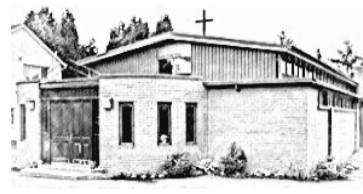




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Newsletter

The Seventh Sunday of the Year

February 19th 2023

My dear parishioners,

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which prepares us for the great spiritual pilgrimage of Lent. In the mind of the church, Lent is a type of Springtime, inviting us to new life in Christ and his Gospel. We make this Lenten journey by embracing three great spiritual principles: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Sunday Eucharist is at the heart of our prayer-life and roots us in the mystery of the Holy Trinity and God's divine dialogue of love with humanity; the Eucharist invites us to live our daily lives in a prayerful way by following Jesus, the Beloved One. With fasting we naturally think of eating less food, but perhaps for many it's not food we need to fast from. It may well be something else, namely, fasting from television or social media or something that is limiting me in some way.

Of course the gospel of Jesus leads us to almsgiving, to sharing something of our good fortune with those who have very little. One way of doing this is by taking home one of SCIAF's Wee Boxes. Let us pray for one another during the great spiritual pilgrimage of Lents. May it be fruitful for us all,
Father O'Brien

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

Monday February 20th: Requiem Mass for Mrs Rita Martalo at 10am
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm;

Tuesday February 21st: Requiem Mass for Mrs Catherine Smith at 10am
Reception of Mrs. Smith on Monday at 6.15pm

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, A Day of Fasting and Abstinence
Masses at St. Mary's:
10am (St. Mary's Primary will be present), 12.noon and 7pm

Mass at St. Paul's at 2pm (St. Paul's Primary will be present)

Thursday, February 23rd, Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday February 25th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday February 26th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Diocese of Motherwell, FONTES: a new magazine launches to foster stronger sense of participation in the life and mission of the Diocese; it will be available on Ash Wednesday, free of charge.

A message from the Catholic Men's Society: our next meeting will take place on Monday, 20th February after the 10am Mass in the parish meeting room; we will discuss our various roles in the life of the church. *All are welcome*

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 18th April 2023: cost £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre and National Museum. Single supplement £150; contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557.

CREDO, the parish prayer group, meets this Tuesday at 1pm in the parish meeting room; afterwards, around 2.30pm, participants enjoy some tea and cake together.

Faith sharing is about quiet and respectful listening and a celebration of how God is at work in my life and in the lives of the other members of the group.

New members are most welcome.

The Parish Walking Group is greatly enjoyed by members of our parish and beyond; new walkers are always welcome; simply come along on Tuesday morning to the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street for 11am; people then walk for one hour before meeting together in the museum café for some tea together.

A Message from the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association: please consider taking the Short Term Pledge for Lent: *"I promise, in honour of the Sacred Heart, and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to abstain from all intoxicating alcohol until Easter Sunday."*

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Thomas Smith, Ronnie Wilson, Catherine Phairs, Helen Hall, Rita Martalo, John Oswald, Nan O'Rourke, Jim McVittie, Billy Greig, Minnie Boyle, Mary Heffernan, James Cassidy, Mary McNulty, Bernie Gormley, Noel Fitzmaurice

Special Remembrance:

Esther and Alex Malone, Helen and James O'Donnell, Charlie Boyle, Mamie Lally, Ronnie Boyd, Margaret and Sandy Paterson, Sarah Turner, Elizabeth, John and James Fulton, Ann Hutcheson and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*