



Vox Clamantis

Bulletin of the Society of Saint Pius X in Scotland

September 2024

"The will to do, the soul to dare"

Dear Faithful,

As well as the large number of feast days this month (St. Mirin [in Paisley] is just one of them), we also have all day adoration in Glasgow on the 6th. Since this is a first Friday, we shall start the adoration at 10am and continue throughout the day until 6pm when we shall have benediction and some time to prepare for the evening Mass starting at 6.30pm. A notice will be affixed so that people can guarantee a presence before the Blessed Sacrament exposed throughout the day though, probably, many will only be able to make the last hour and Mass.

As well as an immense benefit from the personal devotion involved in spending time in the Real Presence of our Lord, there is a very necessary purpose behind these days of Adoration. They were begun by Archbishop Lefebvre with the following intentions:

The victory over the exterior and interior enemies of the Church;

The return of Rome and the bishops to the traditional doctrine of the Church;

The sanctification of priests and candidates for the priesthood;

The awakening of priestly and religious vocations.

The Society of St. Pius X is not merely a different 'flavour' of TLM, it was founded for the preservation of the Catholic Faith. The odd episcopally sanctioned Latin Mass is not enough. Particularly the second intention is obviously vital today since many of the clergy, to the highest level, are manifestly not living nor preaching the Catholic Faith. This will only change with assiduous prayer. God will steer the boat, but we must row. May God bless you in all your efforts!

With every good wish and blessing,

Rev. Sebastian Wall (Prior)



Recent first communions include Ava Weir on 21st July...



...and Eve and Jax Ferguson's on 4th August. Eve was baptized the previous day.



Rev. Gary Holden recently celebrate 20 years of priesthood at Stonyhurst. Brother Boniface and Fr. Vandendaele joined me in the celebrations! Fàilte gu Alba, Athair!



St. Mirin — Holy Boar Tamer



When I first mooted the idea of making this month's saint, Saint Mirin, the first reaction was "you mean, the football team?" It is true that Paisley's local team, St. Mirren F.C., is so called, and it is not a chance patronage. St. Mirin has been considered the patron saint of Paisley for well over a thousand years. The original St. Mirin (also: Mirren,

Merinus, Merryn and Meadhrán) lived from 565 to 620. He was an Irish monk and missionary who founded a religious community in Scotland which, centuries later inspired the partial patronage of Paisley Abbey (along with St. James, Our Lady and St. Milburga *vide infra*).

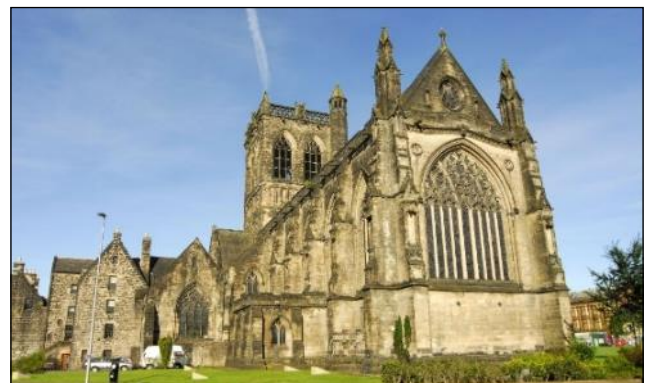
St. Mirin was born in Ireland, into a noble family. While still young he was admitted to the monastery at Bangor Abbey in County Down, where he studied under the guidance of St. Comgall (Congal, Comgal) who had founded an abbey on the shore of Belfast Lough in 558. Mirin later became the Prior of Bangor Abbey and records show that he at one time received St. Finian who later was the teacher of St. Columba. In the absence of the Abbot, it was the duty of the Prior to receive guests and Finian on his arrival asked for some milk. There was none. Nonetheless, Mirin asked the brother Cellarer to go down into the cellar and bring some up which was miraculously done. Another event that marked out Mirin as having the ear of God is when he went to preach to the High King of Ireland. The King summarily refused to listen. What happened next, taken from the lessons of the Aberdeen breviary for 15th September, the saint's feast day, is widely disregarded as a 'legend'. Nonetheless, the story is so remarkable in its nature, it is not one likely to be have been invented. The Queen was in her confinement and suffering greatly. Mirin is said to have prayed to God to have the king suffer from his wife's labour pains which duly happened. He was subsequently summoned by the High King, the two were reconciled, the King was released from his sufferings and Mirin given the permission he wanted to preach. The story was later commemorated by a frieze of carvings which grace St. Mirin's chapel at the South transept of the original building.

