



**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

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**St. Paul's R. C. Church**

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**Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest**

**Charity Number - SC011041**

**[www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org](http://www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org)**

**Newsletter**

**The Thirtieth Sunday of the Year**

**October 29th 2023**

*Dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,*

*This coming Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, the church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints, one of our Holydays of Obligation and a day for us to treasure in our hearts. It is a liturgical moment of great thanksgiving as we celebrate all the saints of the church throughout the ages, those who are our canonised saints and all the other men, women and children who have lived a holy life and who have gone before us into the mystery of life eternal.*

*The following day we celebrate Holy Souls Day or the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, when we are invited to sincere prayer for our relatives and friends and neighbours who have died and indeed for all the holy souls in purgatory, those awaiting God's invitation to enter Heaven and to be with God forever in the Kingdom that has no end.*

*How sacred our lives become when we respond in a sincere way to what the church asks of us. We will stop what we are usually doing on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of next week to gather as members of the church to celebrate these special liturgies. How wonderful is the life of grace! I look forward very much to celebrating these special liturgies with you and for you.  
Father O'Brien*

**I offer here the times of the Liturgy for the coming week:**

**Monday October 30th:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am  
*Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm*

**Tuesday October 31st:** Requiem Mass for Mr. John Flynn at St. Mary's at 10am  
*Reception on Monday at 6.15pm*

**Solemnity of All Saints**

**Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>:** Vigil Mass at St. Mary's at 7pm

**Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Mass at St. Mary's at 10am; *St. Mary's Primary will be with us*

Mass at St. Mary's at 12 noon

**Mass at St. Paul's Primary at 2pm**

**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**

**Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Requiem Mass for Mr. William McCole at St. Mary's at 10am

**Mass at St. Mary's at 7pm**

**November Lists for the Faithful Departed:** one of our lovely customs is to write down the names of our deceased relatives and friends on one of the November Lists available at the back of the church. Many include an offering (which you do not need to do) and these will be shared between two very good charities, Mary's Meals and Friends of the Holy Land. *Thank you.*

**New Mass Times at St. Mary's Church:** the **Vigil Mass will move to 5pm** and the **Sunday Masses will be at 9am and 10.30am**. This will last for a trial period to see if in fact we will need two Sunday Morning Masses. *I hope this proves to be the case.*

**An Important Statement from Bishop Toal on 'Project Wellspring':** I am pleased to announce we have very recently launched a new renewal project entitled *Wellspring* which seeks to equip the Diocese of Motherwell for growth over the next 10 years. The primary focus of this new project will be to renew and re-energise our missions by setting out a simple Gospel-centred vision and a fresh, new pastoral plan. It will also include a strategy for property and finance management.

We are already engaged in the early stages of planning with the clergy, supported by a small team of unpaid lay professionals who will manage the process with us. The discussion phases will very soon engage parishes and laity so that we can all contribute to the important work of preparing for the future. I expect to engage the entire diocesan community, young and old, as we move into 2024.

I am excited at the prospect of setting a new course as we look ahead with confidence to the next 10 years of mission in our diocese. Please pray that *Wellspring* will indeed be a great gift that renews and strengthens our bonds with the Lord and his Church. Pray too, that it inspires sisters and brothers who have distanced themselves to re-engage with the regular practice of the Catholic Faith. *May Our Lady of Good Aid, our Patroness and Mother, crown our work with her grace.*

**A Message from Missio Scotland: Thank you for supporting World Mission Sunday;** together as a parish we raised £1,935, which is a wonderful sum. Your donations and prayers will go towards supporting the work of missionaries worldwide. Furthermore, your example, like that of our missionaries all over the world, will serve as an inspiration to others to live out their Baptismal mission and play their part in the universal Church. Thanks to your generosity, Missio Scotland has been able to send much-needed funds to support a great number of projects. *Thank you once again.*

**Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** the parish stall and Fairtrade are holding a joint coffee morning in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass. Christmas Cards, Nativity Sets, Advent Calendars (including Fairtrade chocolate ones) Christmas ornaments etc will be on sale. A small selection of Fairtrade food and crafts will be available. Holy Cross High School will also be selling Christmas Cards. *Toast and home-baking will be served.*

**Annual Census of those attending Sunday Mass in Scotland:** each year in November the Scottish Bishops ask that a census be carried out of Eucharistic members of the Catholic Church and it will be taken next weekend at the Vigil and the Sunday Masses. As you know, over the past 10 years, there has been a steady decline of Catholics attending Mass on a Sunday. Can this year be different? Please speak about the life of the church with your family and friends and encourage one another to support the ministry of the church. Every day we watch the news we can see how vital the Gospel of Jesus is for the wellbeing of society.

**CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group** meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1pm. New members are always welcome and after the meeting there is a cup of tea together.

**Please pray for,**

**Recently Deceased:** Tommy Selfridge, John Flynn, Willam McCole, Palma Rougier Ferguson (Kenja), James McClafferty, Peter Devine, Jim Carr, Jim Donnelly, Stephen McQuillan, Patricia McLachlan, Patrick Emmanuel Omeje (Nigeria)

**Special Remembrance:** Daniel and Catherine McKenna, Ann Connolly, Michael McCafferty, Hugh Morgan, Kathleen Zambonini, Tommy O'Donnell, Margaret Lynas Higgins, Anna Bogan, Sarah Henderson, Stephanie Higgins, Janet Higgins and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.