



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 3rd 2022

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well. We have reached the fifth Sunday of Lent and our pilgrimage continues in the midst of so much human suffering; the senseless conflict in Ukraine continues to rob families of much loved relatives and friends and the severe drought in Ethiopia is leaving already vulnerable people in need of compassion and care from the International Community. Our fragile earth is calling out to us to hold its peoples deeply in our hearts. Let us continue to do so as we move towards the solemn celebrations of Our Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

Once again I thought you might like to reflect on these thoughtful words of Pope Benedict:

“In this fifth Sunday of Lent the liturgy presents to us the Gospel episode where Jesus saves an adulterous woman condemned to death. St. John the Evangelist highlights one detail: while her accusers are insistently interrogating him, Jesus bends down and starts writing with his finger on the ground. St. Augustine noted that this gesture portrays Christ as the divine legislator; in fact God wrote the law with his finger on tablets of stone. Thus Jesus is the Legislator, he is Justice in person. And what is his sentence? *“Let him who is without sin among you, be the first to throw a stone at her.”* These words are full of the disarming power of truth that pulls down the wall of hypocrisy and opens consciences to a greater justice, namely, that of love, in which consists the fulfilment of every precept. *Pope Benedict XVI*

This moving gospel encourages us to put down all our stones and emulate Jesus in his love and compassion and in his desire to help people back to their feet to start again. Let us continue to make this a special Lent at St. Mary's and St. Paul's; offering our prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the building up of compassionate redeeming love in our fragile world.

Fr. O'Brien

I offer here the schedule for the liturgy:

Saturday, April 2nd

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday, April 3rd

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday April 4th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday, April 5th Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Wednesday, April 6th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Friday April 8th, Nuptial Mass

for Aidan Smith and Laura Ann O'Neill at 1pm

Next Week is Holy Week

Reconciliation Service with General Absolution

St. Mary's, Tuesday evening, April 12th at 7pm

This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation together and to receive General Absolution; the service will conclude at 7.30pm.

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 9th

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday, April 10th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday April 11th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday April 12th Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Wednesday April 13th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Holy Triduum

Holy Thursday April 14th

The Chrism Mass will take place in Motherwell Cathedral at 11.30am

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

Eucharistic Ministers will renew their commitment of service

Good Friday April 15th

Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's 12 noon

Solemn Passion of the Lord

St. Mary's at 3pm

St. Paul's at 3pm

Short service of prayer at St. Mary's at 7pm

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil at St. Mary's, 8pm

Easter Sunday:

Mass at St. Paul's at 10.30am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

GIFTAID ENVELOPES for the next tax year 2022-2023 are now available for uplifting from the church porch. Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

Thank you to those who participated in the synodal journey; thank you also to those who helped make these evenings possible especially Alex Sanchez and Rita Clark

CREDO, the parish prayer group, will meet this Tuesday in the parish meeting room, beginning at 1pm and concluding with some tea at 2.30pm. The group welcomes prayer requests from parishioners and a box is available at the back of the church for you to place such requests. *Please do not include donations in these requests.*

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Mollie McGavigan, Cecilia Wedlock, Cecilia Mann, Fergus Bergin, Mgr. Desmond Maguire

Special Remembrance, Hugh Morgan, Hugh and Mary Morgan, John White, Jim Russell, Mary Swift Russell, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*