In 580, Mirin, with some companions,

left Ireland to go on a missionary journey to Scotland. In the life of St. Kieran, (5th March), in Colgan's Acta SS. Hib., there is a notice of a *S. Medranus* (a latinisation of the Irish form of his name), who is mentioned in the lost Kalendar of Cashel with a St. Tomanus: *Sancti Medranus et Tomanus in una ecclesia in Britannica Arcluidensi*. This implies an area near the Clyde (rather than Iona). The chieftan there was more sympathetic than the High King and granted an area in the bend in the White Cart Water. A small monastic community was established. Various miracles are attributed to our saint during this period including a mysterious glow being seen in his cell by one of the brothers and a resurrection of another brother on a missionary journey. Perhaps the most well-known miracle concerns the taming of a wild boar in the area though no further details have been conserved by history.

There is some evidence of devotion to St. Mirin in the area which could reasonably considered to be within the missionary ambit of Paisley, including Knockmurrin (Mirin's Hill) in Ayrshire, an Inchmurrin (Mirin's Island), the biggest island on Loch Lomond, and a St. Mirin's Well near Kilsyth. Otherwise, like in the case of many of the earlier Scottish saints, that would be the end of this article. Somehow, however, the devotion to this local saint persevered for over 500 years with what appears to be a shrine around which the town of Paisley grew.

Perhaps the devotion would have remained local, or perhaps, like St. Machar in Aberdeen, the name alone would have survived. But in the middle of the 12th century, King David I brought up from England a Norman knight, Walter Fitzalan, and made him the High Steward of Scotland. The large estates granted to him by David included much of Renfrewshire, and he ran them from his castle in Renfrew. In 1163, Fitzalan decided to found a Cluniac priory on his land. Originally, thirteen



monks from Wenlock in Shropshire came up to Scotland (St. Milburga was the patron of the Wenlock monks). Fitzalan probably felt that the piety demonstrated by his commitment to the Priory had paid early dividends when just a year later he defeated the army of Somerled, King of the Isles, at Inchinnan close to the River Clyde and a few miles north of Paisley.

Paisley Priory achieved its independence from Wenlock in 1219, by which time it probably comprised a choir and a number of side chapels. In 1244 monks from Paisley established a daughter house at Crossraguel Abbey near Maybole and the following year the Priory was raised to Abbatial status. Abbey life flourished and it is likely that towards the end of the 13th century, William Wallace received his education there. Whether it was this fact or the support of the fifth High Steward for the Scottish cause is unknown, at any rate, Paisley Abbey was razed to the ground in 1307 by the armies of the dying Edward I during his final attempt to subdue Scotland. During the following century, however, it was rebuilt in even greater splendour. By 1315, enough had been built for the sixth High Steward, Walter Stewart, to marry Marjorie, daughter of Robert the Bruce. The following year she died in the Abbey infirmary following a riding accident, though her unborn child was saved. He went on to become Robert II and along with his wives and son, Robert III, is buried there (Queen Victoria gave a splendid monument to commemorate this latter). That such extensive building should continue during such a tempestuous period of Scottish history is remarkable.



