



SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE

Bulletin for the Seventeenth Sunday of the Ordinary
Time - 26th July 2026

THE HOLY FAMILY OF BETHANY

Those of you who attend weekday Mass in Saint Bride's will know that I rarely miss an opportunity to speak about the Saints. I learned to love these holy men and women because of two people who had a similar affection for the Holy Ones of God, that rubbed off on me. One of them was the Parish Priest of my home parish, Saint Barbara's, Muirhead (who happened to be a curate in Saint Bride's in the 1960's) Father William O'Sullivan. The other was a teacher I had in Primary School, Kathleen Reilly, who read a short life story of a Saint during our religious lesson every day. Kathleen, who died a few years ago, is the mother of Father Stephen Reilly, Parish Priest of Saint Anthony's and Saint Mark's, Rutherglen.



People sometimes ask me if I have a *favourite* Saint. The answer is no, I do not. But I go on to qualify my response, by saying that I have *three favourite* Saints. As it would happen, their feast day falls later this week. They are the sisters Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus.

They lived in Bethany in Judea, in southern Israel, about two miles from Jerusalem, on the road to Jericho. It is bordered by the Mount of Olives and Bethphage. The word 'Bethany' in Hebrew means 'the house of Figs' - Fig and Palm trees grow abundantly there.

The friendship between Martha, Mary and Lazarus and Our Lord is one the most fascinating in the Bible - clearly their relationship was special because it is mentioned by all four Evangelists. They were followers of Jesus, certainly, but more than that, they were his friends. Jesus visited their home, shared their meals and enjoyed their company. The Gospels tell us how each one of the siblings showed their love for Christ in different ways:

Martha, which means in Aramaic (the language spoken by Jesus) 'lady or mistress of the house'. She was an *active* person. On one occasion, Saint Mark's tells us, that she prepared a meal for Jesus and the apostles, but she is left to do all the preparations by herself, while her sister Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to him speak. She asks Our Lord to tell Mary, perhaps tongue in cheek, perhaps in sheer frustration, to help her. Jesus recognises that Martha is "worried about many things" but "few matter" he says, while noting that Mary "has chosen the better part."

Sometimes we feel as Martha felt - we are left with everything to do, while others sit back and apparently do nothing - this can happen in our own homes or in the places where we work. The Christian thing to do is to rise above it and not let resentment win. One of the hallmarks of being a follower of Jesus is not to complain about things, but to show our love for the Lord, by the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow, done willingly and cheerfully, without looking for thanks or praise - 'to toil and not to seek for rest' as Saint Ignatius says.

Mary, which means 'beloved' in Hebrew, was a *contemplative* person. As well as listening to the Lord words, she washed his feet with her tears and anointed his them with precious oil called "pure nard" (pistachio oil), using her hair to dry them (Matthew 26, 6-13). She was *extravagant* in her love for the

Lord - in John's Gospel, Judas upbraids Mary for spending 300 denarii on the oil, but Jesus reminds him "that the poor are always with you, you will not always have me."

The lesson to be learned from Mary's extravagant gestures is, that nothing is too good that it cannot be used to give honour to the Lord. Saint John Vianney (-1859) was deeply impressed by Mary's gestures of love for Jesus. When he arrived in the small parish of Ars in southern France, he found that it was filthy and much neglected. Immediately he got down on his hands and knees and began to scrub. The parish had no money, but he wanted to get the finest of vestments and sacred vessels for the Lord's glory. The money always came from somewhere. "This is our house for the Lord on this earth" he would say "like Martha and Mary and Lazarus, we welcome him and show him our hospitality. Nothing is too good or too expensive that it cannot be used in his service." As Saint Ignatius would say "help us to give and not to count the cost."

