



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Twelfth Sunday of the Ordinary Time
- 21st June 2026

I DO NOT WANT ONLY TO BE GOOD, I WANT TO BE HOLY

Were today, 21st June, not a Sunday - the Twelfth Sunday of the Ordinary Season in the Church's calendar - we would be celebrating the memorial of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (+1591). In Motherwell Diocese, we have a small Parish dedicated to him in Chapelhall, just beyond Airdrie. More famous is the Jesuit Church and College that bear his name, just behind Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow. Who was Aloysius and why is honoured as a Saint?



In Renaissance Italy there were three important families: the Medicis, patrons of the Arts; the Borgias, the political plotters and the Gonzagas, the Military clan *par excellence*. Aloysius (Luigi) Gonzaga was born in 1568 in Castiglione, near Mantua - the city where Romeo and Juliet were exiled to in Shakespeare's eponymous play - in the Lombardy region of the north of Italy. He was the eldest son of the Marquis Ferrante Gonzaga (+1586) and his mother Marta Tana (+1605), who herself was part of the famous *della Rovere* family: Popes Sixtus IV (+1484) and his nephew, Julius II (+1513), the Pope who commissioned Michelangelo (+1556) to paint the Sistine Chapel, were her near relatives.

The time and place where here he grew up - 16th century Italy - was not very different to Britain today. It was a morally careless and self-indulgent age. Aloysius saw the decadence around him and vowed not to become part of it. Like any teenage boy, he wanted to have a good time, and as a member of an aristocratic family he had plenty of opportunities for amusement. But he put his Catholic faith and the values of Gospel first. As a child, Aloysius was trained by his father, a rough and domineering man, to follow in his footsteps: he was a famous military officer, who had his son dress as a soldier and take part in military parades which he oversaw. His mother, by contrast, was gentle and deeply religious.

Aloysius wanted not only to be good, but to be holy too. When he was thirteen, he devised a program he thought would prepare him for future: he began to pray seriously and to do penance. He climbed out of bed in the middle of the night to spend a few extra hours kneeling on the cold stone floor in prayer - he was trying to become a saint by sheer willpower. His parents sent him to be educated at the court of the famous Francesco de Medici (+1587) at Florence. Here he began to be troubled by a kidney complaint that would stay with him for the rest of his life. Often, he would be found in the Church of *Nostra Signora della Annunziata* (Our Lady of the Annunciation) praying before her image. He wanted to honour Our Lady with a gift: he made a vow of perpetual chastity and offered to her.

Nevertheless, the boy found it hard to shake off his privileged background. When he was twelve years old, his parents called him home to receive his First Holy Communion from

the hands of the then Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Charles Borromeo (+1584), who is today honoured as a Saint. Into the bargain, the Gonzaga family was called to Spain in 1580, where his mother became Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, Isabella de Valois (+1586), sister-in-law of Mary, Queen of Scots (+1587). Aloysius and his brother Rodolfo (+1593) were Royal Pages to the *Infante* Don Diego (+1582). Here he decided to become a missionary, after reading about the work of Jesuits in India. His mother was happy, but his father was horrified, and for three years withheld his consent, and tried everything he could to get Aloysius to change his mind. Finally, in November 1588, his father consented, and Aloysius gave over all rights of succession to Rodolfo.

Aloysius went to meet Pope Sixtus V (+1590) who, after questioning him about his desire to become a Jesuit, gave him his blessing to enter the novitiate in Rome. Saint Robert Bellarmine (+1621) was his Superior and put a stop to Aloysius' 'boot camp' approach to holiness, commanding him to follow the Jesuit way of life: regular times for prayer and simple acts of self-control and self-denial. Aloysius thought the Jesuits were too lenient, but he obeyed! Such zeal may have exasperated Robert Bellarmine, but he believed that Aloysius' fervour was genuine, and that with guidance, he might become a Saint.

In 1589, there was a outbreak of the Plague in Rome. With the city's hospitals overflowing, the Jesuits sent every priest and novice to work in the wards. This was a difficult assignment for the squeamish Aloysius, but once he started working with the sick, and dying, fear gave way to compassion: he carried them to the hospital, where he washed them, found them a bed, fed them and nursed them. Such close contact with the sick was dangerous, and within a few weeks, he contracted the Plague himself and became very ill.

He recognised his approaching death and predicted that he would die in eight days after the Feast of *Corpus Christi*. On that day, which fell on 21st June, Aloysius seemed well in the morning but insisted that he would die before the day was over. Saint Robert Bellarmine gave him the Last Sacraments of the Church and Aloysius died just before midnight, at the age of twenty-three. In 1726, Pope Benedict XIII (+1730) canonised Aloysius Gonzaga and in 1926 Pope Pius XI (+1939) named him the Patron Saint of Catholic Youth.

