

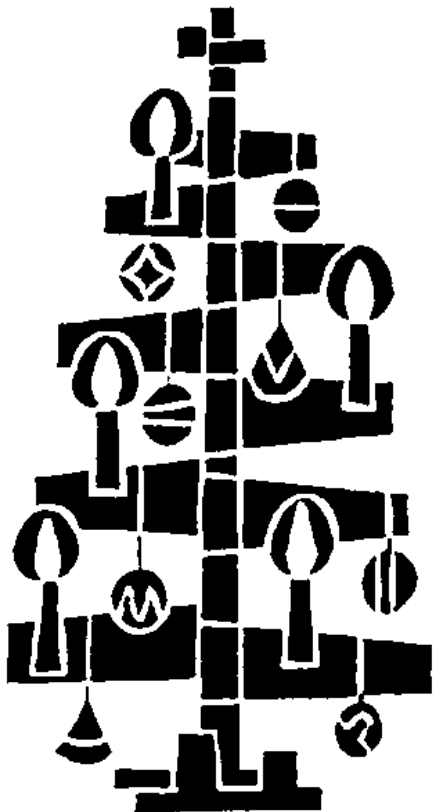
SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Feast of the Holy Family
29th December 2024

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

It is sometimes said that the Christmas Tree is a pagan Winter tradition which has got mixed-up with the Christian celebration of Christ's birth. However, the story of its origin is a good deal more interesting than that.

It is true that the Northern pagans of Europe held evergreens in special awe, as preservers of life in the dead time of the year. But as early as the Eleventh century, a fir or other evergreen, hung with apples, was a standard part of the so-called 'Christmas Mystery Plays'. Called the 'Paradise Tree', it represented the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil which led to the Fall of Adam and Eve, as recounted in the Book of Genesis. It was carried in procession by the actor who played Adam and then remained in full view throughout the Mystery Play, and thus took on in time, a new meaning, as a symbol of Christmas itself. As late as the Nineteenth century, little figures of Adam and Eve were placed below the illuminated tree in some German households.



Over the centuries, the tree became one form of the 'Christmas light' which people put in their windows throughout Christmas Season. In recent decades in the UK, the Nordic custom of placing a pyramid of candles has become popular - this Nordic tradition comes from the Medieval custom of the Paradise Tree.

The first record of a domestic decorated tree, as we know it, was noted by a visitor to Strasbourg in 1605. It remained very much a German and Austrian tradition until the Nineteenth century, though evergreens, like holly and mistletoe, were everywhere used in homes and Churches, where they frequently remained until the Feast of Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple, sometimes called 'Candlemas Day', on the 2nd of February - the fortieth day after Christmas.

People who read Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' nowadays are sometime puzzled at the absence of Christmas trees from the various scenes of seasonal jollity. But the tradition only began to make headway in Britain

after the young Queen Victoria married Prince Albert and German customs came into vogue.

So the Christmas tree has a long and honourable Christian tradition, and can indeed be seen as symbolic of Christ himself, the tree of life and the light of the world, "the Light no darkness can overtake." (Gospel according to John). *Father McGachey*



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Today, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph of Nazareth. As we honour them, we worship God, who shared the life of a human family, and we thank him for all the gifts we receive through each other. We remember today in a special way those families where there are problems of any kind - we ask for the intercession and protection of the Holy Family.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT SAINT BRIDE'S

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

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY - NO MASS

FRIDAY 3RD AND SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2025

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1ST JANUARY SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

We will celebrate a Solemn Mass, with organ and incense, to mark the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, at 11am on **Wednesday**. After Mass, a small bottle of holy water will be given to all those who wish to take one, to sprinkle their homes with, and ask God's blessing and protection in the new year.

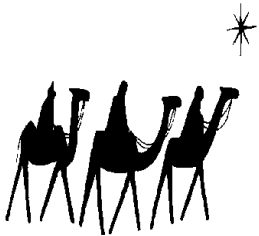


THANK YOU

Sincere thanks once again to all those who have sent Father Martin and myself cards and gifts at this time. We are overwhelmed and deeply touched by your generosity. May God bless you for your kindness. We wish all our parishioners a holy and happy New Year. Father McGachey and Father Martin.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This realised the magnificent sum of £8,515.23, including electronic donations. Heartfelt thanks for your generosity to our parish. May God reward each of you. If you would like to contribute to this important Collection, envelopes are available at the entrances to the Church.



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord.

There will be a retiring Collection to support to the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

CALENDAR

Tuesday is the memorial of **Saint Sylvester I (+335)**. One of the longest reigning popes in the history of the Church, he served during the time of the great Councils, including Nicea, which clarified our belief in the divinity of Christ. **Wednesday - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** - we honour Mary's motherhood, her role and title as *Dei Genetrix* (Latin) and *Theotokos* (Greek)- the Bearer or Mother of God. On **Thursday** we remember **Saints Basil the Great (+379) and Gregory Nazianzen (+389)**. Basil was a brilliant student, born to a Christian family in Cappadocia (Turkey). For some years, he followed the monastic way of life but fought the Arian heresy - that denied the divinity of Christ. He became Bishop of Caesarea in 370. The monks of the Eastern Church today still follow the monastic rules which he set down. Gregory was also from Cappadocia. A friend of Basil, he too followed the monastic way of life for some years. He was ordained priest and became Bishop of Constantinople, during the period when the Arian heresy was at its height. He was called 'The Theologian' because of his great learning. **Friday** is the feast of the **Most Holy Name of Jesus**. The name of *Jesus* means Saviour; it had been shown in a dream to Saint Joseph, together with its meaning, and to Our Lady at the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel. Devotion to the Holy Name is deeply rooted in the Bible, and was promoted by Saint Bernard and Saint Bernardine of Siena in the Middle Ages. The month of January has traditionally been dedicated to the Holy Name. **Saturday** is the memorial of **Saint Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton**. Born in New York City in the late 1700s, she was brought up as an Episcopalian. She married William Seton, with whom she had five children. The loss of their fortune so affected William's health that, in 1803, Elizabeth and William went to stay with Catholic friends at Livorno, Italy. William died six weeks after their arrival, and when Elizabeth returned to New York some six months later, she was already a convinced Catholic. She met with opposition from her Episcopalian friends but was received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Abandoned by her family, Elizabeth was invited by the Superior of the Sulpician Order in Baltimore to found a school for girls in that city. She laid the foundation for the American parochial school system, training teachers and preparing textbooks. She also opened orphanages in Philadelphia and New York City. She was canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1975.

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

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, Buntie 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, 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, May Cheney, David Cook, Andrew, Anne, Drew and John McShane, Bobby Hughes, Joan, Catherine Hughes, Pat Hughes, Margaret Hannah, Janet and Hugh Shaw, Cathie McKerracher, Eddie Meighan, Tom Lochrin, Lochrin Family, Knight Family, Melvin Family, Jane Anne Lochrin, Rose McCabe, Margaret Maher, Patrick Maher and John Maher.

FUNERALS

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

Raymund Porrelli - Requiem Mass, Thursday 9th January 10am.

Maureen Tiernan - Details to be confirmed.