



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 2nd 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well. I offer here Bishop Joseph Toal's Easter Message to the Diocese of Motherwell:

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

In wishing you a Happy Easter I pray that the Lord will bless you and your loved ones with his peace and joy as we celebrate his Resurrection.

Pope Francis has invited us to begin to prepare for the Jubilee Year of 2025, whose motto will be *Pilgrims of Hope*. When we do go on pilgrimage we do set out full of hope, that the journey will go well and that we will reach our destination safely. So also with the journey of life; we move through life trusting in God and hoping to reach a satisfying and fulfilling end in eternal life. The Lord Jesus, in rising from the dead, has gone before us and in him we place all our hopes. Each Easter then is an affirmation and proclamation of Christ risen and ascended into heaven.

Hope depends on faith. The Lenten journey has been a time of renewing our faith in the Lord at this particular moment in our journey on earth. We heard some of the great stories of Faith in the Old Testament and then the Lord calling people to faith in him as they listened to his words and experienced his healing power. Some responded with great enthusiasm, acclaiming Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah who entered Jerusalem triumphantly on a donkey on Palm Sunday. Others found it hard to do so and indeed they turned against him, leading to their cries for his crucifixion on Good Friday. The question for the people of Jerusalem and for ourselves is whether we believe or not. Hopefully our faith will have been renewed and strengthened this Lent, and we can renew our baptismal promises with fervour and conviction, sure in the faith we have received and continue to live our lives by.

May our faith indeed remain strong in the year ahead and may we journey as Pilgrims of Hope in the Church, confident that we will share in the Lord's resurrection.

With my blessings this joyful Eastertide,

Yours in Christ,

+Joseph Toal

Bishop of Motherwell

Holy Week and Easter

*“Unless a wheat grain falls into the earth and dies,
it remains only a single grain..” John 12,24*

Monday April 3rd:

Requiem Mass for Mr. Cyril Deerin at 10am

Confessions 6-6.50pm, Novena at 7p

Tuesday April 4th

Requiem Mass for Mrs. Anna Stobie at 10am

Wednesday April 5th

Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Holy Thursday, April 6th

Chrism Mass at 11am in Motherwell Cathedral

Bishop Toal warmly invites the clergy and people of the diocese to join him for this special Liturgy during which the priests renew their priestly promises and the Holy Oils are blessed.

Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's at 7pm

All who belong to St. Mary's and St. Paul's are invited to this special liturgy when we celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist; followed by watching at the Altar of Repose; Night Prayer at 9.30pm

Good Friday, April 7th

Today, with great reverence, we remember that the Lord Jesus died on the Cross out of love for us. It is a day of fasting and abstinence,

12 Noon: Stations of the Cross at St. Paul's, with Veneration of the Cross

3pm St. Mary's: Solemn Celebration of the Passion of Jesus

This includes the reading of the Passion according to John and the Veneration of the Cross

7pm: Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's, with Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil at St. Mary's at 8pm

Please note there are no earlier Vigils at St. Paul's or St. Mary's

Easter Sunday

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions):

Bishop Toal has decided **not** to grant permission for the celebration of Reconciliation Services with General Absolution. Therefore, please note the following times for Confession:

Monday, March 27th at 6.15-6.50pm

Saturday, April 1st at 10.30-11.30am

Also after weekday Masses when there are no Requiems

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Cyril Deerin, Anna Stobie, Betty Lennox, Moira Boylan, Henry McDermott, Gerald Greenbaum

Special Remembrance:

Ashley Boyle, Hugh Morgan, John White, Mary Burns, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*