



No 400

Kilbrittain Parish

Weekly Bulletin

30th January 2022

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses this week

Monday: 9.00am
 Tuesday: NO MASS
 Wed, Thurs and Fri 9.00 am
 Saturday 10.00 am

Candlemas

Feast of the Purification
 Wednesday 2nd
 Candles will be blessed at 9.00 am Mass.

St Blaise

Thursday 3rd
 Traditional blessing of throats after 9.00 am Mass.
 NOTE:Candles used for blessing will be sterilised and will not be placed in contact with the skin.
'Through the intercession of St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may the Lord protect you from all harm of the throat and every evil.'

First Friday

Usual calls to the sick and housebond will be made during the week.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
 Wednesdays 2.00 to 8.00 p m

Bulletin Archive

This is the twentieth year of Bulletins in Kilbrittain Parish and this 400th issue of the Weekly Bulletin is a good place to be reminded that all 20 years of Bulletins are archived now in PDF format and can be read and/or downloaded from parish website www.kilbrittain.org
 --Seasonal Bulletins 2002 to 2010
 --Monthly Bulletins 2011 to June '13
 --Weekly Bulletins from Oct 2013

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 KILBRITTAIN**
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BAPTISMS:
 Sat and 11.30 Sun or by arrangement.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION:
 Mon 9:30 to 1; Wed 2 to 8

St Blaise, a fourth century bishop at Sebaste (now the city of Sivas in central Turkey, in what was then the Roman province of Armenia-Cappadocia). During a persecution – probably ordered by Constantine's ally and co-emperor Licinius – he was martyred in 316 AD. This much at least seems to be historical fact, according to the New Roman Martyrology 2004. The ritual of the blessing of throats. In many places on 3rd February – his feast day – people gather in churches for the blessing of throats. The blessing is a sign of the people's faith in God's protection and love for the sick.

In the Middle Ages Blaise became one of the most widely venerated saints in the Western Church even though he was from the East. Different accounts of his life and stories about him appear in the 9th century martyrologies and these give us a clue to the source of his popularity.

How has he become so famous for the blessing of throats? The most significant detail tells that when Blaise had been captured and was on his way to prison, a boy was brought to him in danger of choking from a fishbone stuck

in his throat. Blaise prayed over him and he was cured. (Perhaps to fill out his healing credentials, it is also reported that before he was chosen as bishop, Blaise had practised as a physician!)

And finally about the manner of his death – it is told that he was first beaten, then put on the stone table used for combing out wool and flayed with the prickly metal combs that remove tiny stones from the wool. Finally he was put to death and beheaded.

The wonder about St Blaise is how veneration of a martyred bishop in eastern Turkey spread so widely in the western world. His fame as a healer of sore throats is documented in the East from the 6th century and in the West by the 9th. But he also becomes a protector of cities, a protector against wild animals, a patron of veterinarians, wool-combers and of the woollen industry in general, as well a general benefactor or even a mascot of many rural and urban activities.

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Items for the Bulletin can be given or emailed to Denis and Margaret Collins: killeenskilbrittain@yahoo.ie or to Fr Cremin: mail@frcremin.com. Deadline for receipt of submissions each week is Thurs night 9.00 pm. Weekly Bulletin and archive since 2013 online at <http://www.kilbrittain.org>