



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

First Sunday of Advent

November 27th 2022

My dear parishioners,

Let me begin by thanking Anne Marie Ross and Jim Rundell, the two volunteers from Mary's Meals, who visited our parish last weekend and gave us an update on the good work of Mary's Meals, our much loved Scottish charity. We heard that Mary's Meals is now serving food on a daily basis in 20 countries of the world and providing nourishment and hope to some 2.5 million hungry children. By any standards, it is quite a responsibility.

Let me thank you for your generous response in our second collection; during the week I was able to send a cheque in your name for £5,500; this included the parish response of £3,500 and then a bequest from a dear parishioner for £2,000. As we heard last week from the volunteers these donations will be doubled by benefactors of the charity. Of course, as your parish priest, I am very proud of you for responding in such a compassionate way to children in great need, especially in such challenging times here at home.

This Sunday we begin the very beautiful season of Advent, which opens the Church's new liturgical year. It always feels like a special grace when, for one more year, we are here to begin again the church's thanksgiving for the great mystery of Christ, our Saviour. The risen Jesus lives in his liturgy and is present to us in the most tender of ways, especially in the devout reception of Holy Communion.

As we begin the holy season of Advent let us pray deeply for the spiritual renewal of our parish and our diocese. Advent is a time of new beginnings, a type of Springtime in the life of the church; it can be a spiritual Springtime for each one of us and for our families. Let us build up the life of the church and our own family life by making the Sunday eucharist the very centre of our lives, the special moment in the week when we gather together around the altar of Lord, inviting Jesus to live with us and within us.

Father O'Brien

Please join us for our special Mass for all who died in 2022 and all our own deceased relatives and friends; Mass at St. Mary's on Tuesday 29th November at 6.30pm and afterwards please come to the parish hall for some light refreshments.

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

Saturday November 26th

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday November 27th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday November 28th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at 7pm; confessions from 6.15-6.45pm

**Tuesday: November 29th: Memorial Mass for All the Faithful Departed
St. Mary's at 6.30pm**

Wednesday November 30th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Solemnity of St. Andrew, Principal Patron of Scotland

Thursday December 1st: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Motherwell Diocese Annual Education Mass: this special liturgy was postponed by Bishop Toal and a new date will be given soon.

Catholic Education Week: it was uplifting to celebrate this special week of thanksgiving for our schools with the staff and pupils of St. Paul's Primary on Tuesday with Mass in St. Paul's Church; we welcome representatives from St. Mary's Primary and Holy Cross High at our 10.30am Mass this Sunday at St. Mary's.

CREDO, the parish prayer group will gather in the meeting room this Tuesday, November 29th at 1pm and afterwards enjoy some tea together around 2.30pm.
New members are always welcome.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Mark McGuire, Patrick Murphy, Johanna Gallagher (Omagh), Mima Kelly, Paul McGinn, Tommy Collins, Patrick Healey, Derek Bergin, Allan Patterson,

Special Remembrance: Anna and Alex Darragh, Minnie and Edward Morgan, John McParland, Les Graham, Neil and Margaret McFadyen, Bill O'Mailley, Bertie Auld, George and Helen Connor, James and Helen Lennon, Patrick and Joan Lennon, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's,
requiescant in pace.