

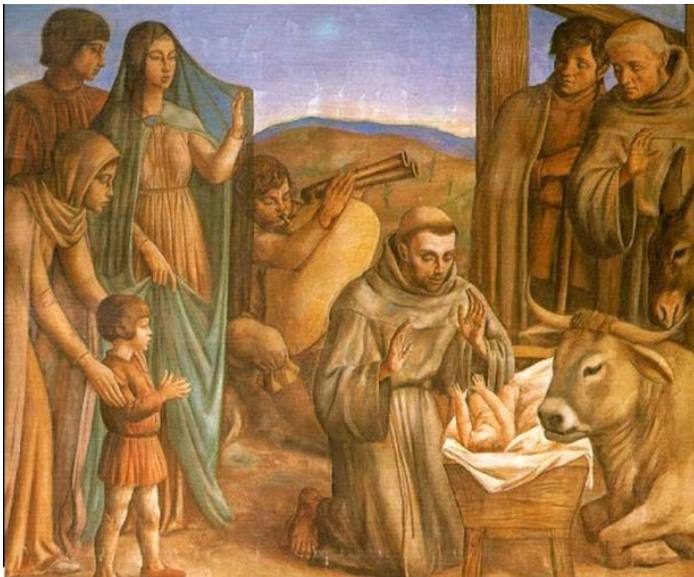
SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day - 25th December 2024

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CRIB

Nativity scenes have been a popular Christmas decoration for centuries. Saint Francis of Assisi had a special devotion to the Child Jesus, and he is credited with creating the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223 at Greccio, a town sixty miles northeast of Rome. It is believed that he was first inspired by the idea after visiting the place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land - the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave. The following text was written by Saint Bonaventure's (1221-1274), a contemporary and follower of Saint Francis.

Saint Francis' mind went back to Bethlehem and he remembered the night when he had knelt in the Cave of the Nativity. What could he do so that these good people of the Rieti valley should be able to understand fully the beauty and mystery of Christ's birth? They were simple people, and to see with their own eyes the stable and the manger, and the gentle beasts, would help them to see the Christ-child.



He built a stable in the woods near his hermitage and he put a real manger in the stable and filled it with hay, and beside the manger he built a simple altar. He arranged that there should be a real ox and donkey there, and he asked the people to Mass at the hermitage on Christmas Eve. The people came, singing ancient carols. The youngest got there first, and the older people heard

their excited cries of awe and joy: "Padre - there is a stable here. There is a manger for the bambino, and an ox and a donkey, a real ox and donkey! Come quickly!"

The wood became a Church and the stable the altar of the Church. They knelt with bowed heads on the carpet of moss and pine-needles. Those who had brought candles still held them between their hands and the flames showed the young faces, sunburnt and rosy, and the older ones lined and weather-beaten. Those who were nearest to the stable could see the manger and the gentle beasts, the priest vested, and Saint Francis as his deacon, but those who were too far away to see very much were not aware of any loss, for the great peace and joy of this holy night enclosed them all."

Saint Francis' recreation of that first Christmas night was so popular that soon every Church in Italy had its own nativity scene. The devotion also spread to private homes, and in modern times even to secular institutions, so much so that it's now impossible to imagine Christmas without a nativity scene to behold.

THANK YOU...



Our thanks go at this time to all who have helped to prepare for the Great Feast of Christmas with their time, energy and commitment. We are blessed to have an ever-growing number of parishioners, young and old, who work behind the scenes prepare for these big Feasts.

Moreover, at this time of year we should like to thank you all for your generous spiritual and your outstanding financial support for our parish. It means so much to us and helps us to face the future with confidence. During Advent around sixty people came to the *Rorate* Masses on Mondays and Fridays

at 7am; around eighty parishioners came to the Marian Devotions on the Monday evenings of Advent. We reckon, too, that last Saturday we must have heard in excess of four hundred Confessions - a truly remarkable number. In fact, at recent census of those attending Mass in November, almost seven hundred people came to Saint Bride's.

A sincere thanks to the fifty or so parishioners who gave up several hours to clean and decorate the Church so tastefully on Monday, Thank you to those who donated several items for the Church recently which are using today: especially the fourteen Christmas trees that adorn our worship space; the six new candlesticks that embellish Our Lady's altar; the new *mangatoia* - manger and the *Bambin Gesu* - the Child Jesus, for the Crib; the new vestments we are using at Holy Mass today, and our friends at printers who kindly donated the printing of the booklets for the Christmas Season.

To the hard-working team who willingly and generously prepared our second Annual Christmas Raffle and Coffee Morning last Sunday - we are in their debt. These enterprises raised a staggering £4,671 - truly astonishing! Sincere thanks and God reward you!

