENING

with Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm in the Parish Church. If you could not manage last week, there are copies of the fifth week's prayers below the notice board at the back of the church. "In this unfailing novena Our Lady comes to untie the knots of our life." *Pope Francis*



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

I would like to invite all our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, 28th March, to renew their commitment to this Ministry.

STALL

A selection of Easter Cards and Easter Mass Bouquet Cards are available from the Stall at the back of the Church. There is also a selection of statues, including the Sleeping Saint Joseph and Our Lady, Untier of Knots, as well as First Communion and other gifts. Please have a look! If there is anything you would like and do not see, please speak to Marie or Frances.

Copies of 'My day by day' for the Easter Season are on sale priced £1.00 each. Please place all monies in the wall-box marked 'Stall'.

CLUB 200

Firstly, thank you for your continued support of the Parish through the Club 200. It is much appreciated! For those who pay contributions on a 6-monthly basis, the amount due is £30 and falls due on 1 April 2024.

Over time, this has fallen, so if you are not currently a member, this would be a good time to join. You can contribute by cash, cheque or standing order. The contribution amount is £5 per month (standing order), £30 for 6 months, or £60 for a year paid by cash or cheque. If you are interested, please speak to Father McGachey about a form to complete.

Those wishing to pay by cheque, should make their cheque payable to 'St Bride's Club 200'. Cheques can be mailed to St Bride's RC Church, Whitemoss Avenue, East Kilbride, G74 1NN or handed in to the Chapel House or Sacristy. Please do not send cash through the post. Envelopes with cash can be handed in to the Chapel House or Sacristy. Please mark Club 200 and your name on the envelope. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be a special Children's Passion on Good Friday in the Hall at 3pm, the same time as the Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion in the Church. The children will re-enact the Passion and there will be a Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion for older children as well as related activities. The children will remain in the Hall until collected by their parents at the end of the Church service.

There will be no Children's Liturgy over the Easter school break. Children's Liturgy will return on Sunday 21st April.

We are continuing our programme of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation with the children of Primary 7 at St Kenneth's School. The programme will continue over the remaining Sundays of March. We will also have our regular Children's Liturgy for other Primary School children at the same time. Please pray for these children and their parents.

GOOD FRIDAY - IS A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

SCIAF LENTEN ALMS BOXES

Please return these by the end of the week, either to the porch or the sacristy.

CONFESSIONS IN HOLY WEEK



I will offer individual Confessions after each of the Sunday Masses; after the 7am and 10am Masses in the morning, Monday to Wednesday; on Tuesday evening after the Novena. There are two additional opportunities on Good Friday and Holy Saturday morning. Please use these opportunities to put things right with God and experience the healing of this wonderful Sacrament.

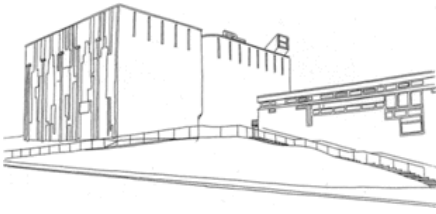
CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE...?

Could you spare an hour on the Wednesday of Holy Week to help me wash down the benches after 10am Mass? The Main Altar, Our Lady's Altar and the Baptismal Font are also in need of some elbow grease - would you help to wash these down? If you can, I would love to see you! It may be an idea to bring your own bucket since there does not seem to be enough to go round. Cloths and suitable detergents will be provided.

My sincere thanks to the small group of ladies who keep the Church spick and span all year round for all their hard work.

THE SAINT PATRICK'S EVE CHARITY DANCE

Was a great success. Approximately £1,200 was raised for Sr Eleanor in Nairobi and Sr Eunice in Mutare Zambia. Many thanks to the band who took no fee, to the hall convenor for not charging for the hall, to the hard-working bar staff, and to all who came and made it a joyous event. Thanks also to those who donated raffle prizes.



THE EASTER COLLECTION

You should find with your bulletin today the traditional 'Easter Collection' envelope. This income from this Collection is used to help support the Parish's daily liturgical life, the costs of heating and lighting the Church (last month

our bill was £2,250), as well as looking after the general fabric of the properties.

We are lucky not to have a weekly second collection. This is not the case in many other parishes. Therefore, this the only time, apart from Christmas, when we ask for a little extra help. Please give what you can afford. Thank you very much!

If you are a member of the Giftaid scheme, then please mark as 'Giftaid' and add your name or number.

GIFT AID

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We are almost at the end of the Financial Year, and those of you who use collection envelopes have just about finished your booklets. New envelopes will be delivered to your homes over the next few weeks.

