

# SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday  
of the Ordinary Season - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

---

## SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

"If I was to meet those slave raiders who abducted and tortured me, I'd kneel down to them to kiss their hands, because, if it had not have been for them, I would not have become a Christian and religious woman."



Saint Josephine was born in 1869 in the Darfur region of Sudan. Her well-respected and prosperous father was brother of the village Chieftain, and she was surrounded by a loving family of three brothers and three sisters. As she says in her autobiography: "I lived a very happy and carefree life, without knowing what suffering was".

When she was nine, she was kidnapped by slave traders, who had already taken her elder sister two years earlier. She was forced to walk barefoot six hundred miles to El Obeid and was sold again twice before she arrived. Over the course of twelve years, she was resold three more times. The trauma of her abduction caused her to forget her own name; she was given the name 'Bakhita' (Arabic for 'lucky') by the slave traders.

In El Obeid, Bakhita was bought by a wealthy Arab who used her as a nurse maid for his two daughters, who treated her well. But after offending one of his sons, possibly for breaking a vase, the son lashed out and kicked her so severely that she spent a month unable to move. Her fifth owner was a Turkish general; she had to serve his mother-in-law and his wife who were very cruel. Bakhita writes: "During all the years I stayed in that house, I do not recall a day that passed without some wound or other."

In 1883 Bakhita was bought by the Italian Consul, Callisto Legnani, who treated her in a cordial way. Two years later, when Legnani was recalled to Italy, Bakhita begged to go with his family. Upon arrival they were met there by friends, the Michieli Family, and Legnani gave Bakhita to them as a slave. Bakhita's new masters took her to their family villa near Venice. She lived there for three years and became nanny to the Michieli's daughter, Alice. By the end of 1888, Mrs Michelli wanted to see her husband, who was now working in Sudan. Signora Michieli left Bakhita and Alice with the Canossian Sisters in Venice.

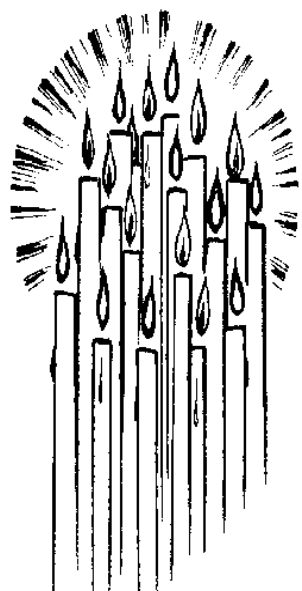
When she returned to take them both to the Sudan, Bakhita refused to leave. After a legal wrangle in the Courts, Bakhita found herself in control of her own destiny for the first time. She chose to remain with the Sisters and was baptised, taking the names of Josephine Margaret. She was confirmed and received her First Communion from Archbishop Guiseppa Sarto, the future Pope Saint Pius X.

In December 1893 Josephine entered the novitiate of the Sisters and made her Final Profession three years later. In 1902 she was assigned to the convent at Schio, in the North of Italy, where she spent the rest of her life, working as cook, sacristan and doorkeeper. Her gentleness, her calming voice, and ever-present smile became well known. Her special

charisma and reputation for sanctity were noticed by her Order; the first publication of her story (*Storia Meravigliosa* by Ida Zanolini) in 1931, made her famous throughout Italy.

Her last years were marked by pain and sickness. She used a wheelchair, but she retained her cheerfulness, and if asked how she was, she would always smile and answer "As the Master desires." During the final hours of her life, her mind was driven back to the years of her enslavement, and she cried out: "The chains are too tight, loosen them a little, please!" After a while she came round again. Someone asked her: "How are you? Today is Saturday." "Yes, I am so happy. Our Lady... Our Lady!" These were her last audible words. Josephine died on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1947. For three days her body lay in public, while thousands of people came to pay their respects.

In May 1992 news of her beatification was banned by the Sudanese government. Pope John Paul II visited the country nine months later. He said: "Rejoice, all of Africa! Bakhita has come back to you. The daughter of Sudan sold into slavery as a living piece of merchandise and yet still free. Free with the freedom of the saints." On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2000 she was canonised and became Saint Josephine Bakhita. Father McGachey



---

## TODAY - THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE SAINT BLAISE BLESSING OF THROATS

On this, the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple - which fell on Friday of last week - we will bless candles for use in the home at the beginning of each Mass.

