

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Second Sunday of Advent -
8th December 2024

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AND SAINT JUAN DIEGO



This week, the Church's Calendar lays before us three feast days of Our Lady: on Monday, transferred from today, the Immaculate Conception; on Tuesday Our Lady of Loreto and on Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In the winter of 1531, a poor, 57-year-old Aztec Indian, living five miles outside of Mexico City, encountered a miraculous happening on his way to morning Mass. Firstly, he heard music coming from Tepeyac Hill, and then he heard a woman's voice calling his name. Juan Diego climbed the hill and found a young woman - she was like his own people in physical appearance and dress. The woman identified herself as the Virgin Mary and told Juan Diego to ask the bishop of Mexico City to build a church on the hill, which would be a source of help in the conversion of the Mexican people, and a fount of consolation for the Mexican people.

Juan Diego obeyed the request, but the bishop was sceptical about the message, even though he could see that Juan was a humble man and a well-meaning Catholic. Juan reported the bishop's doubt to the Lady at Tepeyac, and she asked him to return to the bishop once again, with the same message. The bishop once again listened to what Juan Diego had to say, but this time told him to ask the Lady for a sign that would prove that she was the Mother of God.

When he returned to Tepeyac, the Lady gave Juan Diego such a sign. Miraculously, roses appeared on the hill in the middle of winter, and Juan Diego gathered them in his *tilma* or cloak. The Lady arranged the roses with her own hands, and Juan returned to the bishop's residence. When Juan Diego laid open the *tilma*, the flowers fell to the ground, and an image of the Lady, heavily pregnant, with a blue sash about her waist (a way of indicating that the woman was *enceinte* or expecting a child) was seen on the inside of his *tilma* (see the image above).

The bishop immediately fell to his knees, and believed Juan Diego. A church was built on the spot of the apparition, as Mary had requested. Eight million people converted to Catholicism in a short period of time upon hearing of Juan Diego's account or viewing the miraculous image of Our Lady on his *tilma*.

Juan Diego's *tilma* has been the subject of exhaustive modern research. Woven out of coarse cactus fibre, it should have disintegrated after twenty years, and although more than five hundred years have passed, the *tilma* is still in perfect condition.

The pupils of Our Lady's eyes reflect the Indians and clergy who were present at the time of the first apparition. No paint was used, and chemical analysis has not been able to identify the source of the colours. Moreover, studies have revealed that the stars on Our Lady's blue cloak, match their position in the sky above Guadalupe in December 1531. The *tilma* is displayed above the high altar in the Basilica at Guadalupe today, and the shrine there is visited each year by million pilgrims. It is seen to because of Our Lady's heavily

pregnant state, as a place to pray for the protection and promotion of human life, from the point of conception.

Our Lady spoke the following words to Juan Diego during the first apparition - they are full of comfort and reassurance: "Hear me and understand well, my son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear sickness, or any other anguish. Am I not here? I am not your Mother? Are you not under my protection? What else do you wish? Do not grieve, or be disturbed by anything." Father McGachey



MONDAY OF THIS WEEK IS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

We will have a concelebrated Festal Mass, with organ and incense, on Monday at 10am, as we remember how Our Lady was conceived without stain of original sin in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. Please join us if you can. There will be Exposition at 9.15am until 9.50am. The Rosary will not be recited publicly this morning.

In the evening at 7pm we will have Devotions in honour of Our Lady for the Feast, beginning with a *Lucernarium* (a Thanksgiving for Light) at Our Lady's altar, a torchlight procession, the recitation of the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

ADVENT AT SAINT BRIDE'S

There will be an additional Mass on the **Mondays** and **Fridays** of Advent, a *Rorate Coeli* Mass, by candlelight, at 7am. Traditionally celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church is only lit by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world. As a votive Mass for the Blessed Mother, white vestments are worn instead of the violet normally used during Advent. Father Campbell, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, has asked us to advertise the fact that there will be a *Rorate Coeli* Mass on the Tuesdays of Advent at 7am in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

CONFESSION TIMES BEFORE CHRISTMAS - ADVENT QUIET DAY



We are not permitted to have General Absolution this year again. So, on Saturday the 21st of December, Saint Bride's will have an Advent Quiet Day - the Church, specially decorated for the Season, will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, from the end of 10am Mass until the Vigil Mass.

There will be Confessions from 9.30am until 9.50am.

