



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven
16th August 2026

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY INTO HEAVEN

Saint Bernard, who gave the Church the beautiful Marian Prayer, the *Memorare*, and whose feast day falls later this week, wrote of Our Lady: "If the storms of temptation arise, if you crash against the rock of tribulations: look to the Star, and call upon Mary. If you are tossed about on the waves of pride, of ambition, of slander, of hostility: look to the Star and call upon Mary...If you begin to be swallowed up by the abyss of depression and despair, think of Mary! In dangers, in anxiety, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary...When you are terrified by judgement or in despair, think of Mary, for she holds you, you will not fail; if she protects you, you need not fear."



In Scotland today we are celebrating the Assumption of Our Lady – the dogma of faith that states: Mary was taken body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life – the fourth Glorious Mystery. It is the oldest feast day of Our Lady in the Church's calendar. Its origins are found in Jerusalem

during the reign of the Emperor Constantine, that is to say, from the year 312 onwards.

In 135 the Emperor Hadrian (the same one who ordered the building of 'Hadrian's Wall', stretching from the Solway Firth to the River Tyne, as the northerly border in Britannia in 122) obliterated all trace of Jesus from the Jerusalem, and built temples dedicated to the Roman Gods over the holy places associated with his life.

In the Fourth century, after the Roman Empire had embraced Christianity, the pagan temples were destroyed, and Basilicas were built to commemorate the events of Our Lord's life on the same spots. Jesus' mother Mary was not forgotten. Memories of her centred around the so-called 'Tomb of Mary' – near the site where the Jewish Temple had once stood – it was called the place of her 'dormition' or 'falling asleep', that is, where Mary is said to have died, the tomb being her burial spot. Today the Abbey of the Dormition, run by German Benedictines, is found here.

Mary's death began to be celebrated by the Christian community in Jerusalem in the fourth century; by the seventh century it was being celebrated in Rome, under the title of the 'Falling Asleep', or '*Dormitio*', in Latin, of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the 'Assumption of Mary', since there was more to the feast than her dying: the feast began to underline the belief that Mary "had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven." That belief dated back to the time of the Apostles themselves. Why?

In 451, when bishops from the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople for a Council, the Emperor Marcian asked the then Bishop of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary with him. The Bishop explained to the Emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem: Mary had died in the presence of the Apostles; but her tomb, when opened later, was found to be empty, and so the Apostles concluded that her body was taken up – assumed – into heaven.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* (the Most Generous God) Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a Dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven." Why? It was not fitting that the flesh, which had given life to God's Son, Jesus, should ever undergo the corruption and decay of death. So, the feast turns our eyes in the direction of heaven - where Mary has gone, we hope to follow.

If you can, as you leave the Church today, spend a minute before Our Lady's altar - specially decorated for the Solemnity - perhaps light a candle, and tell her how much you love her. As Saint Bernard says, "Look to the Star and call upon Mary." If you are weighed down by the cares of life, if you have problems that seem insurmountable, ask her for her help. She will not let you down! Father McGachey



DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

These popular devotions continue on Monday this week at 7pm. 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. Please join us if you can.

WEDNESDAYS - EVENING PRAYER WITH THE SAINTS

With the lighter nights still upon us, and hopefully more good weather, these Vespers will take place each Wednesday at 7pm, before Our Lady's Altar. Consisting of a Hymn, two Psalms and New Testament Canticle, Short Reading and reflection on the Life of a Saint, Mary's hymn of Praise the *Magnificat*, Intercessions, Concluding Prayer, the Salve Regina and Sprinkling with Holy Water.



THE CHURCH IS OPEN EACH DAY FROM 9am UNTIL 7pm

CALENDAR

Today is the **Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven** - see front cover. **Wednesday** is memorial of **Saint John Eudes** (+1680). Born in Normandy, he studied in Paris and was ordained to the Priesthood. An outstanding preacher, he founded the Society of Jesus and Mary (commonly called the *Eudists*) to preach parish missions in rural France. He promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, based on the apparitions of Christ to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. **Thursday** is the memorial of **Saint Bernard** (+1153). He was a Cistercian monk at Clairvaux in France. He was a poet, theologian, writer and a fervent devotee of Our Lady. **Friday** is the memorial of Pope **Saint Pius X** (+1914). Born in humble circumstances in Northern Italy, he was: curate, parish priest, bishop and Patriarch of Venice. Elected in Pope in 1903, he influenced every aspect of the Church's life and worship. He died in 1914 of a broken heart as the First World War erupted. **I have a precious relic of Saint Pius X - I will offer a chance to venerate it and receive an individual blessing with it after Mass on Friday.**

MASS FOR THE SICK WITH THE HOLY ANOINTING

WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK ON THE THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

FABRIC

Apologies for the carpark at the Hall not being fully operational yet. It has been a frustrating few days. The work will be completed this week. Thank you for your patience.