It is worth remembering that every Roman Catholic home should have at least two blessed candles to be used when: Holy Communion is brought to someone in the house; at times of prayer or to burn before a holy picture or statue (this custom says that although I cannot be there in prayer all day, my intention is to be there in spirit - this is the same reason we light votive candles in the church); at a time of danger or special need, and at the time of death.

The candles are modestly priced and can be purchased at the end of each Mass. Please put any monies in the wooden box.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February we remembered Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, who, for many centuries has been the patron Saint of those with ailments of the throat. I will offer the traditional Blessing of Saint Blaise after all the Masses this weekend, at the end of the final hymn. There is no obligation to receive it, so if you wish, you may leave the Church.

---

## 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

---

## TODAY - CHILDREN'S LITURGY - FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS

We will commence a programme of Sacramental preparation for children making their First Communion this year. This is a 4-week programme over the Sundays of February.

---

## SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - RETIRING COLLECTION

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

---



## ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINNING OF LENT 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

Holy Masses with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7am, 10am and 7pm.

---

## WE BEGIN OUR NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS

on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

with Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm in the Parish Church. Please join us!

"In this unfailing novena Our Lady comes to untie the knots of our life."



## MASS FOR THE SICK - THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 10am. Followed by a light breakfast in the Parish Centre.

---

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

Begins on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February and continues for the forty days of Lent, from 8am-8pm daily, opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hardgate Road. It is now nine years since the Vigil began, and many women have approached the prayer line asking for help for themselves and the children they carry - many unborn lives have been saved. Numbers are dwindling because of illness and age. We are appealing for people to come and pray for an hour a week. Can you help in this important pro-life initiative, by lending your time?

---

## EAST KILBRIDE FAIR TRADE GROUP

is holding a coffee evening in the Old Parish Church Hall (the entrance is behind the Montgomerie Arms) on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm. St Kenneth's Primary School choir will provide music. There will be a Coop tasting stall and Fair Trade stall. Payment at the door.

---

## CHARITY NIGHT IN AID OF THE STREET CHILDREN IN NAIROBI

Entertainment by the *Highwaisters*, in Saint Bride's Church Hall, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm-11pm. Bar, raffle, light supper by Rico. Tickets £10.

---

## FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Once again, your response for the *Loaves and Fishes* Foodbank was superb. More than 700 items were collected, £500 of cash donated, as well as £200 of food vouchers. There is a letter of thanks on the noticeboard from *Loaves and Fishes*.

---

## 200 CLUB

200 Club winner was George Trotter. Please collect your cheque from the Sacristy.

---

## GIFTAID ENVELOPE NO 44

Do you use this envelope? Can you let Father McGachey know your details, please.

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*  
**EMAIL** frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk  
**ADDRESS** Saint Bride's Parish, Whitemoss Avenue, East Kilbride G74 1NN  
**TELEPHONE** 01355 220005  
**WEBSITE** www.sbek.org    **TWITTER** @StBrideEK    **FACEBOOK** @StBrideEK  
**HALL BOOKINGS** Contact Mrs Annemarie McMillan hall@sbek.org  
**BULLETIN NOTICES** Contact Fr. McGachey or bulletin@sbek.org  
**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER** 07873 263801

**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, Brian Ewing

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Paul Dunnachie, Patricia McCormick, Charles McGlynn, Patrick Hughes, Elaine McKay, Susan Thompson, Vittorio Ventisei, Eileen Hamilton, John Russell, Chrissie Dunnachie, Patrick Hughes.

**ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - James McKelvie, Anthony and Mary Hastings, James McVittie, Bridget McHugh, Betty McGuckien, Bonnie McMenamin, Cameron Slorach, Maureen Hughes, Anna Turner (Hughes), Margaret Tollan, Doreen Warren.

**FUNERALS**

**John Paul Smart** - Funeral Service, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 12noon.

**Patricia McCormick** - Reception, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 6pm. Requiem Mass, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 10am.

**Charles McGlynn** - Reception, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 6pm. Requiem Mass, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 10am.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - £2547. 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: 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.