Then Confessions all day from the end of 10am Mass until 4.20pm; and after the Vigil Mass until 5.45pm.

There will be a number of visiting priests - we will publish the schedule of Confessors next weekend.

To help us make a good Confession, printed Examinations of Conscience will be available.

At 1pm there will be the Rosary and 2pm *Prayer During the Day* from the *Divine Office* to help us focus on preparing for Christmas.

Please consider making a new start with God and with those around you, by making a good Confession. It may be a long time since you were last at Confession... Come and experience the healing power of God's mercy.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

We would like to have a big Church clean on the Monday 23rd of December, beginning at 11.30am (we have a funeral that morning - so it cannot start earlier) for two hours. We would like to wash down the benches and kneelers, as well as the other woodwork, along with the altars and candlesticks, and too, to bring the Crib figures from the basement and have them washed.

A parishioner has generously bought a new Infant Jesus or Bambino, along with a wooden manger, for the Crib this year. Another parishioner has generously donated ten Christmas Trees for the Church. We would like these to be positioned on Monday morning too, since there will be no 10am Mass on Christmas Eve.

Men and women, young and old, are needed to help that day, and would be made most welcome. Please bring your own buckets, we will provide cloths and suitable detergents. Thank you for your assistance.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

In some parishes it has been the tradition for the parish clergy to offer the Masses they say on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the dead relatives and friends of the parishioners who hand in their names. Both priests will do this at the five Christmas Masses here at Saint Bride's this year. Their names will also be included in a special Christmas Day edition of the Bulletin. These are called 'Christmas Remembrances'. If you like to have your loved ones remembered in this way, then please hand in their names to the Sacristy or the Chapel House, by the evening of Monday 23rd of December at 6pm.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT SAINT BRIDE'S

24th December, Vigil Mass of Christmas, 4pm
with organist and cantor

24th December, Vigil Mass of Christmas, 8pm
with organist and choir

24th December, Midnight Mass by Candlelight,
Midnight 12am - with organist and cantor

25th December, Dawn Mass of Christmas, 9.30am
with organist and cantor

25th December, Day Mass of Christmas, 11.30am
with organist and cantor

THE STALL

New Christmas merchandise is on display, including Cribs, Christmas ornaments and Christmas Cards, Christmas Books etc.

The **Western Calendar 2025** is on sale at the Stall, priced £3.70. This contains parish information and Mass times for each parish for the Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Dioceses of Motherwell and Paisley, as well as other information and general reading.

We have had to order ten more Missals for parishioners. If you would like a Missal, price £20.00, then please add your name to the list at the Stall by the end of today. These Missals should be here next week.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND COFFEE MORNING



The tickets for this year's Christmas Raffle are on sale before and after Mass this weekend. Price £1 each. Prizes this year include: a *Fortnum and Mason's* Luxury Christmas Hamper, a Celtic football top and a Celtic football - signed by the current team members, a Voucher for the *Bond Restaurant* in the Village, a bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label whisky amongst many other items. Please support your parish: the monies raised will help us face the Winter months with slightly more confidence.

We are looking for donations of bottles for the Bottle Stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning which will take place on Sunday 22nd December, after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. These can be handed into the sacristy at any point. Sincere thanks to those who have already done so.

200 CLUB

This week's winner is Joan McHugh. Please collect your cheque from the sacristy.

CANON RYAN'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Our annual appeal for Christmas gifts and toys for less fortunate children in the East End of Glasgow begins next weekend and will run until the weekend of the 15th/16th December. The items can be left beside the gate to the Choir Loft - since the Church is open each day, the gifts will be taken after each Mass to the Library. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you for your generosity and support.

UPDATE FROM THE FOODBANK

Thank you once again for your generosity to the Christmas Appeal for Loaves and Fishes. There was a total of £1170 in cash; £400 of food vouchers; 700 food items. Further details are on the Notice Board.

NEW PUBLICATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

We have some updated copies of the Rite of Holy Communion to the Sick for use by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Thank you to the parishioner who sourced these for us. Please pick-up your copy the sacristy today if you take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

SERVING AT WEEKDAY MASS

Recently there have been a number of days when we have not had a server, for variety of reasons, at weekday Mass. It makes life so much easier for the priest when we have a server: to have someone to hold the Missal, to bring the sacred vessels back and forward etc. If there is any gentleman, who attends morning Mass, and who would be prepared to stand in if and when required, or perhaps form part of rota of weekday servers, please speak to one of the priests after Mass today. There would be an expectation that the server the wear cassock and surplice at Mass. Training will be given. Thank you for your help.

