



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21st 2023

My dear parishioners,

This weekend the Catholic Church in Scotland celebrates World Communications Day. I offer here an edited version of a letter from Bishop Toal for your consideration:

“This weekend marks the 57th World Communications Day. In his annual address to mark the occasion Pope Francis has asked all in the church to redouble our efforts to ensure evangelical communication is at the heart of our mission at diocesan, parish and individual levels.

At the diocesan level, we have been listening to the feedback given at the recent Synod discussions. We have heard the voices of many who have asked for a renewed focus on Gospel outreach and engagement through modern media methods. As a result we have set up a new Diocesan Communications Commission which has already begun this important work. The Commission is led by Fr. Michael Kane and is made up of committed lay women and men with a background or interest in communication, all united by a passion and drive for promoting the Gospel.

Of course this is a task entrusted to the whole church and the message we all communicate is paramount. We want to share a joyful and life-giving message to help build strong Catholic families and vibrant faith communities in our parishes and schools, throughout the diocese and across the national and universal church. In a particular way, we want to support our local faith communities to come back together after the strain of living under the pandemic. With good communication at the heart of our renewed mission, we can be even stronger than before!

To date the new Commission has set up a new monthly diocesan magazine **Fontes** which celebrates the spiritual wealth of our parishes and school communities. The printed and digital editions, which are free of charge, have been well received throughout the diocese. You are invited to give it your fullest support and to send in local stories or photos for publication.

The Commission also works closely with **Being Catholic Television, Scotland's Catholic Television Network**, to broadcast important diocesan liturgies and events. We are also using this platform to engage new audiences in teaching, prayer and catechesis. This new resource has been especially valued by those who, through illness, are unable to engage in parish life in a regular way.

Over the coming period, you will hear more about the Commission's work to support you, your parishes, schools and groups. If you are interested in being involved, contact media@rcdom.org.uk.

As we await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us pray for the work of our new Commission and let us pray that we will all use the gifts of the Spirit for the up-building of the Church in our own times. May we be bold in casting out into the deep and bringing Christ to new places.

Yours sincerely,
Joseph Toal
Bishop of Motherwell

I offer now the times of the Liturgy for the coming week; please note changes to our usual routine:

Monday May 22nd: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am, Confessions at 6.30-6.50pm, Novena at 7pm

Tuesday May 23rd: Requiem Mass for Christopher (Kit) Gaffney at St. Mary's at 9.30am

Reception on Monday evening at 6pm

Wednesday May 24th: Mass at St. Mary's at **9.30am**

Saturday, May 27th

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday May 28th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Bishop Toal will make a pastoral visit to our two primary schools this week to meet the young people who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in June. He will arrive at St. Mary's at 9.30am and then to St. Paul's at 11am.

Parish Pastoral Council, Tuesday 23rd May at 7pm: the parish council is there to help serve the needs of the parish community and indeed to help build a sense of community, and so your thoughts, hopes and wishes are important to us. Should you wish to raise a topic or leave a comment or suggestion, please e-mail: PPC1846@hotmail.com. Alternatively, there is a box and some paper at the back of our churches for your comments.

Synodal Meeting, Thursday June 1st at 7pm in the parish hall; this meeting is open to every parishioner and is an opportunity to continue the discussions we had during Lent of 2022. Pope Francis has asked the church to be a listening church and so we really need these opportunities to share concerns, ideas and hopes for the future.

St. Paul's Primary is having a Summer Fayre on June 1st; the school would be grateful for donated prizes for their raffle or tombola, especially prizes for children.

Credo: Parish Faith Sharing Group will meet this Tuesday at 1pm in the parish meeting room. Faith sharing is about quiet and respectful listening and a celebration of how God is at work in my life and in the lives of the other members of the group. All are welcome to come along and afterwards to enjoy a cup of tea together at 2.30pm

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Kit Gaffney, Annie (Nan) McCluskey, Catianna Darragh, Christopher Grant, Lauren Docherty, Patrick McGeever, Steven Davison

Special Remembrance: Moira Douglas, Jim and Winifred McGuire, Daniel Burgess, Bernard and Rosaleen Mournian, Michael Mournian, George and Helen Connor, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.