



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

The Sixth Sunday of the Year

February 12th 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well. This Sunday's first reading, from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, contains a recurring theme of the Holy Scriptures: God sets before us life and death and invites us to choose. Of course the hope is that we will choose life and all that has been revealed as good and true and beautiful.

What becomes clear, however, through our own lived experience, is that this choice is not a once in a life-time moment. The choice for life needs to be renewed over and over again, especially in moments of great personal loss or challenge or disappointment. We know there can be critical moments, the unexpected loss of a loved one, the receiving of challenging news about health, the loss of a satisfying job, the ending of a relationship that started out full of promise but ceased to be life-giving for both parties, the growing awareness of the need for some type of sincere life-style change. In all of these circumstances and more, it can be strengthening to remember that the Lord invites us to go on choosing life, the goodness, truth and beauty revealed in the Holy Scriptures and embodied in the mystery of Jesus himself. As a parish community let us encourage one another to go on choosing life.

Father O'Brien

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

Saturday February 11th

Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday February 12th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday February 13th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm; Confessions from 6.30-6.45pm

Tuesday February 14th: Requiem Mass at St. Mary's for Thomas Smith

Wednesday February 15th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Thursday February 16th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday February 18th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday February 19th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

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 continue our discussions on the Church's drive to give everyone a chance to express their personal views under the heading of *Synodality*. At this meeting we will discuss our various roles in the life of the church. *All are welcome*

A Message from the Parish Pastoral Council: our next meeting will be held on 16th February; there will be a box at the back of both churches this weekend and next should you wish to have a topic discussed or leave a comment. We also have a dedicated email address which is stmstppppcouncil@hotmail.co.

Fairtrade Coffee Morning Sunday 5th March after the 10.30am Mass: St. Mary and St. Paul's is a Fairtrade Parish and we will be marking Fairtrade Fortnight (27th Feb -12th March) with a special coffee morning; a small collection of fairly-traded crafts will be for sale and also Easter Eggs – a little dearer than some other eggs but guaranteed to be fairly traded; some of the eggs have an Easter booklet inside; please come around to the hall and enjoy meeting together over some light refreshments.

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.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Joe Lowe, 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 McInulty, Kenny McFall, Daniel John Lee, Felix Porter, Alice Donachie, Nessie Lindsay

Special Remembrance:

Mamie Lally, Ronnie Boyd, Mary Owens, Michael Owens, Paul McGinn, Zygmunt Jasniewicz, Christopher Norris, John Lynas, Eric and Helen Murphy, Charles Feenie, James and Sadie McGilvray, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.