



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Second Sunday of Advent
7th December 2025

SAINT LUCY, THE WINTER MARTYR

In the First Eucharistic Prayer, for centuries known as the *Roman Canon*, the Church commemorates seven women who were martyred for the faith in the early centuries; they are: Saints Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia, Perpetua and Felicity. Sometimes called the *Winter Martyrs*, their feast days fall between November and February, and the red vestments worn at Mass on these days, brighten the drab, grey days of the season.



Fifteen years ago, I bought the twenty pocket-size volumes of *The Liturgical Year* by the French Benedictine monk Dom Prosper Guéranger (+1875). In his commentary for the feast of Saint Lucy, which is this coming Saturday, 13th December, he writes about these seven women saints, and about the order they are mentioned in in the *Roman Canon*, "Until the time of Saint Gregory the Great (+604), the priest used to say: Perpetua, Felicity, Anastasia, Agnes, Cecilia: but this holy Pontiff, loving Sicily, where he had himself founded six monasteries, inserted in the *Canon* the names of these two Sicilian saints: Agatha of Catania, and Lucy of Syracuse...Out of courtesy, due to strangers, he gave them the precedence over the two Roman saints, Agnes and Cecilia." Two foreigners (Sicilians) are welcomed into the liturgy and placed before the native (Roman) Saints. Great liturgical hospitality!

As I said, this Saturday is the feast of Saint Lucy. Her story is one of historical fact, embellished with legend. What do we know about her for certain? She was of Greek lineage through her mother, Eutychia; that she lived in Syracuse on the island of Sicily in the fourth century; that her father, who was Roman, died when she was young.

We know too that Christians were still very much in the minority at that time. Lucy's mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a suitable suitor, Paschasius; we can assume he was pagan. But unknown to him or her mother, Lucy had pledged herself to Christ. The third century had been relatively quiet in terms of persecutions of Christians, and so, when martyrdom was not an option, the desire to consecrate one's life, in chastity to Christ, became a real desire for young Christians.

Lucy's mother had suffered for a long time from a terrible illness. Mother and daughter went to Catania to pray at the tomb of Saint Agatha, a fellow Sicilian, who had died the century before. Lucy also prayed for her mother to change her mind about marriage. Both their prayers were answered: her mother was cured of the illness and, at Agatha's intercession, and she accepted Lucy's decision not to marry.

But Lucy's spurned suitor, Paschasius, denounced her to the authorities as a Christian. To punish her, the Governor planned to force her into prostitution, but when guards went to arrest her, they could not move her, even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. The Governor ordered her to be tortured, including having her eyes torn out of their sockets. Lucy was then stabbed to death with a dagger in the throat.

In paintings and statues, Lucy is often seen holding her eyes on a golden plate. In Dante's *Purgatorio*, she is mentioned because an undesirable suitor wanted to marry her

because of her beautiful eyes. The removal of her eyes during torture, along with her name, which means 'light', meant that she was popularly acclaimed as a patron of the sense of sight, and by extension of the blind, or those with ailments of the eyes.

The story of Lucy and her witness in martyrdom touched a new generation of Christians in the fourth century - just as the story of Agatha had inspired Lucy in her day - and soon veneration to her sprang up in the Church - testified to by the fact that she has been mentioned in the *Roman Canon* for centuries.

Our modern age may look at the short life of Lucy, and the path she chose, as somewhat bizarre. The idea of sacrifice, especially the sacrifice of chastity, would seem alien to many. And yet one dares to hope that the example of Lucy will inspire young men and women to make sacrifices for the sake of others, and above all, for the sake of Christ.

We have a precious relic of Saint Lucy at Saint Bride's, and will offer an individual blessing with it, next weekend, after the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, to anyone who would like to receive it. Saint Lucy martyr, pray for us. Father McGachey



MONDAY 8th OF DECEMBER SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS FOR THE SICK

This Solemnity of Our Lady recalls how, when she was conceived in her mother, Saint Anne's womb, was preserved from all stain of Original Sin. She was immaculately conceived - because she was predestined to be the Mother of God's only Son.

Our 10am Mass on Monday will be a Solemn Mass with organ and incense.

During Mass, the Anointing with Oil of the Sacrament of the Sick will be given to anyone who would wish to receive it.

RORATE CAELI MASS - MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 7am

The Mass is traditionally celebrated just before dawn, in honour of Our Blessed Lady. The Church is illuminated by candles to highlight Mary's role in bringing the Eternal Light, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of the world. A *Rorate Caeli* Mass will be celebrated in our neighbouring parish of Our Lady of Lourdes on the Tuesdays and Thursdays of Advent at 7am.

DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY Mondays 8th, 15th and 22nd December 7pm

Gathered at Our Lady's altar we will offer her our day: our joys and sorrows, and ask her to present them to her Son, while commending ourselves to her protection and guidance.

After reciting the Angelus, we will form a torchlight procession and move off to the main part of the Church, where we will recite the Holy Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

EVENING PRAYER FOR ADVENT (VESPERS) TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 7pm

Join us at Our Lady's Altar for a simple Evening Prayer - lasting 30 minutes - of hymns, psalms and readings. Please note that we have substituted Sunday evenings for Thursday evenings.

SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER - ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Please use the opportunity to make a good Confession in preparation for Christmas

9.30am - 10am - Father McGachey, 10.30am - 11am - Father Martin, 11am-12noon - Visiting Priest, 12noon - 1pm - Visiting Priest, 1pm-2pm - Visiting Priest, 2pm-3.15pm - Father Martin, 3.15pm-4.20pm - Father McGachey, From the end of the Vigil Mass until 6pm - Father McGachey

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from the end of 10am Mass until 4.15pm. The Holy Rosary will be recited at 9.30am, 12noon and 2pm, followed by the Litany of Loreto.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

We would like to have a big Church clean on Tuesday 23rd of December, beginning after 10am Mass, 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 bring the Crib figures from the basement and have them washed. We would like to position the Crib and Christmas Trees on Tuesday 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 7pm on the 23rd of December.



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 cantor
 - 24th December, Midnight 12am with organist and cantor
 - 25th December, Mass of Christmas, 9.30am
with organist and cantor
 - 25th December, Day Mass of Christmas, 11.30am
with organist and cantor
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THE STALL

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

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION - EXTENDED ENTRY TIMELINES

FROM THE COFFEE MORNING COMMITTEE

We know that December is a very busy month for all our children. As well as the observance of the weeks of Advent, there are parties, discos and Christmas lunches to be enjoyed. We do not want any of our youngsters to miss out on the opportunity to take part in our **Art Competition** due to a lack of time, so we have revised the dates by which entries to the competition can be made. As a quick reminder, we have asked the children to draw The Nativity Scene.

Artwork can be placed in the Children's Art Competition Box, positioned at the Stall, until the church closes at **6pm on Saturday 13th December**. The **VERY LAST** opportunity to submit entries will be on the morning of the **14th December, prior to 9.30am Mass**. These submissions should be handed directly to any one of the Children's Activities team in the small room of the Hall. The competition will be judged immediately after this Mass, at the first Coffee Morning sitting. On the back of the work, please remember to add the full name and age of the artist, as well as a telephone number for a parent/carer. Many thanks!

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD BANK UPDATE

Our next collection will be on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th December. We are not looking for items this time round. Rather we will collect donations in the wooden boxes, situated at the entrances of the Church. Any monies collected will go towards fresh produce and warm clothing for families. Sincere thanks for the support you have given all year.

200 CLUB - THIS WEEK'S WINNER IS Marjory McGinnis.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

Our normal Children's Liturgy programme will focus on Advent, the coming of the baby Jesus, for the next few weeks, and will start at 9.30am in the back room of the Parish Hall.

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 continues today 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.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP TOAL

I would wish to encourage others to think and pray about the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. Now, as we begin Advent, is a good time to come forward, either speaking to your parish priest or contacting the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Charles O'Farrell, at frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk. Earlier this year there were a number of evenings for those considering the priesthood, and there will be another gathering at the Cathedral House, Motherwell, on Sunday 16th December at 7.30pm.



**NEXT SUNDAY
CHRISTMAS COFFEE
MORNING
AFTER THE 9.30am
AND 11.30am MASSES**

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the two morning Masses next Sunday for the Third Annual Christmas Coffee Morning. If you go to the Vigil Mass, please consider coming back in the morning for the Coffee Morning.

This year we will be serving roll and sausage and a cake, with tea/coffee or juice for children. Tea, coffee and juice can also be purchased individually.

Children's activities are free of charge and include: **Children's** Tombola, Face Painting, Guess the Elf's Birthday, Colouring In Activity...

The tickets for this year's Christmas Raffle are on sale before and after Mass this weekend and next, 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 bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label whisky, Magnums of Champagne, a £150 cash prize, a 55inch smart TV, amongst many other items.

Please support your parish: the monies raised will help us face the Winter months with more confidence. We extend our most sincere gratitude and thanks in advance, for your support of the Coffee Morning. Together we can make it a great day and a tremendous fundraising success for the parish!

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL - 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, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochran, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, Paul Ellis, Colette Roxburgh, John Paul Quinn, John Saroli, Lizann O'Hare, Susan and Robin Topping, Arthur Connor (Canada), Thomas Finnigan (Prestwick), George Kelman, Linda Simi, Ann Marie Kane. Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, John Convery, Morag Mitchell.

RECENTLY DEAD - Marion Greenan, Alan Dunbar, Colin Lindsay, David Blake, Daniel Aird, Paul Stevenson, Ignatius Powell, Adrian McGubbin.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - John F. O'Neil, Jane McNamara, Paul Downie, Eddie Garry, Anne Mooney, Michael McGee, Morag Frew, Nigel Pirella, Jude McAndlish, John Thompson, Willie Maxwell, Clive Dowie.

FUNERALS

Marion Greenan - Details to be confirmed.

Colin Lindsay - Monday 8th December in the Village Co-op Funeral Parlour at 12.45pm.

David Blake - Reception, Tuesday 9th December at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 10th December at 10am.

Daniel Aird - Reception Thursday 11th December at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Friday 12th December at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 30th November - £3,010. You the Parish or take out a Standing can be made by Bank Transfer, the Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97 or by take you to a secure web page. If offering - the parish will receive a donation you give.



may wish to make a one-off donation to Order in favour of the Parish. Offerings details of which are as follows: St Brides scanning the adjacent QR code. It will you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid your further 25 percent on the basis of the