ASSISTED DYING BILL FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

The Assisted Dying Bill (UK Parliament) failed in June 2026 as it was out of time and did not complete the scrutiny in the House of Lords. It is now being brought back to the UK Parliament as a Private Members Bill and a vote in the Commons will take place on 11th September. This Bill will deliver the same unsafe outcomes and will also seek to be passed into law without the full scrutiny of the House of Lords. Bishop John Keenan has asked all Catholics in Scotland to lobby our MPs to get them to vote against this Bill. A letter has been prepared and only needs your name and address added. Copies of the letter are at the Stall at the back of the Church. Letters will be collected from all the parishes in East Kilbride and presented to our MP to show Catholic opposition to the Bill.

SAINT KATERI TEKAKAWITHA - NEW PUBLICATION (St Paul's Press)

This book is for anyone wishing to know more about the life and faith journey of Kateri Tekakwitha (+1680). The first female Native American Saint, known as the "Lily of the Mohawks". Kateri endured illness, loss and terrible persecution because of her Catholic faith, yet remained steadfast in her love for Christ. Her life is a powerful witness of trust in God. A miraculous healing attributed to Kateri involving a young boy of Native American ancestry, paved the way for her canonisation. The author, Ann McDowell, who is a parishioner, is generously donating all proceeds from the sale of the book to Saint Bride's. Copies of the book are available at the stall for the reduced price of £5.

ANNUAL VOCATIONS MASS

The Annual Diocesan Vocations Mass will take place on Tuesday 25th August in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, at 7pm. Please pray for our five seminarians, and for those who will follow them. All welcome to attend the Mass.

FROM THE O'DONNELL FAMILY

Mr Bernard O'Donnell and the family of the late Mrs Ray O'Donnell would like to thank sincerely all those who sent Mass and Sympathy Cards, as well as flowers and other expressions of sympathy, during their recent bereavement.

FROM THE STARLIGHT DANCE SCHOOL

The Starlight Dance School is registering now for new dancers. Based in Saint Bride's Church Hall, they offer classes in Tap, Modern Freestyle, Cheer and Street for Walking. Contact Jennifer on 07851286759 for more information.

THE BEREAVMENT GROUP

Will meet in the Library after 10am Mass on Monday 24th August.

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 Chaplain</i>
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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, Richard O'Donnell, Owen O'Donnell, 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 Cochran, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, John Paul Quinn, Thomas Finnigan (Prestwick), George Kelman, Ann Marie Kane, Rosemary Maley, Peter Friel, Molly and Robert Ward, Noreen Lockhart, Neil McCready, Michael Conroy, Fiona Jane Anderson, Lindsay Sweeney, Robert Ward, Margaret Boyle, Kenneth McEwan, Rosie Maher Law, Stuart Gibbons, Sadie Elliot, Billy Wilson, Ian McFadyen, Nessie McFadyen, Marie Quigley, Christopher Bailey, Margaret Saroli, Louise Brannan, Raymund Brannan, Louise MacFarlane, Brendan Darcy.

RECENTLY DEAD - Marie Heaney, John Gallagher, Paul Tollan, Elizabeth Kelly, Brian Munro, Mark McGovern.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Brian Curran, James McNulty, Antionette De Marco, Sally Pickering, Juan Agostino, Mary Blackburn, Neal McDermott.

FUNERALS

Marie Heaney - Reception - Wednesday 19th August at 5.30pm. Requiem Mass, Thursday 20th August at 10am.

John Gallagher - Reception - Wednesday 26th August at 5.30pm. Requiem Mass, Thursday 27th August at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 9th August - £2,985. This Standing Orders in favour of the off donation to the Parish or take out 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 receive a further 25 percent on the



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a one-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 will basis of the donation. you give.