Tomb of Robert III

In 1471, the influential Abbot Shaw began his long reign. He did much to expand and beautify the buildings including the St. Mirin chapel in which the relics (lost at the dissolution) were now housed. One of the adornments to this new chapel was a set of stone friezes which, though much mutilated, are still visible today. They show scenes from the life of the saint based on the readings in the Aberdeen Breviary, so: Mirin being presented by his mother to Abbot Congal, the clothing of Mirin as a monk, and Mirin taking over leadership of the monastery. There is then a gap, possibly where a tabernacle or reredos would have ob-

scured the view. The next five tableaux represent the story of the High King: Mirin being driven away by a young man carrying a birch, the King being tortured by the pains of childbirth, the Queen with her child in a cot, the King supplicating Mirin, the reconciliation of the King with Mirin. The final two show the other two miracles mentioned in this article, the miraculous glow of Mirin in his cell being spied by a brother and the resurrection of another brother after he had died of exhaustion. Based on the date of foundation (1499) and the architecture portrayed in the scenes, they were probably completed some time shortly before this date. The 'reformers' destroyed the faces of the figures but left the architectural details which are clearly from the late 15th century and probably executed by Thomas Hector, the sculptor to the Abbey. It is also during this period that King James IV issued a charter granting Paisley the status of burgh of barony in 1488. One of the reasons given was 'the singular respect we have for the glorious confessor, Saint Mirin'.

Following a succession of fires, the central tower of the Abbey collapsed in 1553. Seven years later, the revolution began. There was no question of restoring the tower so a wall was constructed at the East end of the nave and used as a parish church. The building standing today was restored to relative splendour during the 19th century, and late last century the stone gargoyles replaced, one with a curious representation of the Alien from the film of the same name.

A pedestal of blond sandstone, designed by landscape architect Daniel McKendry, bearing the inscription taken from the Aberdeen Breviary 'At Length Full of Sanctity and Miracles, Mirin Slept in the Lord at Paisley' was erected in 2003 opposite St. Mirin's Cathedral at the junction of Ince Street, Gauze Street and Glasgow Road in Paisley. Four years later a bronze statue of the saint was installed on the pedestal.



Mass Schedule

	Carlisle	Glasgow	Edinburgh
Sunday 1 st September — 15 th after Whitsun		8.30am & 10am	9am & 11am
Monday 2 nd September			7am
Tuesday 3 rd September — St. Pius X		6.30pm	6.30pm
Wednesday 4 th September	7.15am		
Thursday 5 th September	11am		
Friday 6 th September (<i>First Friday</i>)		6.30pm	6.30pm
Saturday 7 th September (<i>First Saturday</i>)		11am	11am
Sunday 8 th September — 16 th after Whitsun		8.30am & 10am	9am & 11am
Monday 9 th September	7.15am		
Tuesday 10 th September	7.15am		
Wednesday 11 th September	7.15am		
Thursday 12 th September	11am		
Friday 13 th September	7.15am		
Saturday 14 th September		11am	11am
Sunday 15 th September — O.L. of Sorrows		8.30am & 10am	9am & 11am
Monday 16 th September — St. Ninian	7.15am		
Tuesday 17 th September	7.15am		
Wednesday 18 th September	7.15am		
Thursday 19 th September	11am		
Friday 20 th September	7.15am		
Saturday 21 st September		11am	11am
Sunday 22 nd September— 18 th after Whitsun		8.30am & 10am	9am & 11am
Monday 23 rd September			7am
Tuesday 24 th September	7.15am		
Wednesday 25 th September	7.15am		
Thursday 26 th September	11am		
Friday 27 th September	7.15am		
Saturday 28 th September		11am	11am
Sunday 29 th September — St. Michael		8.30am & 10am	9am & 11am
Monday 30 th September			7am

Contact details:

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Email: standrews@fssp.uk

Resident priests:

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Wall (Prior)

Rev. Fr. Gary Holden

Rev. Fr. Francis Ockerse

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**Saint Andrew's
Church**

202, Renfrew Street,

GLASGOW

G3 6TX

**Saints Margaret and Leonard's
Church**

110, Saint Leonard's Street,

EDINBURGH

EH8 9RD

If you require any further information concerning one of these places, or need to talk to a priest e.g. in case of emergency for the Sacraments, please ring the phone number mentioned in contact details.