Lazarus, which means 'God has helped' in Aramaic, was a man of *quiet faith*. Not one word of his is recorded in the Gospels, but after lying in the tomb for four days, Christ calls him to rise again. Afterwards, we are told that the Chief Priests plotted to kill him because "many of the Jews were turning away from them and believing in Jesus." Like Saint Joseph, Lazarus is the original Quiet Man. How often do our tongues get us into trouble; we voice our opinions; we can run a person and their character down to the lowest; we feel we have the right to make our opinions known – and usually, the truth is, no-one is really interested. When we are tempted to do this, we should recall the words of Saint José Maria Escrivá de Balaguer, founder of Opus Dei: "Look, listen, smile and say nothing." Another lesson from the life of Lazarus is: there is always a price to pay for following in the footsteps of the Lord. Sometimes people laugh at us, they will hate us and even persecute us, in our own homes, amongst our families, the places where we study or work. When this happens, remember Lazarus.

On their feast day I always recall a good piece of advice given us by one of the Spanish priests who taught us in Salamanca. He was a great scholar, who had written more than fifty books and hundreds of articles, but at the same time he was a man of simple faith and deep piety. At the end of his final lecture, he said to us: "Whatever you do in life, wherever you go, always have a Bethany, a place where people will welcome you, where they will love you and accept you, for who you are and what you are, as Martha, Mary and Lazarus did for Jesus." **Father McGachey**



DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

These popular devotions will resume 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. Our Lady will generously reward any time we give in her honour.

WEDNESDAYS - EVENING PRAYER WITH THE SAINTS

During Advent and Lent these Evening Prayers, more properly called *Vespers*, regularly attracted up to forty people. With the lighter nights still upon us, and hopefully more good weather, we will resume these Vespers on Wednesdays 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. It is a lovely way to conclude the day. Please join us.





TODAY – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Today at Carfin Grotto, a special celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. Bishop John Keenan will celebrate Holy Mass at 3pm, in thanksgiving for the love, wisdom and witness of grandparents and older people in our families, parishes and communities.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Bishop John Keenan of Paisley will lead this pilgrimage at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Carfin, on Saturday 1st August. It will begin at 12noon with Mass and is expected to finish at about 4.30 pm. Those taking part are asked to bring water and a packed lunch.

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.

The three men recently completed the Propaedeutic Course at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca: Craig Paterson (Saint Mary's, Hamilton), Aiden Quinn (Saint Ignatius', Wishaw), and Matthew Graham (Saint John the Baptist's, Uddingston). They will now continue their formation at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome. They will be joined there by Aidan Kelly (Saint Ninian's, Hamilton) and Matthew O'Neill (Saint Mary's, Whifflet), who will be returning to the College after completing the Pastoral Year in the Diocese. Our five men in Rome will be part of the enlarged Scots College Community who will continue to live in the Pontifical Beda College during the coming year. It is hoped that with the sale of the Scots College on the Via Cassia having been completed, a new building will be purchased soon and be ready for use next year.

Please pray for our seminarians, and for those who will follow them. It is hoped that a couple of young men, who have been meeting with our Vocations Director, Fr Charlie O'Farrell, will join the Propaedeutic Period in Salamanca in January.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF SAINT NINIAN

This year's National Pilgrimage to Whithorn in honour of Saint Ninian on 29th and 30th August. 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

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The National Pilgrimage to Carfin will take place on Sunday 6th September marking the 800th Anniversary of the Death of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated at 3pm and the main celebrant and preacher will be Rev William Nolan, Archbishop Glasgow. All welcome.

200 CLUB WINNERS – 28th June - Patricia Murray. 5th July - Catherine Graham. Betty Purdie - Quarterly winner. 12th July - Claire Toner. 19th July - Anne McShane. 26th July - Michelle M Davidson.

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH - EAST KILBRIDE

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, *Parish Priest*
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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 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

ANNIVERSARIES, MONTHS MINDS AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES

FUNERALS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Sunday 19th July - £3,005. This Standing Orders in favour of the donation to the Parish or take out a **Offerings can be made by Bank follows: St Brides Parish 10246966** adjacent QR code. It will take you to **Tax, you can Giftaid your offering - percent on the basis of the donation. you give.**



included the Basket Collection and Parish. You may wish to make a one-off Standing Order in favour of the Parish. **Transfer, the details of which are as and 80-12-97 or by scanning the a secure web page. If you pay Income the parish will receive a further 25**