

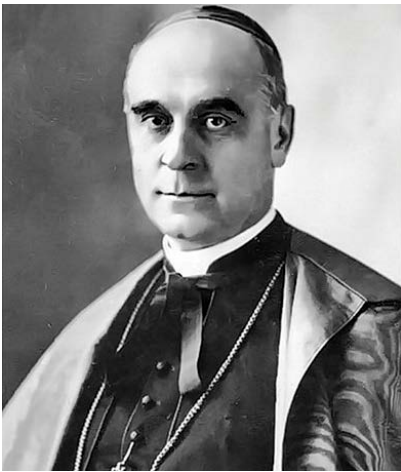
SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Twentieth Sunday of the Ordinary
Season - 17th August 2025

"GIVE ME SOULS..."

Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val and his Scottish Connections

If you have visited Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, there are two tombs you may have noticed, but not necessarily associated: one, next to the Baptistry on the right hand side, just before you leave the Basilica - that of Pope Saint Pius X, whose feast day falls this Thursday, and the other, in the Grottos, underneath the main floor of the Basilica, burial place of many Popes; but in this case the tomb is not Papal - that of the Servant of God, Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val (1885-1939), who was Pius X's Secretary of State (Prime Minister) and who is connected with Scotland for a number of reasons.



The first thing we should understand about Rafael Merry del Val is his name: Rafael Maria José Pedro Francisco Borja Domingo Gerardo de la Santísima Trinidad Merry del Val. "Merry del Val" is his surname name. His father, Rafael, who was the Marquis of Merry del Val, was a skilled diplomat and member of the Spanish nobility. His mother, Sofia Josefa de Zulueta, was a quarter English, but could count also noble Dutch, Scottish, and Spanish heritage. Her family founded the P & O Shipping Line and were owners of the London based Zuleta and Co. Investment Bank.

While both parents moved in powerful social circles, they were also devout Catholics and had a strong interest in the upbringing of their five children in the faith. Rafael was born in the Spanish

Embassy, Belgrave Square, in the heart of Belgravia in London. He considered himself an Englishman, despite his international heritage. An excellent student, who was cheerful, manly, friendly, loved sports and prodigiously pious. No one was surprised when he decided to become a priest: his goal was to enter the old Pontifical Scots College, on the Via Quattro Fontane, be ordained to the priesthood, and to spend his life as a simple parish priest. In fact, he would he reside in the Scots College for less than a week, but he would be appointed Cardinal Protector of the College in later life.

When Rafael first came to Rome with his father, he was formally introduced to Pope Leo XIII. The Pope took one look at the twenty-year-old seminarian and changed the course of his life: he decided that he should study at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy - the Vatican's Diplomatic School - on the Piazza della Minerva, near the Pantheon. Both were shocked! After Rafael had been ordained to the priesthood, having earned two Doctorates along the way, he was made bishop at thirty-four. But something yet more shocking was to happen during the Conclave to elect a new Pope in 1903.

Rafael was the as Secretary of the Conclave, and when he went looking for one of the front runners in the Conclave, Cardinal Giuseppe Sarto, Archbishop of Venice, to pass on a message to him, he found Sarto, kneeling in tears, praying not to be elected Pope. But Rafael encouraged him, reminding him that the Lord would be with him. Clearly Sarto recognised something in Rafael because only few months later, as Pope Pius X, the first peasant Pope in more than four hundred years, named Rafael, Secretary of State, while still only thirty-eight.

It is easy to understand why he was chosen for such an important position: he had been raised in the complex world of the aristocracy, politics and diplomacy; he flawlessly spoke multiple languages: English, Latin, Spanish, French, and Italian. This enabled him to read documents and negotiate with leaders from around the world: he was always the Pope's right-hand man and staunch supporter. Merry del Val was in fact the Principal Consecrator of Bishop Robert Fraser (+1914) of Dunkeld in 1913, assisted on this occasion by Archbishop Donald Campbell of Glasgow and the famous Archbishop Thomas F. Kennedy, Rector of the North American College in Rome.