In James Joyce's (+1941) semi-autobiographical novel, *The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Aloysius is dismissed as 'a prig, naive, sickly and unattractive', and his 'custody of the eyes' and his 'vow of chastity' are mocked in typical Joycean fashion. Even the producers of holy pictures and statues, who portray him as a delicate, doe-eyed Saint, have given us the wrong impression. This may be responsible for the decline in devotion to the Saint. Yet devotion to Aloysius surely deserves a revival in our own time, especially as the Patron Saint of teenagers.

Father McGachey

PETER'S PENCE - RETIRING COLLECTION - TODAY

Today there will be a retiring collection for 'Peter's Pence' to support the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Leo XIV to carry out his charitable works.



These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

Thank you for your generosity to the many appeals over the past six months.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS

There was a wonderful attendance at the seventh week of the Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots last Monday.

I am sure Our Lady must be truly pleased with the honour she is receiving at Saint Bride's. She will not be outdone in her kindness towards us. Trust in her willingness to help, even if your 'knot' seem impossible to unravel.

The eighth week of the Novena is on Monday evening at 7pm. The prayers begin at Our Lady's altar, followed by a torchlight procession, the recitation of the Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us.



A FEW WORDS FROM FATHER MCGACHEY

On behalf of Father Martin and myself, I would like to offer our thanks to you for your support and encouragement over the past six months. Your loyalty to the Parish, along with your practical concern and financial generosity, week after week, are deeply appreciated. May God reward you!

A special word of thanks to all who are actively involved in the day to day running of the Parish for their time and commitment: sacristans, church cleaners, members of the Music Ministry, those who look after the altar linens, sacred vestments and other paraments, pass keepers, those who look after the garden and grounds, the collection counters, readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, servers, flower arrangers, those who help to prepare the bulletin, the Children's Liturgy group, the Legion of Mary, SVDP, as well as those who work so hard in the Parish Hall. Thank you all most sincerely.

I am heading off on my summer holidays on Thursday of this week. I look forward to enjoying the sunshine, spending time with my family, and having a good rest. I will be back in the Parish on the 28th of July. Please give Father Martin every support and assistance.

This will be the last Bulletin until the end of July. Please note I will not be answering any emails or texts in July - it is time for me to switch off!

I wish you all, whether you are staying at home, or travelling further afield, during the weeks ahead, a pleasant and relaxing summer. Please God, the sun will shine for us!

Father Francis McGachey, Parish Priest

FROM FATHER MARTIN

I am covering Saint Benedict's, Easterhouse until Wednesday 24th of June.

SCHOOL MASS

On Thursday 25th June, the last day of the school term, Saint Kenneth's Primary Seven school leavers will join us at the 10am Mass. The community of Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's will also be present at this Mass.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT PETER AND PAUL,
APOSTLES AND MARTYRS - READERS PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Today, Sunday, is the final Children's Liturgy before we break for the Summer. We will be back in late August, after the schools have returned from their summer break. Thank you to all the children who have participated in our regular Sunday sessions and Sacramental preparations over the last ten months, and to the parents or carers who bring them. On behalf of our parishioners, Father McGachey and Father Martin wish to thank the Leaders and students from the High School who conduct the sessions.

FABRIC AND FINANCE

Last Monday, we paid the third instalment of our Diocesan Levy (26% of our income from our weekly collections) - £6,303. So far this year we have paid £18,909 to the Diocese. The levy payments continue each month until November. In December we will have to pay our annual insurance bill which will be in the region of £8,000.

We have paid the electricity bills for the Church and Hall for 1st to 30th April - £811.78.

The latest gas bill for the Church and hall for 1st-31st May was £475.55 - this is due to be paid at the end of the month. The gas bills should be even lower over next three months.

Thanks to the fundraising event a few weeks ago for the hall refurbishment, we can begin with its repainting at the end of July. The carpets are scheduled to be cleaned after the repainting has been carried out. New tables have been ordered - these will arrive in July. An order has been placed for 100 new chairs - these are on backorder and should arrive at the end of August or the beginning of September. The cost of the new furniture is around £4,000. I wonder if the small group of parishioners who organised the highly successful Prosecco Afternoon Tea at the end of May, would consider organising another one when the Hall has been fully refurbished? The last one was so well received and it would help us immensely to continue the refurbishment of the hall!

The general waste bin situation for the hall, Church and Church House has been unsatisfactory for a long time now - there is no lid to cover the large 1100 litre bin that sits by the garage, which means birds, foxes and squirrels raid its contents and scatter them around the garden regularly. I am afraid that if the problem is not addressed the site will attract other vermin like rats and mice. One bin is insufficient for the needs of the three properties, and the fortnightly collection is inadequate. Like many local businesses, we have had no choice but to pay a company for better and more hardware and more frequent collections. The cost of this is about £100 per month.