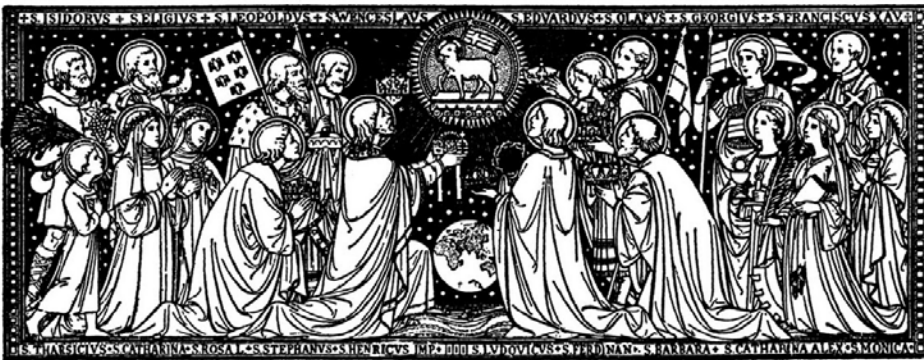
SCHOOL CONFESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

We hope to have a rota drawn-up this week for Confessions in Saint Kenneth's Primary School and Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School before Christmas.

POWER CUT LAST WEEKEND AT THE 9.30AM MASS

It was quite a surprise when the lighting and heating went out suddenly last weekend during the 9.30am Mass. This was a local fault that affected our near neighbours on Plattthorn Drive and the Village. Apologies but it was beyond our control.

CALENDAR



Monday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the dogma defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. See above. Pope Francis added the Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto to the Universal Calendar several years ago. The title Our Lady of Loreto refers to the Holy

House of Loreto, the house where Our Lady was born, and in which the Word was made flesh at the Annunciation. Tradition says that the house was brought from the Holy Land to Loreto in Italy in 1294. It was this translation of the Holy House and the longstanding of the structure Our Lady of Loreto is the patron of builders and construction workers. It is the first shrine of international renown and the Popes have always held the Shrine of Loreto in special esteem, and it is under their direct protection.

Wednesday is the Memorial of Saint Damasus I (+384) on Wednesday. A learned man, well versed in the Scriptures, he commissioned Saint Jerome to complete the translation of the Bible into Latin. Shortly after his reign the seventy-two books of the Bible, hitherto scattered in different parts of the near East, were collected into one volume. Mass. **Thursday** is the Memorial of Saint Lucy (+304). Born in Syracuse, Sicily, she was of a noble Greek family, and was brought up as a Christian by her mother, who was miraculously cured at the shrine of Saint Agatha in Catania. Lucy made a vow of virginity and distributed her wealth to the poor. She was denounced to the Governor of Sicily and put to death by the sword. Her name means light - and she is patron saint of those who have problems with the sense of sight. We have a relic of Saint Lucy - so we will offer the traditional Blessing of Eyes after Mass today.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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BULLETIN NOTICES Contact Fr. McGachey or Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER 07712 903732

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Clare (Slorach) Keane, Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Jean O'Neil, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Father Pierre Potie (France), Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Grace McHugh, Leo McCrear, Kenneth Cunningham, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney.

RECENTLY DEAD - Thomas Ward, Deborah Carroll, Jean O'Neill, John Rimmer, Brian Butler (Carlisle), Bill Watson, Theresa Murray, Marie Doyle, Thomas Mackie, Jeanette Verrechia, Johnny Tegan, Jade McGowan, Nancy Spence, Dave McLeish, William Fox.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Michael Spicer, Richard Tamburrini, Jane McNamara, Clive Dowie, Frances and Willie Maxwell, and John Thompson, Anne Mooney, Matthew Lorimer, Elizabeth Burnson, Antonio Di Vito, Lorenzo Di Vito, Michael McGee, Clive Dowie, Ann McGovern.

FUNERALS

Thomas Ward - Reception, Thursday 12th December 7pm. Requiem Mass, Friday 13th December 11.30am.

Deborah Carroll - Requiem Mass, Saturday 14th December at 10am.

Jean O'Neill - Requiem Mass, Monday 23rd December 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS - SINCERE THANKS

Sunday 1st December - £2,805. 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.