After Pius' death in 1914, he grieved the loss of the Pontiff, and his successor, Pope Benedict XV, named him Archpriest of Saint Peter's Basilica - effectively the person in charge of the day-to-day running of the Basilica. Although Rafael was present for two conclaves as a Cardinal Secretary, he never held such a high office again. The man who had hoped to be a simple parish priest, did not pine for the spotlight. Instead, those who knew him, gave testimony about many signs of holiness in his personal life.

For example, in private Rafael wore a worn-out cassock; he lived very simply, and quietly accepted, without complaint, whatever food he was served. When celebrating Mass, however, he insisted on using the best for the Lord, and was said to be a model of deep recollection during the Holy Sacrifice. He served as a spiritual director to people of all backgrounds, treating each person as if he or she were the most important person at that moment, even when his waiting room was full to overflowing. He personally adopted the working-class Trastevere district of Rome, forming genuine friendships.

Then one day, unexpectedly, Rafael was diagnosed with appendicitis. Although his condition was serious, he continued to calmly pray and accepted the doctor's decision to attempt a last-minute operation without anaesthesia, but he died on the operating table on February 26th 1930. Although he wanted to be buried near Pope Pius X, the Spanish government donated the marble to honour him with a proper tomb. It bears his name and these words: "Da mihi animas, coetera tolle" - "Give me souls, take all else away."

His most famous prayer, the Litany of Humility, was one that he composed himself, and prayed every day after Mass. It reminds us that God does not love people based on job titles, wealth, personal gifts, or even because of their important friends:

From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being loved, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being extolled, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being honoured, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being praised, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being preferred to others, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being consulted, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being approved, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being humiliated, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being despised, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of suffering rebukes, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being calumniated, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being forgotten, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being ridiculed, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being wronged, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being suspected, Deliver me, Jesus.

Father McGachey

THANK YOU

To the nearly 300 people who attended our Holy Hour of prayer, readings and music for peace in world, particularly to pray for the plight of the people in Gaza. The witness of such an attendance was powerful indeed. Sincere thanks.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT BRIDE'S

THE CHURCH IS OPEN from 9am-5pm daily, or until after the evening service
HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am with Children's Liturgy and 11.30am
CONFESSIONS - Saturday 9.30am-9.50am, after 10am Mass; 4pm-4.20pm and Mass
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am
HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Saturday at 9.30am
PRO-LIFE ROSARY - Wednesday after 10am Mass
HOLY MASS - Monday to Saturday 10am
NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesdays after 10am Mass
NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - on Thursdays after 10am Mass

MASS FOR THE SICK - THURSDAY 28th AUGUST

Our next Mass for the Sick will be on Thursday 28th August at 10am. The holy anointing with the Oil of the Sick will be given during the Mass. Please join us for rolls and sausage and tea and coffee after Mass in the Hall.

MARCH FOR LIFE - LONDON

Will be held in London on Saturday 6th September. This event includes an indoor ProLife Festival, a march through the streets of London and a gathering in Parliament Square. The Diocese of Paisley is organising a coach for those wishing to attend. For more information, please contact the Diocese of Paisley.

ORGAN RECITAL - SAINT BRIDGET'S, BAILLIESTON

An invitation from Saint Bridget's Church, Baillieston to come and experience a recital by one of the most exciting organists of our time, Kevin Bowyer, organist of Glasgow University Chapel, playing the newly installed Bruggencate-MacKenzie pipe organ. On Monday 25th August. Admission £10.

SSVP SENIOR CITIZEN'S OUTING TO LARGS

The outing to Largs this year will be on Thursday 21st of August. The coach will leave from Saint Bride's Church at 11am, returning from Largs at 5pm, arriving back in East Kilbride around 6pm. If you wish to attend, please add your name and phone number in the green folder which will be placed by the notice board at the back of the church during July. We had a very good turn out last and are hoping for the same this year.