The wall between the Church and the hall will be repaired and repainted in August, and the wooden fence between the Church and the garages creosoted - weather permitting.

Finally, it has been gratifying to hear the positive comments about the small devotional area to the Sacred Heart that we have made for the month of June. Many of you have suggested that it should be made permanent, and that a votive candle stand could be added, for example. It is a mystery to me why there is no permanent Sacred Heart altar at Saint Bride's, as there is in most other churches. I feel we should improve on this *ad hoc* arrangement! If anyone would like to make a contribution towards a more permanent devotional area to the Sacred Heart, please let me know.

200 CLUB - THIS WEEK'S WINNER IS IAN KELLY

CALENDAR



Monday is the memorial of **Saint John Fisher** (+1535) and **Saint Thomas More** (+1535). John Fisher studied Theology in Cambridge and became Bishop of Rochester. His friend, Thomas More, wrote of him, 'I reckon in this realm no one man, in wisdom, learning and long approved virtue together, meet to be matched and compared with him.' Thomas More was born in London and was Chancellor of King Henry VIII. As

a family man and a public servant, his life was a rare synthesis of human sensitivity and Christian wisdom. They gave up their lives in testimony to the unity of the Church and to the indissolubility of Marriage. **Wednesday** is the **Solemnity of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist** - see over. **Friday** is the memorial of **Saint Josemaría Escrivá** (+1975). He founded *Opus Dei* which opened a new path of holiness, helping the faithful in all walks of life to sanctify themselves in the world by performing ordinary work and daily duties with a Christian spirit. **Saturday** is the memorial of **Saint Cyril of Alexandria** (+444). He was one of the great defenders of the faith against the Nestorian heresy which denied the oneness of person of Christ. At the Council of Ephesus in 431, over which he presided in the Pope's name, it was defined that Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, his mother, is the *Theotokos*, the Mother of God. The Church venerates him as one of her great doctors.

ENQUIRERS ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH

A piece of very good news over the past few months has been the number of people who have approached Father Martin and myself about becoming Catholics and members of the Parish. At the last count, we reckon that eleven people have done so since Easter this year. God be praised! All of them are under forty years of age, although age does not matter! This is a source of great joy and hope for Saint Bride's Parish, and it is a phenomenon that is being mirrored in the Church around the world.

Sometimes a word of encouragement, or simply to ask someone the question: 'have you ever thought of becoming a Catholic?' is all that is needed to get someone to think about it. The Holy Spirit blows wherever he wills, awakening faith. Personally, I put this awakening down to the rich spirituality of the parish: Masses that are unhurried, regular preaching at weekday Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on weekdays, a Church that is open all day, devotion to Our Blessed Lady through the number of rosaries that are said in our Church daily, as well as the very well attended Marian Devotions on a Monday evening. People are searching for something more than the world can offer, and many of them are tired of the illusory promises of a shallow society. They are looking for something that really endures.

We will begin our classes in mid-September this year: one evening a week, lasting about an hour. Father Martin and myself will have a more hands on approach to the instruction offered this coming year.

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, in getting to know more about the beauty and richness of the Roman Catholic Faith, please speak to either Father Martin or myself. You will be made very welcome and given much encouragement. I would encourage all of our parishioners to pray daily for those who are enquiring about the Faith, that God will continue to awaken this precious gift in them.

THE BIRTH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Ordinarily, the Church's Calendar keeps the feast day of a Saint on their *Dies Natalis* (birthday), that is to say, their heavenly birthday – the day on which they left this world and were born into eternal life in heaven. However, there are two exceptions, when the earthly birthday is celebrated by the Calendar: the birthday of Our Lady, on the 8th of September and the birth of Saint John the Baptist on the 24th of June, six months before the feast of Our Lord's birth at Christmas.



Why is the feast of Saint John's birth kept on the 24th of June rather than the 25th June? The reason lies in the Roman way of counting. The Romans counted backwards from the *calends* (first day) of the succeeding month. So, Christmas was the eighth day before the *calends* or first day of January (*Octavo calendas Januarii*). Consequently, Saint John's birth was put on the eighth day before the *calends* of July. However, since June has only thirty days, in our way of counting, the feast falls on the 24th of June.

Saint Luke's Gospel gives us some background information about the parents of the Baptist: Elizabeth, his mother, was Our Lady's cousin, a woman who was older than Mary and unable to conceive; and his father, Zechariah, a priest who ministered in the Temple in Jerusalem. Twice daily the carcasses of lambs or sheep were burned on the altar behind the "veil of the Temple" – a large, heavy curtain that hid the altar from the eyes of people. Incense was heaped on top of the carcasses to sweeten the smell of the burning flesh and to make the offering fragrant in God's eyes. Luke's Gospel tells us that Zechariah was carrying out this sacrifice when the angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him that Elizabeth would conceive a child and that the child should be called "John". Zechariah refused to believe the angel, so he was "struck dumb" losing the power of speech.