On a personal note, we should like to say a sincere thanks to all those who have sent us cards and gifts. We wish all our parishioners a Holy and Happy Christmas.

Father Francis McGachey and Father Colm Martin

CALENDAR

Like the greatest of all the Christian Feasts, Easter, Christmas is followed by eight days of solemn and joyous celebration which will end on January 1st with the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. **Saint Stephen** is honoured on **Thursday**. Known as the 'Proto-Martyr', he was the first disciple of Our Lord to be martyred. **Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**, is remembered on **Friday**. Described by himself in his Gospel as the "beloved disciple" who rested on Our Lord's side during the Last Supper. The **Holy Innocents** - the children of Judea who were slaughtered at Herod's order in his search for the Christ-child - whose feast falls on **Saturday**, are obviously connected in a special way to Our Lord's infancy. **Sunday**, this year, is the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

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

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

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER - IN THE MORNING

Requiem Mass for Thomas Kilroy at 10am

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 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

CRIB OFFERINGS - will go as usual to St. Margaret's Adoption and Child Care Society.

SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR WONDERFUL RESPONSE TO THE CANON RYAN TOY APPEAL
- God reward you.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSAL - Copies on sale at the Stall, priced £19.95.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION - Please support your parish's daily liturgical life and ministry by giving generously. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES, ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES James Tollan, Margaret Tollan, Alexander Warren, Doreen Warren, John McEnaney, Stuart Williamson, James McNulty, Lorenzo Di Vito, Antonio Di Vito, George Phimister, Queenie Phimister, Cornelius Meligan and Family, Roderick MacSween (Benbecula), Charles McGlynn, Phil and Bert McAulay, James McAulay, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, Christie Reilly, Madge Reilly, Patricia Williamson, Edward Williamson, Anna Murray, Bunty Cooney, James Conway, Annie Conway, Vincent Conway, William Screen, John Cooney, Carol Screen, John Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Gerald Kelly, Josephine Kelly, Claire Carroll, Charlie Carroll, Dymphna Horan, Tony Rooney, O'Brien Family, Nora McKinnin, O'Hara Family, Gallagher Family, Flaherty Family, McCole Family, Mary and John Proctor, Agnes and Bert Johnstone, Philip, Pauline, John Andrew Wilson, Paul Dyet, Helen McCann, Catherine Slaven John Crews, Catherine Crews, John and Kate Hollywood, James and Helen Crews, Hugh Slaven, Paul Downie, Frank and Margaret Downie, Michael and Irene Ward, Barry Morrison, Margaret Watson, Margaret Weaver, Tony Rooney, Jack and Babs Kelly, Gerry Kelly, Bobby Hughes, John Hughes, Catherine Hughes, Pat Hughes, Margaret Hannah, Janet and Hugh Shaw, Cathie McKerracher, Eddie Meighan, Andrew Strain, Charlie and Nellie Strain, Con and Mary Campbell, James Campbell, John Campbell, Bernie and Cecilia Kelly, Pat McGinley, Owenie McFadden sen., Owenie McFadden jnr., Strain Family Campbell Family, Boyle Family, Elizabeth Spicer, John Dougela, David and Essie O'Hare, Martin Stirling, Eleanor Stirling, Elizabeth (Betty) Smith, Catherine Hughes, John and Mary Davidson, Rose and George Thomson, Clare and Jim Fox, Hannah and Mary McDonald, John, Jeannie, John, Billy, Alec, Tony, Don and Kenneth McDonald, Bonner Family, Family and Friends of Helen Biggins, John M. Muldoon, Margaret M. Muldoon, Elizabeth B. Richmond, Alan Richmond, Sister Sheila Clancy, Canon Michael Ryan, Edward O'Pray, Cilla (O'Pray) Garden, Mark O'Prey, Peter Garden, Michael Todd, Robert Kaemper, Lindsay Wood, Mary and Pat Watson, Marie and Barney McGee, Pat and Greta Watson, Lilian and