CLUB 200

This week's winner is Elizabeth O'Neill. Collect your cheque from the sacristy.



CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF THE VENERABLE MARGARET SINCLAIR

On Sunday 21st September at Saint Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh. 12.30pm-1.30pm - Refreshment and sale of candles and religious goods. 1.30pm-2.30pm - Exposition, Rosary, Benediction and Confessions. 3pm-4pm - Reflection on Margaret Sinclair by Canon Joe McAuley, with prayers, petitions and blessing of the Relic. 4.30pm - Celebrant: Archbishop Cushley. Homilist: Father Jamie McMorris.

CALENDAR

Wednesday is the memorial of **Saint Bernard** (+1153). He was a Cistercian monk at Clairvaux in France, and composed the famous prayer to Our Lady, the *Memorare*. **Thursday** is the memorial of Pope **Saint Pius X** (+1914). Born in humble circumstances in Northern Italy, he was: curate, parish priest, bishop and Patriarch (Archbishop) of Venice. Elected Pope in 1903, he influenced every aspect of the Church's life and worship. **Friday** is the 'Octave Day' of the Assumption (the Fourth Glorious Mystery), the memorial of the **Queenship of Mary** (the Fifth Glorious Mystery). Catholic instinct has always recognised the queenly dignity of the Mary as the mother of "The King of kings and Lord of lords." The first canonised saint of the Americas, **Saint Rose of Lima** (+1617) is remembered on Saturday. Inspired by the example of Saint Catherine of Siena, Rose became a lay member of the Dominican Order, and devoted herself to charitable works, while living a life of poverty.

THE STALL

Copies of my 'My day by day' for August are on sale at the Stall - priced £1.00 each.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be back this Sunday, 17th August at 9.30am in the Parish Hall. We look forward to welcoming you back.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Our Annual Christmas Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 14th December after 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. We are looking for helpers to get involved, and will hold a meeting on 27th August at 7pm in the Library. All welcome.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

Our next Collection is on 30th/31st the weekend of August. Please hand all items into the Hall. Leaflets will be distributed next Sunday with urgent items needed. Boxes for cash and vouchers will be at the front and the back of the Church. New volunteers and helpers are needed. Please speak to John Henvey about getting involved.

Last week I spoke to the Food Bank Group and the SVDP. We agreed that when there is a retiring collection for the Food Bank, or an official Retiring Collection for the Church, for example Peter's Pence or Communications, then the SVDP will stand down that weekend. I am very grateful we were able to come to this amicable and mutual decision. Fr. McGachey

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, <i>Parish Priest</i> Rev. Colm E. Martin <i>Assistant Priest, High School and Hospital Chaplain</i>
EMAIL	frmcgachey@rcdom.org.uk frmartin@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 Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER	07712 903732

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Mary Connor (Canada), Margaret Rose McMahon, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, Jean Lafferty, Frank Kirk, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Nessie McFadyen, Noreen Lockhart, Margaret Hannigan, Steven Russell, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochrean, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, Gary Jones, Paul Ellis, Colette Roxburgh,

RECENTLY DEAD - Maureen Todd, Gary Stewart, May Steell, John Docherty, Mary Cunningham, Anne McFadyen, May Rae, Robin Murray, Jim Dowell, Aidan Moreland, Margaret McCaffery.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Jacqueline Marshall, James Tolland, James McNulty, Charles McGlynn, Brian Curran, Pablo Estevez Morengo, Alphonsus Tuite, Monica Henderson, Francesca McLean, Dennis O'Neill.

DEATHS - Maureen Todd. Reception, Sunday 17th August 7pm. Requiem Mass, Monday 18th August 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 10th August - £3,115. This Standing Orders in favour of the off donation to the Parish or take Parish. Offerings can be made by are as follows: St Brides Parish scanning the adjacent QR code. It If you pay Income Tax, you can will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation you give.



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a one-out a Standing Order in favour of the Bank Transfer, the details of which 10246966 and 80-12-97 or by will take you to a secure web page. Giftaid your offering - the parish