



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday of the Ordinary Season
28th January 2024

LUMEN AD REVELATIONEM GENTIUM A Light to enlighten the Gentiles

Every evening, in the Church's last prayer of the day, *Compline*, more commonly called *Night Prayer of the Church*, a canticle or passage from the Gospel according to Saint Luke is recited. The words of the canticle are those spoken by Simeon, an elderly and devout man, when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, forty days after his birth. Simeon acclaimed the infant Christ as "A Light to enlighten the Gentiles".



On the 2nd of February every year - the fortieth day after Christmas, and Friday of this week - the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, is celebrated. This feast is sometimes known as 'Candlemas Day', since on it, from around the middle of the Tenth century, candles for use in the Church are traditionally blessed. Why?

Apart from their connection with words of Simeon, and their practical use (essential in the days before electricity) candles have always had a strong symbolic value: they are used in the liturgy to represent Christ, "the Light of the world...the Light no darkness can overpower" (John 1,5). In addition to this they are also a sign of festivity and celebration, and a mark of reverence for God's presence.

The most prominent and important candle in any Church is the Paschal Candle. Blessed at the Easter Vigil, and present beside the baptismal font throughout the year, it is used at Baptism - the child's father lights a Baptismal candle from it and is entrusted with the duty of passing on of the light of Faith. At funerals it is placed beside the coffin, as a sign of hope in the resurrection to those who mourn the passing of a loved one.

The other candle present in all Catholic Churches is the red-coloured Sanctuary Lamp. It burns day and night, to indicate the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

Blessed candles are used at the altar during Mass, Benediction, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; at all the sacraments except Confession; in processions as a sign of rejoicing; at the beginning and end of Mass, in the procession with the Book of the Gospels. They are used during the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.

It is traditional for every Catholic home to have at least two blessed candles. These are used when the Blessed Sacrament is brought to someone sick or housebound - sad to say, a custom that seems to be disappearing today! In times gone by, it was customary for the

priest to be met at the gate with someone carrying a lit candle...as mark of reverence and respect for the Blessed Sacrament.

They should also be lit when the Sacrament of the Sick is given at home; to burn in the presence of a corpse, when the corpse is taken home, as a mark of vigil and respect. Also at times of danger or during family prayers. Fr. 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 a light breakfast, 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.

FOODBANK COLLECTION TODAY IN THE HALL

SATURDAY 3RD AND 4TH FEBRUARY FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE

Saint Blaise was a bishop and martyr who, for many centuries, has been the patron Saint of those with ailments of the throat.

We know that Blaise lived in Armenia and was arrested for his Christian faith. While in prison, a woman came with her young son who had a fish bone fixed in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone. He was martyred in 316AD. By the year 800 the custom of blessing throats, using the blessed candles from the previous day's feast (see above), spread across Europe. The traditional Blessing of Throats will be given at the end of Masses next weekend, 3rd and 4th February at 4.30pm and 9.30am and 11.30am Mass.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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.

200 CLUB

Last week's 200 Club winner was Helen Finnegan. Please collect your cheque 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.**

SUNDAY 10th FEBRUARY - RETIRING COLLECTION

We will have to take up this retiring collection to support the work of Catholic Education, which we did not take-up in December 2023 because of so many other commitments.

FUNDRAISER COFFEE MORNING

Last week's fundraiser Coffee Morning for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice realised £818.00. Sincere thanks for your support and well done to the organisers.

FAREWELL TO FATHER FRANK DOUGAN

As he leaves Our Lady of Lourdes parish this weekend, before his ordination as the new Bishop of Galloway, early in March. We promise him our prayers and good wishes as he moves to this new stage in his ministry.

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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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, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Father Bill Tollan.

RECENTLY DEAD - Peter Dunnachie, Patricia McCormick, Agnes (Nancy) McTigue, Ruth McCarley, John Fegan (London), Ernest Welsh.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Hugh Burns, Matthew Lawler, Michael Tracy, James and Margaret Quinn, James Quinn, Paul Newman, Margaret Donnelly, Anne Caird, Mary Ann Lorimer, Andrew Lorimer, Dennis O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill.

FUNERALS

Patricia McCormick - Reception, Monday 12th February 6pm. Requiem Mass, Tuesday 13th February 10am.

Agnes (Nancy) McTigue - details to be confirmed.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 21st January 2024 - £2287. 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.