Leslie Douglas, Saul and Rose Green, John McKay and Family, Mary and James Toal and Family, Frank and Margaret Downie, Paul Downie, Michael and Irene Ward, Barry Morrison, Margaret Watson, Margaret Weaver, Elizabeth McAinsh, Peter McAinsh, Margaret Hendry, James Hendry, Philip McAinsh, Maria Kodianska, Lynn Toner, Frank Armstrong, Helen and Peter Orsie, James and Sandra Boyd, Pat and Philip McCluskey, Isobel Murray, James McVittie, Helen and Robert Hendry, Don and Maureen Boyle, Brian Boyle, Mairi McIntyre, Sean Fahey, Colm Fahey, Ellen Moran, Francis Moran, Terry Cassidy, Margaret and Robert Purdie, Cornelius and Patrick Sweeney, Tommy Cartwright, Jessie Ferguson, Joseph Ferguson, Rose Ferguson, John Love, Maisie Love, Tom Martin, Margaret Martin, Damian Martin, Patrick Healy, Grace Healy, Joseph Griffiths, Jean Griffiths, Kevin Cleary, Francis Gabriel McNeill, Elizabeth Patricia McNeill, Ian Patrick McNeill, Frankie McNeill, Mrs May Smith, Harvie Family, Callaghan Family, Lyon Family, McCourt Family, Daniel Doyle, Anna Doyle, Billy Doyle, Mary Kane, Joseph Heaney, McGeoch Family, Miller Family, Docherty Family, Tonner Family, Michael Spicer, Anne Spicer, Barry Spicer, Mario Tamburrini, Catherine Tamburrini, Richard Tamburrini, Robert Tamburrini, John Mitchell, Duncan Mitchell, Nancy McNamara, Gale McFadden, Margaret McCarney, Edmund Decon, Alan Hendry, Teresa Boyle, Mary and John McCaffery, Joseph and Theresa McCaffery, Kathleen and John Buchanan, Mary Purcell, James and Margaret McCaffery, Patricia McCaffery, John McCaffery jnr. Bridget McHugh, John McHugh, Arthur McHugh, Kathleen and Ronald Kilmurray, Margaret Shields, John and Margaret McAuley, Hugh and Thomas Docherty, Hugh McKinney, Daniel McLeish, Jean McMurray, Jim Graham, Isabella Robert Kinghorn, Betty and Cormack Cunningham, William, Margaret, William jnr. Graham, Deceased Clergy of Saint Bride's, Cathie Blake, Rena Blake, Joseph Blake, Mr and Mrs David Blake, Bridget McGrath, John McGrath, Frances McGrath, Paul Ridge, Georgina Ridge, Paul Ridge, Billy McDougall, George MacLellan, Elizabeth and James Ewing, Sister Frances Andrew, Sister Eleanor, Cathie Harris, Mary Agnes McCrane, Rita Martin, Sister Gertrude, Rev. Barron CSSF., Jack and Chrissie McLaughlin, John and Elizabeth McLaughlin, John and Kate Gordon, Margaret and Harry English, Theresa and Willie Lamont, James Flannigan, Tessie and Frank White, Betty White Sutherland, Gerard Flannigan, Carol Vogan, Catherine McCulloch, David and Aileen Moran, Theresa Miulligan, Josie McDonald, William Ingram, Family and Friends of McLaughlin Family, Bill Watton, Jean Watton, Mary Boycek, John Doyle, Marie Doyle, Theresa Doyle, James Doyle, George Daycek, Blanche Daycek, 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, The Family and Friends of Father C. Martin, The Family and Friends of Father F. McGachey, Peter Connelly, The Harvie Family, John, Margaret and Gerald Ferrie, Alex and Jane Smillie, Nicola Harvie, Jane Underwood, Ryan Sneddon, Mark Divers, Liam Currie, Trevor Horton, Patrick Naughton, James Naughton Sen. And Jnr., Winifred Naughton, Alex Graham, John McKeown, Thomas McKeown, Anna Cullen, Bernie Cullen, Mary Aiton, Theresa McIntyre, Paul McAllister, Mary Fearon, Mary and William Doherty, Barrett Family, Doherty Family, John Reilly, Burns Family, McGowan Family, Savage Family, Patrick Heffernan, Angela Heffernan, Heffernan Family, Ellen Quinn, William Quinn, Quinn Family, McAlpine Family, Margaret Johnston (née Connelly), Peggy Campbell, Joseph Wilson, Catherine Denholm, Thomas Deholm, James Denholm, John Carson, Sheila Denholm, Frank Roy, Martin Roy, Paul Todd, Edward and Hannah O'Neill, Elizabeth O'Neill, O'Neill Family, Frank and Margaret Roy, James, Esther and Mary Roy, Des and Margaret Annesley, Agnes Tyrrell, John Callaghan, John and Bridget McNally, Michael, Mary Therese, Michael and Sarah Keenan, Theresa Hughes, Mary McGinn, William McGinn, John, Rose, Carolan and Kathleen Flynn, Rosemary Farrell, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, James Patrick, John and Mary Kirkwood, Rose McCabe, Margaret Maher, Patrick Maher and John Maher.