



St. Mary's R. C. Church

Fr Henry O'Brien St. Paul's R. C.

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

Tel: 01698 423552



Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX

Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

email: stmaryhamilton@rcdom.org.uk

Newsletter

Seventh Sunday of the Year

February 18th 2024

My dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,

I hope this finds you and your families well as we journey towards Springtime and the promise of abundant new life. *Journey* or perhaps *pilgrimage* are good words to describe the *Wellspring Pastoral Project*, which was launched last Sunday and also *Lent*, which began with the receiving of our ashes on Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Such moments invite us to embrace our Christian Faith more deeply, with thanksgiving, for all the beauty it brings into our lives and into our families, and to share with others the love that Christ has for us. *Faith* and *Life* go hand in hand.

As we set out on *Wellspring* and *Lent* perhaps our first priority should be for those who are the most vulnerable in our community, especially those who are ill or frail or those who have some type of special need. Do you have a member of your family or a neighbour who would like to receive Holy Communion at home? With their permission, please write down their names and addresses and telephone numbers and hand them into the sacristy or telephone the church house and pass on this important information that way. We also have our three nursing homes, *Douglas View*, *Lornebank* and *Avonbridge* and it would be good to know if any of the residents would like a pastoral visit. The first step is in finding out the names of those who would appreciate a visit and the strength and blessing of Holy Communion.

A second priority is our care for those who are very young, especially through the Children's Liturgy at our 10.30am Mass on a Sunday morning. It is clearly important to try to share the gospel message in a way that is appropriate to their understanding; this catechetical work also strengthens our relationship with our schools. If this is something you think you could help with then please make yourself known.

Finally, perhaps the most vulnerable person on the planet is the unborn child. Somehow it felt timely to receive information this week from *Right To Life*. They sent leaflets describing the wonderful story of babies *Harry* and *Harvey*, and I invite you to take the information home and reflect on its message. Let us be a parish that is on the side of life, every life, from the womb to the tomb. What does this mean? It means, without condemnation of anyone, to hold sacred the miracle of human existence and to attend to it with great love and compassion and solidarity. Now that would be a *Wellspring* of grace and a *Lent* to remember!

Father O'Brien

I offer here the times of the Liturgy for the coming week:

Monday February 19th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am Confessions at 6.30-7.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday February 20th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Wednesday February 21st: Eucharistic Service at 8.25am; Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday February 22nd Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Parish Pastoral Council meets this Wednesday evening at 7pm in the parish meeting room;

the Council is there to serve the parish and your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please use the box at the back of the church or email PPC1846@hotmail.com

Coffee morning this Sunday 18th February, after the 9am Mass and 10.30am Mass; please come around to the hall and enjoy some tea/coffee/juice toast and home-baking. A small selection of Fairtrade food and crafts will be on sale, including Fairtrade Easter Eggs; these are the only eggs to come with a booklet telling the Easter story.

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1 o'clock; new members are always welcome and some tea and biscuits are shared together at the end of the meeting.

Lenten reflection Group on Wednesday Evenings in the parish meeting room at 7pm, beginning February 28th, and then March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th; Mr. Ronnie Boyd has offered to lead the group and if you would like to take part please contact him on 07803941573 or ronnieboyd@icloud.com

St. Mary and St. Paul's Walking Group meets on Tuesday mornings at 11am outside the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street; new participants are always welcome and after the walk, which lasts for one hour, some gather in the coffee shop at the Museum.

A Message from Right To Life: please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment. This proposed amendment is supported by a large cross-party group of MPs. The latest guidance from the British association of Perinatal-Medicine enables doctors to intervene to save premature babies from 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb.

Special Collection next Sunday for sick and retired priests of the Diocese; a little donation from us all goes a long way. Thank you.

Recently Deceased: John Darby, Hugh Fulton, Ellen Grant, Kevin McGoldrick, William Higgins, John Fegan, Paul O'Keane, Mary McGowan, Margaret Semple, Eileen Haggarty, Alex Belmas-Carroll, Alfredo Guerra Marraro, John Connor, Samantha Cunningham

Special Remembrance: Margaret Anne Quigley, Christopher Norris, John Lynas, Margaret and Sandy Paterson, Sarah Turner, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Helen O'Donnell, James O'Donnell, Esther Malone, Alex Malone and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.