

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Solemnity of Christ, the King of the Universe – 22nd November 2026

CHRISTUS VINCIT, CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT

The above words are taken from the famous *Laudes Regiae* (Royal Praises), a long hymn of acclamations and invocations, punctuated by the famous refrain: *Christus vincit*, *Christus regnat, Christus imperat* (Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands). It is the hymn, par excellence, for today's Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, and the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As King, Christ claims dominion over all creation and his kingdom of justice and peace, grows from strength to strength.



"LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING..." – SAINT JOSELITO

In 1926, the Mexican Government's restrictions on the freedom of religion and conscience forced the faithful in the country to come out and defend their faith in dramatic fashion. It was a time of bullets, death, and persecutions.

Amid the noise of war, could be heard the voice of a fifteen-year-old boy, who walked to his grave shouting "Long live Christ the King!" Refusing to give up his Catholic faith, José Sánchez del Río, or Joselito (little Joe) as he was commonly called, died a martyr in the *Cristeros* War that shook Mexico between 1926 and 1929. It is reckoned that around a quarter of a million lives were lost during this dark period in Mexico's past.

Joselito's childhood was that of a normal boy: he went to school and had a knack for making friends. His family, from Michoacán, was pious and active in the local parish. His parents' living faith was the basis of his holiness.



Having gained the approval of his parents to join the *Cristeros* Movement – the response of Catholics in Mexico to the secularist, anticlerical political regime, led by the politician, Plutarco Calles, in control of the country in those days.

José had to convince the Movement's leader that he was mature enough to be part of the organisation. In fact, his first request was refused. But José did not give up. He persisted and offered himself as an assistant, which the leader accepted. At the *Cristeros* camp, Joselito encouraged the others to pray the Rosary daily. He cheered up his companions by his good humour, and won their admiration by his hard work. They nicknamed him Tarcissius, after the Roman martyr, who when in his teens, was attacked and killed by the Roman mob while carrying the Blessed Sacrament in 295AD.

On the 6th of February 1928, he was taken prisoner by government troops. Joselito was easy to catch because he had given his horse to his General while they were in battle. From prison, before his death, he wrote the following moving letter to his mother: "I was taken

prisoner in combat today. I believe I am going to die, but nothing matters, Mother. Resign yourself to God's will. I'm dying very happy because I'm dying in the fight next to Our Lord. Don't worry about my death. Rather tell my other brothers to follow the example of the youngest son, and you: do the will of God. Have courage and send me your blessing, together with that of my father. Greet everyone for me for the last time and receive for the last time the heart of your son who loves you so much and wanted to see you before dying."

At 11pm on the 10th of February, José Sánchez del Rio walked to the cemetery, with the soles of his feet, which had been flayed, in agony. Even in pain, José did not deny his faith. Standing in front of his open grave, and without giving in to those who tried to get him to deny Christ, he shouted out one last time "Long live Christ the King! Long live the Virgin of Guadalupe!" What an example in life and death of loyalty to Christ, the Universal King and Our Blessed Lady! A true role model, who deserves to be more widely known.

José was raised to the altars as a saint by the late Pope Francis on the 16th of October 2016. His story from the 1920's is one of the many testimonies of Mexicans who helped to keep the Catholic faith alive in their country in the face of tremendous opposition.
Father McGachey

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK BEGINS TODAY

Catholic Education Week begins this weekend. School pupils from Saint Kenneth's Primary School and Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School, will be involved in our Sunday Masses.

A Retiring Collection to support the work of the *Scottish Education Service*, will be taken-up at all Masses this weekend.

The senior pupils from the High School have organised a Coffee Morning after the 9.30am Mass today to support the Charity, Mary's Meals. Please support this initiative if you can. You can support Mary's Meals by donating through the adjacent QR code.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

This Sunday will be the final part of our Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation. Next Sunday, 29th November, is the First Sunday of Advent. Our Children's Liturgy group will begin a 4-week preparation to underline the two coming of Jesus. As usual, we will be in the Parish Hall at 9:30am. All primary school children are invited to attend and find out about the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.



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 November. They will be placed in the *Books of Remembrance*, which form part of special November Shrine. Please have a look at the Books!

THE STALL

Copies of 'My day by day' for **December** are now on sale at the Stall – £1.00. New Christmas merchandise is on display too, including Cribs, Christmas ornaments and Christmas Cards. On sale too is a selection of Seven Day Candles, in red, as well as a whole range of other piety items. If you have ordered a Christmas Lantern from the Stall, these can be collected.

LEARNING ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH

RCIA classes continue on Tuesday at 7pm. This week's topic is: *The Holy Eucharist.* Father Martin will deliver the talk in the Chapel House. Please remember the ten candidates in your prayers, that they may continue to embrace the Catholic Faith with courage and enthusiasm.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND COFFEE MORNING - SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER



Tickets for our Annual Christmas Raffle will be on sale today before and after Holy Mass. Prizes this year include: a Fortnum and Mason's Luxury Christmas Hamper, a Cash Prize of £150, Magnums of Moet and Chandon Champagne, a 50Inch Smart Television, amongst many other items.

We are looking for donations of bottles for the Bottle Stall at the **Christmas Coffee Morning which will take place on Sunday 13h December, after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses.** These can be handed into the sacristy at any point. All the proceeds from the Raffle and Christmas Coffee Morning will go to the Parish, to help us face the winter months with renewed confidence. Thank you.

MONDAY - DEVOTIONS TO HONOUR OUR LADY

Monday 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.

CANON RYAN'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Our appeal for Christmas gifts and toys for less fortunate children in the East End of Glasgow begins today and will run until the weekend of the 13th December. The items can be left beside the gate to the Choir Loft. Please do not wrap any gifts. Thank you for your generosity and support.

BROADCAST FOR 'ADVENT SUNDAY'

Next Sunday at 3pm, BBC Radio 3 will broadcast the traditional 'Advent Sunday' service live from Saint John's College, Cambridge, at 3pm. It is a beautiful liturgy of readings and congregational and choral music for the Season of Advent. I am sure you would enjoy it, if you get the chance to listen. You can listen any time on 'BBC Sounds'.

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SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH – EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest* Rev. Colm E. Martin *Assistant Priest, High School Chaplain*
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
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, Michael Phimister, Sally Hastings.

RECENTLY DEAD – Greg Taylor, Marion McLaughlin, David Hayes, Billy Higgins, Gerry Keaveney.

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES – Helena Jones, David Burke, Frances Maxwell, Paul Smith, Anita Jones.

FUNERALS

Greg Taylor – Reception into Church, Monday 7th December 5.45pm. Requiem Mass, Tuesday 8th December 10am**.**

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 15th November - £3050. This included the Basket Collection and Standing Orders in favour of the Parish. You may wish to make a one-off donation to the Parish or take out a Standing Order in favour of the Parish. **Offerings can be made by Bank Transfer, the details of which are as follows: St Brides Parish 10246966 and 80-12-97 or by scanning the adjacent QR code. It will take you to a secure web page. If you pay Income Tax, you can Giftaid your offering – the parish will receive a further 25 percent on the basis of the donation. you give**.