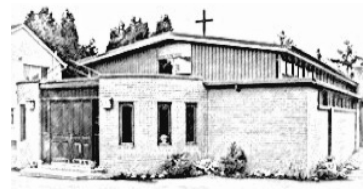




**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

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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

## Seventh Sunday of the Year

February 24th 2019

### **Church Services**

#### **Sunday Mass at St. Mary's:**

Saturday Vigil, 5.30pm  
10am, 11.30am

#### **Sunday Mass at St. Paul's:**

Saturday Vigil, 4pm  
10.30am

#### **Weekday Mass:**

St. Mary's, Monday and Wednesday at 10am  
St. Paul's, Tuesday and Friday at 10am

#### **Rosary prayed each weekday after the Morning Mass.**

#### **Confession:**

St. Mary's, Monday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 5 pm  
St. Paul's, Tuesday Morning after Mass and on Saturday after Mass.

#### **Monday 7pm:** Novena at St. Mary's in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

#### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's in the side chapel Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from after Mass until 2pm, and at St. Paul's on a Tuesday from after Mass until 2pm**

*This is a sacred space for those who would like to pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament*

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**Last week Bishop Toal** sent his pastoral letter inviting the priests and people of the Diocese of Motherwell to prepare themselves for the great spiritual journey of Lent, especially through the traditional Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. He spoke about the ashes of Ash Wednesday as a sign of repentance and a desire to live the gospel with stronger conviction and devotion.

Towards the end of his letter the Bishop invited us to support the work of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) as part of our Almsgiving. This weekend, therefore, you are asked to uplift one of SCIAF's Wee Boxes and to have it at home throughout Lent as a means of sharing something with some of the poorest people in the world. It is a good opportunity for us to speak about this aspect of Catholic life, namely, a sincere concern for the disadvantaged, with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It is important that we hand on this important part of our tradition to the next generations.

Sometimes Lent is suddenly upon us and we can find ourselves unprepared for it and its demands. It's clear that the bishop is inviting us to get ready for Lent 2019 and so let's try as a parish to get respond to his invitation.

**Word Day of Prayer;** an Ecumenical Evening of Prayer and Reflection in St. John's Church, Hamilton on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm; this year's service has been prepared by Christian women of Slovenia and the theme is *"Come – everything is ready."* This liturgy will be celebrated throughout the world and we can be part of that worldwide prayer by taking part in the service here in Hamilton.

*If you are free then please consider going along to St. John's*

*and help to build up the Christian community here in our town,*

**Please note that morning Mass at St. Mary's on Wednesday will be at 9am**

**A Message from The Traidcraft Group:** The good news as some of you may already know is that Traidcraft PLC will remain open but with a much reduced staff and capacity. They will be selling a reduced range of food and only a few crafts. The not so good news is that the parish Traidcraft group has decided to call it a day and so our last coffee morning will take place during Fairtrade Fortnight, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The coffee mornings have been running for over 20 years and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us in any way during this time; thanks also to the parish which provided the hall, heating and lighting, free of charge during these 20 years. We would ask that you keep the many producers who used to supply Traidcraft in your prayers. *Please join us for our final Traidcraft coffee morning and look out for lots of bargains and surprises!*

**Hamilton Old Parish Church invites us to a screening of "The Trafalgar Square Passion Play Film" on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in their church hall. (Just behind the church building)** This powerful Passion Play is performed in Trafalgar Square in London each Good Friday and in 2020 drama Kirk will be performing this play here in Hamilton. There will also be some fun stalls and Christian fellowship. There is no charge for entry but there will be an opportunity to make a donation. Please consider going along. It is a very good way to begin the journey of Lent and in the company of our fellow Christians here in Hamilton.

**Credo, St. Mary's and St. Paul's Faith Sharing Group** meets on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 1 o'clock on the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome; the meeting lasts until 2.30pm and is followed by some tea, cakes and conversation!

**St. Mary's and St. Paul's Walking Group** meets on a Tuesday morning at 11 am at the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street and then walks for 1 hour in the park and returns to the Museum café for some tea and coffee and conversation. *You will be made very welcome if you wish to come along.*

**A Lenten Talk by Patrick Parsons, "A Reflection on the Crusades"**, in St. Mary's Parish Hall on Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; please phone Harry Doyle on 01698 427821 to say if you are attending, so we have an idea of numbers for some tea and coffee and light refreshments. *All welcome.*

**St. Aloysius College Junior School and Kindergarten Open Morning, Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March,** 11am-1pm: the college is holding this event for parents and children who might be considering joining the special community that is our Junior School (Primary 1-7) and Kindergarten (3+); please consult the notice in the church porch and register at [stalloysius.org](http://stalloysius.org)

**Are you a Graduate of Craiglockhart College of Education?** A Reunion Rally has been planned for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to mark the Centenary of the Founding of the College; for more information contact Ann on 07762 575 803 or Silvana on 07793 545 025 or email [gripfast2019@gmail.com](mailto:gripfast2019@gmail.com)

**Lent Faith Sharing Groups:** this Lent the small faith-sharing groups will be using a booklet entitled, *"Rejoice and be glad."* To prepare for the season Fr. Philip Marsh will lead an evening of reflection on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Xavier Centre, Carfin. All welcome.

**A Word of Thanks:** Patrick and Vicky O'Hanlon would like to thank everyone who supported the coffee morning at their home in Ferniegair last Saturday and for the great generosity shown which raised the wonderful sum of £2,000 for children's charities in Uganda and in the Middle East.

**Please pray for those who have died recently:** William Bonar, Jan Hay, Joe Fitzpatrick, Albert Wyatt, Joe Daly, Marina Cairney, Hugh Moran, Michael Brown

**Special Remembrance:** John McCarthy, George Cree, Jan and Mary Kozak, the deceased members of the Kozak, Reilly and Cree Families, Charlie Boyle, Mary Law, Alex and Esther Malone, James and Helen O'Donnell, Eddie and Betty Smith, Kathleen Tierney, Marie Aitmen, Angelina Di Marco