There are lots of people coming to Mass at the weekend at Saint Bride's. And when I empty the collection bags on a Sunday, there are lots of high value notes. I often wonder to myself: how many of these contributions could be Giftaided? I would encourage you to think seriously about joining the Giftaid Scheme - particularly our younger parishioners. It costs you absolutely nothing - the only qualification is that you pay Income Tax. I think, too, that some of you may believe that you are already signed-up to the Giftaid scheme, and in reality you are not. Please check with me if you are in doubt.

This is a very important source of income for the parish, since for every pound you contribute to the collection, we can claim 25p from the Government. Money for nothing! Last year we earned almost £21,000 from your contributions. With so much work to be done around the Church and Presbytery, this will help us face these tasks with more confidence.

Forms are available on the large table beyond Saint Anthony's statue today, if you would like to sign-up. Leave them in the sacristy as soon as possible. You can choose to make your contribution by using envelopes, or, if you prefer, to give your weekly offerings through Bank Standing Order. Perhaps you wish to increase your donation to the Church. If you have any questions, please speak to me, I will be happy to help! Sincere thanks for your continued generosity to Saint Bride's. God reward you!

GOOD FRIDAY WALK - THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Join the Legion of Mary on Good Friday morning, as we walk, visiting all four Catholic Churches in East Kilbride. Throughout the walk we will pray the mysteries of the Rosary, also spending time walking in silent prayer. We stop at each of the churches to pray the Stations of the Cross. The walk begins at St Vincent de Paul's Church at 9am, followed by Our Lady of Lourdes, St Bride's, and finishing the walk at St Leonard's church around Midday. Please come and join us by walking all or part of the way. Draw close to Jesus in this beautiful prayerful Good Friday walk.

SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM AND THE GREAT WEEK

Sandwiched between the feasts of Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph, on the 18th of March, is the memorial of a saint who deserves to be better known, and to whom we owe a great deal: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem.



Little is known of his early life, save that he was born in Jerusalem around 315, and that his parents, who were Christian and wealthy, provided him with a good education. Ordained by Bishop Maximus, he was given the responsibility of preparing catechumens for Baptism: eighteen of his pre-baptismal discourses (*catecheses*), and five post-baptismal discourses (*mystagogia*), survive; they provide us with a snapshot of the theology and ritual of the time.

When Cyril was growing up, Jerusalem was not considered an important diocese. This changed when the emperor Constantine legalised Christianity in 313, and particularly when his mother, Helen, visited the Holy Land and began building the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre over the place where Jesus had been crucified and buried. In 350 Cyril was appointed bishop of Jerusalem and led efforts to make it a place of pilgrimage, keen to underline the fact that most momentous events of our salvation happened there.

As we approach Easter, it is good to remember that it was likely Cyril who devised the liturgical framework that we still use during Holy Week, or the "Great Week" as he called it, for visiting pilgrims. We have a good window on these thanks to the *Itinerarium* or travelogue of Egeria, a Spanish woman, who made the pilgrimage in the early 380s. She describes, not only how the days of the Great Week were lived out, but the beauty of the Basilica where these liturgies took place. It is well worth reading if you get a chance!

The Great Week, she says, began with a triumphal procession, with branches of palm and olive carried by the faithful from Bethany to the Basilica, amid chants and hymns. The three days that followed were a time for contemplation of the events chronicled in the Gospels leading up to Jesus' arrest - we still listen to the same Gospels today.

On Holy Thursday, after a solemn Eucharist commemorating the Last Supper, the faithful would go to the Mount of Olives to spend the night in prayer - remembering Christ's agony in the garden. After an early start on Good Friday, and the Evangelists' accounts of the Passion having been read, the True Cross, discovered by Helena, was displayed, and the faithful, barefooted, come forward to venerate it. On Holy Saturday night, the Basilica, festooned with oil lamps, and arrayed in its finest furnishings, hosted the Easter Vigil, with its various parts: of Light, of the Word, of Baptism and the Eucharist. This service was celebrated with much solemnity and rejoicing throughout the entire night.

The pilgrims, on returning home, brought Cyril's liturgies back with them, and those services, rich in ritual and symbolism, served as models for our Holy Week worship today. With the Great Week just a few weeks away, as we accompany the Lord through the events of our salvation, let's take time to give thanks for Cyril, and the rich seam of worship that he has left us!

Father McGachey

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HALL BOOKINGS Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org
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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, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Steven Holiway, Margaret Rose McMahan, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Father Bill Tollan, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Madge Reilly, Jan Milligan, Betty Cunningham.

RECENTLY DEAD - Jean Ormsby, John Ingalls, Sadie Devine, Matthew Feeney, Mary McLernon.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Bob Hendry, Elizabeth Mooty, Jim Graham, John Hughes, Pat Dunion.

FUNERALS: John Ingalls - Reception and Requiem Mass, Tuesday 2nd April, 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 17th March - £2,755. 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

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.

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 Mullan on 07712 903732.