The child was conceived, and three months later Mary visited Elizabeth (the Visitation, the Second Joyful Mystery). We are told that John "leaped" in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived – seen down through the ages as the cleansing on Saint John from the stain of original sin. On the day John was born, Zechariah's power of speech returned, and he was able to declare that the child "was to be called John."

The New Testament tells us nothing of John's early years, but when he was in his thirty- second year, he withdrew into the desert beyond the Jordan to fast and pray. We are told that he kept himself alive by eating "locusts and wild honey" and wore a rough "garment of camel's hair." When he came back to baptise in the villages of Judaea, so powerful was his preaching, that many thought he was the Messiah. John quickly set them straight, saying he had come only "to prepare the way", and that "he must increase, while I must decrease" and that he was not worthy to "undo the Master's sandals."

Today is the Summer Solstice, when the sun is highest in the sky. But the days are beginning to shorten. Conversely, after the Winter Solstice, just before Christmas, the days begin to lengthen. Saint Augustine saw in these natural phenomena the life of Saint John and Our Lord reflected: John said that Christ "must increase" when the days are growing longer around his birth and "I must decrease" when the days are beginning to grow shorter. **Father McGachey**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PREISTS

Father Kieran Burt, the newest priest in Motherwell Diocese, who was ordained last Friday evening at Saint Joseph's, Blantyre.

For **Father Kenneth O'Brien** who celebrates his Silver Jubilee of Ordination on 22nd June at Saint Barbara's, Muirhead. For **Father Thomas Magill** who celebrates his Golden Jubilee of Ordination at Saint Athanasius', Carluke on 26th June. **Bishop Frank Dougan**, formerly of this Diocese, who celebrates his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination at Saint Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on 26th June. For **Father Gerard Chromy** who celebrates his Golden Jubilee at Saint Joseph's, Blantyre on 2nd July. And for **Father Stuart Parkes** who celebrates his Silver Jubilee of Ordination at the Sacred Heart Church, Bellshill on 6th July.

RAINBOWS

The Rainbows currently has spaces available on Tuesdays at 5.45pm in the Church Hall. If you would like to register your interest, please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk.

Unfortunately, the Brownies has no spaces available at the moment.

PARISH SCHEDULE FOR JULY

HOLY MASS - Sundays: Vigil 4.30pm, 9.30am and 11.30am

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 4pm-4.20pm and after the Vigil Mass

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Monday-Friday at 9.15am

HOLY ROSARY - Monday-Friday at 9.30am (This will be led by the laity)

THE LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME - recited after the Rosary in July

HOLY MASS - Monday to Friday 10am

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL - on Tuesdays after Mass

NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA - on Thursdays after Mass

Please note that when there is a Requiem Mass,
there will be no Exposition or recitation of the Rosary

CATHOLIC MASS TIMES APP

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, I spoke about the importance of attending Mass on a Sunday when we are on holiday, especially if we are abroad. A good parishioner discovered the **Catholic Mass Time App**, that can be downloaded to your phone. Its coverage is pretty comprehensive. It may be useful if you are travelling further afield over the next few months.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF SAINT NINIAN

Join this year's National Pilgrimage to Whithorn in honour of Saint Ninian on 29th and 30th August, accompanied by Bishop Joseph Toal.

Pilgrims from across Scotland are invited to gather at the birthplace of Scottish Christianity to celebrate the life and witness of Saint Ninian, who first brought the Gospel to our shores.

Whether you have attended before or are considering making the journey for the first time, all are warmly welcome to take part in this special annual celebration. For more information, please contact Jim McKelvie at pilgrimage@rcdom.org.uk.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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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 McMahan, 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 Cochrean, Merisa Todd, James McLean, Elizabeth Kyle, Thomas Quinn, Chris McElroy, Danny McCash, Theresa Tierney, 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, Paul Tollan, 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 - Edward Reid, Eliza Steven, David Burke, Allister Gillanders, Denis McLaughlin, Eugene Reynolds, Agnes Garvey, Monica Sinclair, Alphonsus Murphy, Alberto Riva Rodriguez.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Maureen Cairns, John Maule, Christina Sarah Maguire, Margaret Sweeney, Lorenzo and Antonio Di Vito, Evelyn Knight, Thomas Lochrin, Alfonso, Alberto and Elio Faccenda, Don Smeaton, Jacqueline Forster, Paula McKnight.

FUNERALS

Edward Reid - Reception into Church, Sunday 21st June at 6.30pm. Requiem Mass, Monday 22nd June at 10am.

Eliza Steven - Requiem Mass, Wednesday 24th June at 10am.

David Burke - Reception into Church, Tuesday 30th June at 6pm. Requiem Mass, Wednesday 1st July at 10am.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 14th June - £3,105. 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.