



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Tel: 01698 423552



St. Paul's R. C. Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX
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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 15th 2020

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 5.10 pm
St. Paul's, Tuesday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 3.40pm.

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

In today's Lenten liturgy the woman at the well seems a marginal figure, coming to draw water alone and in the heat of the day. Her encounter with Jesus causes her to leave her bucket behind, and what had seemed so essential for life now pales into insignificance compared to the new life and healing that faith in Christ brings.

Next Sunday is SCIAF Sunday: as you know from previous years an important part of our Lenten journey in Scotland is the support we give to SCIAF, the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, which seeks to support some of the most disadvantaged people on our planet. It is an opportunity to sow seeds of hope and to give others a chance at life by sharing some of our own good fortune and blessings.

Further good news for this year's SCIAF appeal is that the UK Government is doubling all donations made to SCIAF before 20th May. This special collection will be taken up as you leave the church next weekend.

Services this week

St. Mary's Church

Monday: Stations of the Cross at 9.40am; Mass at 10am; Novena to Our Lady at 7pm;

Wednesday: Eucharistic Service at 8.25am; Mass at 10am

St. Paul's Church

Tuesday: Stations of the Cross at 9.40am; Mass at 10am

Friday: Requiem Mass for Mr. James Donnelly at 10am

The Traidcraft Coffee Morning has been postponed

St. Paul's Primary School: we welcome pupils from Primary 3 on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please remember the pupils and their families in your prayers.

Further Important Information from Bishop Toal to the Clergy and People of the Diocese

In an effort to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus the following steps will be taken in Motherwell Diocese:

- From next weekend the collections bags will no longer be passed around the church. As you enter the church you will be asked to place your donations in containers being held at the back of the church. For special collections, such as SCIAF next Sunday, you will be asked to do the same as you leave the church. *Bishop Toal asks the people of the Diocese to be as generous as you usually are.*
- The Holy Water fonts for blessing ourselves on entry to the church are to be emptied. We can still bless ourselves by making the Sign of the Cross without using Holy Water.
- The Sign of Peace will be suspended for the time being.
- We should receive Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue.
- The Lay Faithful will not receive the Precious Blood while the present crisis lasts.
- All Ministers of the Eucharist, Ordinary and Extraordinary must wash or sanitise their hands before distributing Holy Communion at Mass and other Eucharistic Services and at the homes of those they bring Holy Communion to. We must all comply with this.
- Only the priest or deacon should purify the sacred vessels, paten, chalice and ciborium used at mass.
- Sacristan and others with responsibility in setting up for Mass must wash their hands thoroughly before touching the sacred vessels and the hosts to be consecrated at Mass.
- In general, therefore, I encourage everyone to take good care in regard to hygiene while participating in Church Services and other activities. It would be prudent also not to attend Mass if you are suffering from a cold or from flu-like symptoms.

Credo, the parish faith sharing has decided not to meet at the present time; further information will be given in due course.

St. Aloysius College Kindergarten and Junior School Open Day, Saturday 21st March 11am – 1pm: if you are interested in finding out more about the College and what it has to offer then please register your visit at www.staloyus.org. Also, please see poster on the notice board.

St. Patrick's Night Dinner and Social Evening in the Parish Hall has been postponed. Refunds for tickets will be given.

The Mission and Evangelization Team, Diocese of Motherwell, offers Four Lenten Sessions of Contemplative Prayer on the theme '*Journey into Freedom*' on Monday Evenings, March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, 7.15-9pm in the Xavier Centre, Carfin, *All are welcome to attend.*

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Walking Group: the group meets on Tuesday morning around 11am in the Museum car park at the bottom of Muir Street. Participants then walk together for around one hour and return to the Museum coffee shop for some refreshments. *Just come along and take part.*

Please pray for those who have died recently:

James Donnelly (**Requiem at St. Paul's on Friday at 10am**), John Boyce, Margaret McGraw, Tom Conway, Martin Tansey, Freddie Law, Anne Diamond, William McMillan, Margaret Burns, Edward McGhee, Gerry O'Kane, Angus McQuarrie, Nancy Monaghan, Helen Cunningham, June McNutt (Darlington), Margaret Bodwick, Jimmy Rooney

Please pray for those who have a Special Remembrance at this time:

Jaime Donnelly, Winnie Maxwell, Eddie Power, Paul McGowan, Anne and John Donnachie, Betty Ward and Brian Ward, Elizabeth Gallacher, Margaret Phairs, Mary and John Dalton and deceased members of the Dalton and McKenna families, Simon Di Silva, Robert Daley, Bridget Lynas, Marie Lynas, Bella Currie.