

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of All Saints
1st November 2026

THE SAINTS...OUR FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES...

Today, 1st November, is the Solemnity of All Saints, the day when we honour those holy men, women and children, whose names we know and love, to whom we pray in times of difficulty and need, and whose holiness has been recognised by the Church, allowing them to be officially proclaimed Saints.

But today's feast goes beyond the well-known Saints, since it honours those anonymous men, women and children, of every time and place, including the people we have known and loved in this life, who are in heaven with God.

In the final book of the Bible, the *Book of the Apocalypse*, its author, Saint John the Apostle, has a vision of heaven, in which he describes people gathered "from every tribe and tongue and people and nation" who "stand before the throne of the Lamb". The glory and radiance of that celestial vision, and of the Solemnity in general, is in sharp contrast to the increasingly dark overtones Halloween has garnered in recent decades.

During the time of the persecutions in Ancient Rome, many Christians were martyred for the Faith. It became the custom to celebrate the Eucharist on top of the Martyr's tomb on the anniversary of their death – their *Dies Natalis* (heavenly birthday). As the number of Martyrs grew, it became difficult to assign a specific day to everyone who had died for the Faith. Therefore, from the beginning of the Fourth century, the Church established a single day to honour all the Martyrs.

When Christians were given the freedom to worship publicly, without fear, for the first time, by the Emperor Constantine in 313, he gifted them public buildings, called *basilicas*. These they converted into Churches, and at their centre, they placed an altar, into which they inserted relics of several Saints – hence the reason we use the phrase '*raised to the altars'* when someone is canonised or made a Saint: the anniversary of their death was celebrated at the altar, rather than on top of their tomb in the cemeteries.

Raised on our altar today are the relics of four Saints: Saint Bernadette of Lourdes (+1879), Pope Saint Pius X (+1914), Saint Maria Goretti t (+1921) and Pope Saint John Paul II (+2005). Here is a little about each of them.



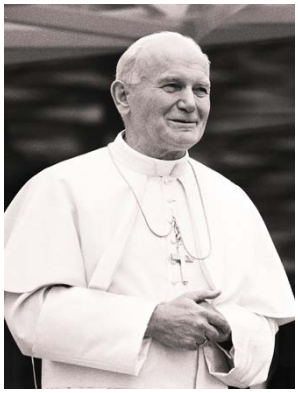
Saint Bernadette Soubirous – Born in Lourdes in 1844, into a poor family, who lived in one large room, in what was a former prison. On 11th February 1858, while collecting firewood, she saw an apparition of a "beautiful Lady" at Massabielle, the local dump. The Lady asked that a Church be built and that people should come in procession with candles. The Lady then invited Bernadette to "drink of the water from the spring" at the side of the niche in the rock where she stood – the source of *Lourdes Water* today. She was ridiculed by many, and despite the connivance of the atheistic local authorities, Bernadette was able to see the Lady sixteen times. During the last apparition, the Lady revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception". Bernadette would go on to become a nun at Nevers, embracing the most menial tasks in the Convent, where she died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-four. Bernadette is a Saint, not because of the apparitions she had of Our Lady, but because of her own personal holiness.



Pope Saint Pius X – Born Guiseppe Sarto in 1835, into a large peasant family in the North of Italy. He walked five miles to school and back each day, in all kinds of weather. Ordained to the Priesthood at the age of twenty-four, he was successively Curate, Parish Priest and Seminary Professor – in all these roles he was loved and respected by parishioners and students alike. Named Bishop of Mantua, he did much to defend workers' rights in the face of shocking abuses by the bosses. A much-respected Cardinal Archbishop of Venice, in 1903 he would pawn his Bishop's Pectoral Cross and Ring to pay for the train fare to Rome to take part in the Conclave at the death of Leo XIII. Elected by his fellow Cardinals, he took the name Pius X. The first peasant Pope for over four hundred years, he never forgot his humble roots. Hardworking, he carried out far reaching reforms, including lowering the age for receiving Holy Communion from twelve to seven. He died in 1914, shortly after the outbreak of war.



Saint Maria Goretti – Born in 1890, into a poverty-stricken family in Corinaldo, Italy. When she was nine, her father died, and she took on many of the household duties in order to care for her younger siblings. On 5th July 1902, a 20-year-old neighbour, Alessandro Serenell, tried to rape her. Maria resisted, warning him that what he was doing was a terrible sin against God. Enraged by her refusal, Serenelli stabbed her fourteen times. She was rushed to hospital at Nettuno, near Rome, where she died the following day. On her deathbed, her final words were of forgiveness: "I forgive him, and I want him with me in heaven!" In 1950, Pope Pius XII canonised Maria Goretti, an event drew a massive crowd of over 250,000 people. At the ceremony, Maria's elderly mother and her repentant attacker, Alessandro, sat side-by-side among the congregation in Saint Peter's Square. She is the Patron Saint of youth.



Pope Saint John Paul II - Born Karol Wojtyla, on 18th May 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. He lost his mother, sister and brother in his youth. During the Nazi occupation of Poland in World War II, he worked in a quarry and a chemical factory, while secretly studying for the Priesthood in a clandestine seminary. He was ordained on All Saints Day 1946. He rapidly rose through the Church hierarchy in Poland, becoming the Auxiliary Bishop of Kraków in 1958; he was created Cardinal in 1967. Known as the 'Global Pope', he visited one hundred and thirty countries, making him the most widely travelled Pope in history. On 13th May 1981, he survived an assassination attempt in Saint Peter's Square. He visited Scotland in 1982, holding a Youth Rally at Murrayfield and Holy Mass at Bellahouston Park. He died in 2005 and was canonised by Pope Francis in 2014.

