



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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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

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

July 12th 2020

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

It is a real joy to let you know that the Scottish Government has announced that from Wednesday 15th July faith-communities are permitted to have public worship and this means we will be able to gather together again to celebrate the Eucharist at St. Mary's and St. Paul's. What a happy day and one we have waited on patiently over these long months of Lockdown.

The date is sooner than we had expected and Bishop Toal has advised the clergy to move forward carefully, and so our first public liturgies will take place next weekend, 18/19th July. As you know Social Distancing Regulations of 2 meters remain in place and this means our seating capacity is greatly reduced.

St. Mary's has seating for thirty-six people (the balcony is not to be used)

St. Paul's has seating for thirty people.

Please think about choosing St. Paul's for your visit as it may well be quieter there, especially on Sunday morning.

The Diocese has recommended that we have a booking system for places at the liturgy; this is for safety reasons and also to ensure that people are not disappointed if they arrive at church and discover they cannot enter. For each service the parish **must** retain details of all those attending to ensure that contact tracing can be carried out if necessary.

Please consult the parish website from Thursday 16th July to book a place through **Eventbrite** or by phoning a designated number that will be made available at this time. Details of our services will be given on the parish website, but please be aware that timings for Mass on the Sunday may be different to our normal programme.

The guidelines from the Government advise that on entering the building you will be asked to wear a face-covering (this can be a scarf rather than a face-mask) and use the sanitizing gel for your hands. You will then be shown to a seat. As you leave the building you will be asked to use the gel once more. I am sure that we will very quickly adjust to this 'new normal' for the moment.

Thank you to those parishioners who have assisted in the re-opening of our churches by acting as stewards or helping with the cleaning of the benches. I know others would like to help and through time we will need you all as it looks as though we are in this for the long haul!

I have mentioned to you before that for many years now as a parish priest I have treasured the moment when I go through to the church in the morning to open the doors in welcome to whoever wants to enter our buildings. It is a real privilege. As I open the doors I find myself praying quietly for all who will enter, that each one will find the grace needed for life at this moment. St. John Paul

He has said that the heart of Jesus is a pledge of hope for every man and woman and child. What wonderful news! No one is excluded!

The Archbishop of Liverpool, Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon, is fond of saying that *'the eucharist is God's answer to humanity's deepest longings.'* As your parish priest, I am both delighted and relieved that we are able to meet together again as members of the church to celebrate the eucharist and to receive in the devout reception of Holy Communion, the One who is the Bread of Life for us all.

I am aware that the restrictions which are still in place mean that for the foreseeable future we will be much fewer in number for Sunday Mass. The Scottish Bishops have asked the clergy to remind parishioners that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. This leads me to suggest that you consider attending one of the weekday Masses, especially if you are retired or still furloughed from your employment. This would also leave places free on the Sunday for those who are working.

With goodwill, we will manage! Let us face this challenge with serenity, trusting that the Risen Lord is leading us. At the very end of John's Gospel, in one of the resurrection passages, Jesus' final words to Peter are, *"Follow me!"* The truth is, these are the words of Jesus to every disciple, including you and me. It is in our shared following of the Lord that he will lead us through this to pastures new.

I cannot tell you how much I look forward to celebrating the eucharist again with you and for you. Let us do our very best to serve the Lord with a joyful heart,
Father O'Brien

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St. Mary's will open this Sunday for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament between 10am and 1pm; the church will also open on Wednesday between 11am and 1pm.

St. Paul's will open this Sunday for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament between 10.30am and 12 noon.

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An Invitation from the Catholic Men's Society (CMS)

We have received word that Fr. Daley has taken unwell and so please know that the On-Line retreat may not go ahead. Please remember Fr. Daley in your prayers.

Day Retreat – On Line – Saturday 18th July: all parishioners are invited to join members of the Catholic Men's Society for a day of spiritual reflection; the retreat will be given by Fr. Daley, the GB chaplain.

The link below will take you to St. Joseph's live stream for the retreat. If you wish a practice, Mass is streamed live each day at 10am (10.30am Sunday)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwc60cFFypLYF-feaNxq1Q>

Programme for the Retreat:

10am, celebration of Mass

break for coffee/private prayer

11.15am First Talk and time for reflection

Lunch break

1.30pm, Second Talk, adoration and private prayer

2.45pm, Music as prayer- meditation with music; Holy Hour

3.45pm, Closing prayer.

Sunday morning Mass at 10.30 would complete the retreat.

Recently Deceased: James Ward; requiem at St. Mary's on Friday

Special Remembrance: Karen Wilson, Anthony Gallo, Josephine O'Mailley, Martha McCluskie, Moira Girvan, Christopher Neville, Jan Pelosi, John McGuire, Laurence and Susan Connolly, Kathleen Carney, Betty O'Kane, Cathy Cochrane, Michael Cochrane, Pat Muldoon, Ruth Muldoon Hawkins, Philip Muldoon, Georgia Dickson, Elizabeth Canning, Christopher Clancy, Brian Pearson, Mark Hughes, John Kane, Elizabeth and Edward Owens, Michael Owens, John Allan and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *requiescant in pace*.
