



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18th 2022

My dear parishioners,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we continue our beautiful journey towards the Light of Christ, which we will welcome with renewed joy on Christmas morning.

Please take a moment to reflect on Bishop Toal's Christmas Message to the Diocese:

“As Christmas approaches, I send my best wishes to all the people of Motherwell Diocese and offer the support of my prayers to you and your families.

It has been a cold December and that must have caused added difficulties for those struggling with heating bills and the rise in the cost of living. In the struggles many face and in the uncertainties about the future, it is right that we think of those with less and are generous in supporting local charities and initiatives that reach out to those in need. As we celebrate Christmas we recall Jesus' birth in difficult circumstances and, reflecting on this, we ask him to help us to see him in others, particularly those with least and the most disadvantaged.

Many people have enjoyed the recent Football World Cup and, despite the imperfections, it has been good for nations to meet in sporting competition and to offer entertainment and employment to so many. As human beings, we are at our best when we come together; sport does help us appreciate our diverse cultures and the wonderful talents people from all countries have received and put on display. We are all richly blessed by God and each Christmas we celebrate with joy the good news of salvation, in which we acknowledge God's love for all in the person of Christ the Lord, born in Bethlehem to save us all.

Unfortunately, at present, many places do not enjoy the peace of Christ, and we pray especially for them at Christmas. We have been moved by the suffering of the Ukrainian people through 2022 and our thoughts and prayers are with them in these dark and cold days. May peace reign in all our hearts, and especially in those who lead our world and make decisions which can inflict so much pain and suffering on others. May the Angels' song: “*Peace to all who enjoy God's favour*” become true for those who cry out for renewed peace and hope as 2023 approaches.

I offer you a Blessed and Joyful Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

With my prayers and best wishes, Yours in Christ

+Joseph Toal

Bishop of Motherwell

The Diocesan Choir: please come along and enjoy, *“Unto Us a Saviour is Born.”*
Sunday 18th December in St. Bride’s East Kilbride at 7.30pm
Tuesday 20th December in Motherwell Cathedral at 7.30pm
Admission is free and all are cordially invited to attend.

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:

Sunday December 18th

Mass at St. Paul’s at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary’s at 10.30am

Please note there will be no public liturgy on Monday

Tuesday: December 20th: Mass at St Paul’s at 10am

Confession at St. Mary’s at 5.30-6.15pm

Wednesday December 21st: Mass at St. Mary’s at 10am

Thursday December 22nd: Mass at St. Mary’s at 10am

Confession after Mass

Friday December 23rd: Mass at St. Mary’s at 10am

Confession after Mass

Please note the times of our Christmas Masses:

Saturday December 24th: Christmas Eve:

Mass at St. Mary’s at 4pm and at 8pm

Sunday December 25th: Christmas Day:

Mass at St. Paul’s at 10.30am

Mass at St. Mary’s at 10.30am

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Margaret Williamson, Peter Chambers, Jim Russell, Peggy Duffy, Alex Grant, Jim Russell, Marion Lynch, Daniel Jolly, John Fagan, Patrick Warren, Michael Tollan, Kathleen Quinn, Philip Cassidy, Baby Ava McNair

Special Remembrance: Mary Dorman, Wullie Savage, Margaret Stewart, Eilidh McHugh, Matt and Betty Patton, Daniel and Catherine McKenna, Catherine and Richard Purcell, Walter and Agnes Stewart, Joan Stewart, Margaret and Brian Bonnar, Jaime, Anna and Elizabeth Donnelly, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Gerard Falsey, Mary and John Dowds, Betty and Tommy Falsey, Frank Docherty, Alice and Michael Sweeney, Walter Etery, Thomas Young, Bill O’Mailley, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Elizabeth and Michael McSorley, Betty and Eddie Smith, John and Julia O’Neill, Joseph O’Neill, Esther and Thomas Reid, Neil McMurray, Essie and David McDonald, Margaret Flynn, Helen Jenkinson, John and Edna Wilson, Mary Wilson Snaith, Margaret O’Brien, Jim Cox, Jan and Mary Kozak, Krystyna and Zygmunt Jasniewicz, Peter Devine, Kevin Burns, Michael Flynn, Elizabeth Cochrane, Fr. Gerard Higgins and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s, *requiescant in pace.*