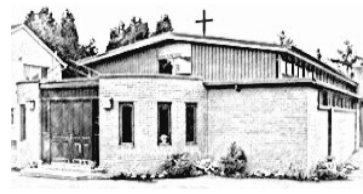




**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP  
Tel: 01698 423552



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

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**Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest**

**Charity Number - SC011041**

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**Newsletter**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 30th 2023**

***My dear parishioners,***

*I hope this finds you and your families well. This weekend we celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I offer here some thoughts from Pope Benedict XVI:*

“The Liturgy of this Fourth Sunday of Easter presents to us one of the most beautiful images to portray the Lord Jesus since the earliest centuries of the Church: the Good Shepherd. The flock’s attitude to the Good Shepherd, Christ, is presented by the Evangelist with two specific verbs: *to listen* and *to follow*.

These terms suggest the fundamental characteristics of those who live out the following of the Lord. First of all by listening to his word, from which faith is born and by which it is nurtured. Only those who are attentive to the Lord’s voice can assess in their own conscience the right decisions for acting in accordance with God. Thus the following of Jesus derives from listening: we act as disciples only after hearing and inwardly accepting the Master’s teachings in order to put them into practice every day. On this Sunday, therefore, it comes naturally to remember to God the pastors of the Church and those who are training to become pastors.” Pope Benedict

**A Message of thanks from Deacon Joseph Dowds and Mrs Susan Dowds:** thank you all so much for the warm and friendly welcome that Susan and I received when we were with you last Sunday. It was good to be with you all again in familiar surroundings and enjoy your company. Thank you too for your kindness and thoughtfulness, expressed not only verbally but also in your gifts to both of us. *Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in our prayers.*

**Parish Pastoral Council** met together last Tuesday. As you know the parish council is there to help serve the needs of the parish community and indeed to help build a sense of community; thank you to those who took time to make comments and suggestions; your thoughts, hopes and wishes are important to us. Minutes of the meeting will be available on the notice board in the side porch at St. Mary’s and on the table in the porch at St. Paul’s.

**First Holy Communion at St. Mary’s:** let us look forward to welcoming our First Holy Communicants and their families on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am and then on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am. These joyful celebrations are among the loveliest days of the year in our parish life together as we hand on the precious gift of the eucharist.

**I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:** Eastertide is a time for the church to enjoy the company of the risen Lord and to reflect on the early days of the church.

**Monday May 1st:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

*Feast of St. Joseph the Worker; no public Novena in the evening*

**Tuesday May 2nd: Requiem Mass at St. Paul's for Peter McCourt at 10am**

**Wednesday 3rd:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

**Thursday May 4th<sup>th</sup>:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

**Saturday, May 6th**

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

**Sunday May 7th**

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

**Invitation to pray the Holy Rosary together during the month of May:** so many Christians value the prayerful recitation of the Rosary together and so those who would like to do this during this special month of prayer to Our Lady should come to St. Mary's this week at 9.40am on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is an opportunity for us to pray for our special intentions and also for those who ask us to pray for them. *Let us journey through May in the company of St. Mary, the mother of the Lord.*

**Parish Walking Group:** all are welcome to meet in the car park of the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street at 11 am on Tuesday mornings to walk together for around one hour; afterwards some gather in the Museum tea room for some refreshments and conversation.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

**Recently Deceased:** Peter McCourt, James Dunn, Jean Newall, Kit Gaffney, Mary O'Donnell, Mary Ann Dorricott, Giralamo (Gino) Nelli, Hugh Mulholland, Brian Kearney, Maureen Donnachie,, Una Bonner, Karen Goodwin, Brigid Brady, Catarina Stevenson, May Goldie, Bobby Lees

**Special Remembrance:** Tommy and Ann Quay, Donald Fleming, Jeanie Lynas McKenna, Grace Canning, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*