Today's Solemnity should inspire us because the Saints lived ordinary lives like us, facing similar problems and difficulties. They were marked with the same sign of faith as we were in Baptism. They tried to live by the values of Christ as we do. They have gone before us, making that final journey we will have to make one day. Where they are, we hope to follow! May they intercede for us!

After Mass, please approach the altar, to see the Relics up close; if you have children, take them too; touch the reliquary, make the Sign of the Cross, and ask the Saint to pray for you and to help you.

Father McGachey

WELCOME TO OUR BISHOP, JOSEPH TOAL OF MOTHERWELL

He is joining us at the 11.30am Mass, to confer of Miss Betty Purdie, the Diocesan *Bene Merenti* (well-deserved) Medal, for her more than sixty years of service to Saint Bride's Parish. Please join us in the Hall for a celebratory tea afterwards.



TOMORROW - ALL SOULS' DAY

Monday 2nd of November is *the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*, more commonly called *All Souls' Day*. It is a day of prayer for our departed loved ones. There will be a special Holy Mass, with incense and organ, at 10am. During Holy Mass, the traditional Latin Antiphons from the *Missa Pro Defunctis* (Mass for the Dead) will be sung – they are very beautiful. I hope that many of you will come to pray for your Dead relatives. At 7pm, we will have Marian Devotions, during which the Rosary will be offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

FRIDAY 7am MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

Father Martin proposes to offer a *Votive Mass for the Dead*, each Friday during November, at 7am. Please use the opportunity to pray for your Beloved Dead.

NOVEMBER LISTS – 'REMEMBER ME AT THE ALTAR OF GOD'

Saint Monica

Please complete a *November List*, writing the names of those you would like to be prayed for during the month at each Holy Mass and Service during the month. They will be placed in the Books of Remembrance, which will form part of special November Shrine. Please have a look at the Books! It is customary to include an offering with your November List to support the Liturgical life of the Parish. Thank you.

OUR ANNUAL MASS OF THE DEAD

Will take place on Monday 16th November at 7pm. We will be remembering the dead of the past year, as well as those who have died since the inception of the Parish.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

We will be running a programme for children in P3 who will be making their First Reconciliation in 2027. The begins today and runs for four weeks in the Parish Hall. Beginning at 9.15am, for about 45 minutes, after which the children will come into Mass.

MONDAY - DEVOTIONS TO HONOUR OUR LADY

Beginning at Our Lady's altar, followed by a torchlight procession, the recitation of the Rosary with the Litany of Loreto, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

LEARNING ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH

RCIA classes continue on Tuesday at 7pm. This week's topic is: *The Sacrament of Confirmation.* It will be given by Father McGachey in the Chapel House.

STALL

The November edition of 'My Day by Day' is available at the Stall. On sale too is a selection of Seven Day Candles, in red or white, as well as a whole range of other piety items.

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200 CLUB – this week's winner is Joan Henshilwood. Please collect your winnings.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH – EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest* Rev. Colm E. Martin *Assistant Priest, High School Chaplain*
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BULLETIN NOTICES	Contact Fr. McGachey or Fr. Martin or bulletin@sbek.org
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT NUMBER	07712 903732

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL - Monica McShane, Mary Easton, Margaret Rose McMahon, Jean Lafferty, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Murphy, Brian Ewing, Alan MacDonald, Jan Milligan, Catherine McLean, Noreen Lockhart, Patricia Carey, Anne McDowell, Paul McCartney, Kevin McCann, Gayle Cochrean, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, John Paul Quinn, Thomas Finnigan, George Kelman, Ann Marie Kane, Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, Michael Conroy, Fiona Jane Anderson, Lindsay Sweeney, Robert Ward, Margaret Boyle, Kenneth McEwan, Rosie Maher Law, Stuart Gibbons, Sadie Elliot, Billy Wilson, Marie Quigley. Christopher Bailey, Margaret Saroli, Louise Brannan, Raymund Brannan, Louise MacFarlane, Brendan Darcy, Claire Elliot.

RECENTLY DEAD – John Beatie, Graham Taylor, Bernadette Breslin, Caroline Kurdell, Gerard Sloan, Adam Stuart, Monica Del Pietro, Anne Strachan, Paul Moreland, Daniel Smith.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES – James McVittie, Paul Dyet, Helen McCann, David Cook, George Sommers, Carlos Menendez Pelayo, Attracta Monaghan, Alice Marie Mitchell, Maria Conway.

FUNERALS
John Beattie – Requiem Mass, Wednesday 4th November 10am.
Darren Blackwood – Philipshill Cemetery, Monday 9th November 2pm.
Graham Taylor – Requiem Mass, Tuesday 10th November 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 25th October - £3,095. This Standing Orders in favour of the one-off donation to the Parish or take the Parish. **Offerings can be made by which are as follows: St Brides by scanning the adjacent QR code. page. If you pay Income Tax, you parish will receive a further 25 donation. you give**.

included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a out a Standing Order in favour of **Bank Transfer, the details of Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97 or It will take you to a secure web can Giftaid your offering – the percent on the basis of the**