



The Catholic Parish of St. Mary & St. Paul, Hamilton

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Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

Charity Number SC011041

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Sunday Masses: Vigil 5pm, 9am and 10:30am

Confessions: Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

Newsletter

Fifth Sunday of the Year

February 9th 2025

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well as we make our journey through February. On Tuesday, the Catholic Church celebrates the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. The first apparition to Bernadette took place on February 11th 1858; there were 18 in total. For Bernadette and indeed for the church it was a remarkable experience of grace. I offer here Bernadette's own words when asked to describe as accurately as possible what took place at the grotto, near Lourdes:

“One day, when I had gone with the two girls to collect wood by the river Gave, I heard a sound. I turned toward the meadow and saw that the trees were not moving at all. I looked up and saw a grotto. And I saw a Lady wearing a white dress with a blue sash. On each foot she had a yellow rose; her rosary was the same colour.

When I saw her, I rubbed my eyes. I thought I must be mistaken. I put my hands in my pocket, where I kept my rosary. I wanted to make the sign of the cross, but I could not lift my hand to my forehead; it fell back. Then the Lady crossed herself. I again tried, and although my hand was trembling, I was eventually able to make the sign of the cross. I began to say my rosary. The Lady slipped the beads of her rosary through her fingers, but she did not move her lips. When I finished the rosary, she immediately disappeared.

I asked the two girls if they had seen anything. They said, ‘No’, and asked what I had to tell them. I told them that I had seen a Lady wearing a white dress, but I did not know who she was. I warned them to keep silent about it. Then they urged me not to go back there, but I refused. I went back on Sunday, feeling drawn by an inner force.

The Lady spoke to me a third time and asked me if I was willing to come to her over a period of a fortnight. I replied that I was. She added that I must tell the priests to have a chapel built there. Then she told me to drink at the spring. Not seeing any spring I was going to drink at the river Gave. She told me that she did not mean that and pointed with her finger to the spring. When I went there, I saw only a little dirty water. I put my hand in it, but I could not get hold of any. I scratched, and at last a little water came for drinking. Three times I threw it away; the fourth time I was able to drink it. Then the vision disappeared, and I went away.

I went back for fifteen days, and each day the Lady appeared to me, with the exception of a Monday and a Friday. She reminded me again to tell the priests to build the chapel, asked me to wash in the spring, and to pray for the conversion of sinners. I asked her several times who she was, but she gently smiled at me. Finally, she held her arms outstretched and raised her eyes to heaven and said: *I am the Immaculate Conception.*

During that fortnight she also revealed three secrets to me and forbade me to disclose them to anyone. I have kept them faithfully to this day.” *Bernadette Soubirous to Fr. Gondrand, 1861*

On the weekend, March 1-2, representatives from Mary's Meals will visit the parish and share some information with us about the present work of this Scottish charity.

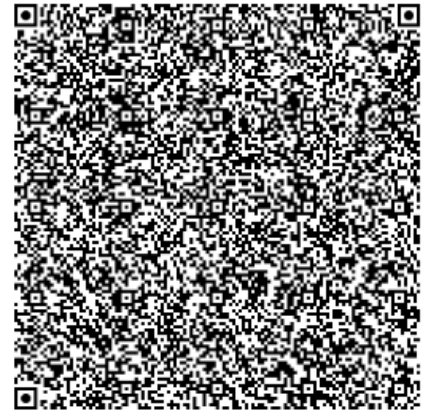
I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday Feb. 10th: Requiem for Margaret Campbell 11am
confessions at 6.30pm; novena at 7pm

Tuesday February 11th: Mass at 10am
Memorial: Our Lady of Lourdes; Rosary 9.40am

Wednesday February 12th: Mass at 10am
Rosary at 9.40am; coffee morning after Mass

Thursday February 13th: Mass at 10am
Rosary at 9.40am



The Parish Council: members meet this Wednesday at 7pm; your comments and suggestions are welcome; please speak with one of the members or place a note in the box at the back of the church or email PPC1846@hotmail.com

The Daily Liturgy enables us to listen to the words of Jesus and to find real hope in what he says and does; the moment of Holy Communion is indeed a moment of personal encounter with Jesus. *If you are free on weekdays, please consider joining us for the rosary and Mass as part of our parish pilgrimage of hope,*

Don't carry cash but wish to donate?

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone to make a donation; you will be able to Gift Aid your donation using this method.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: The Novena consists of some beautiful prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, a moment of reflection and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, then the opportunity to receive Holy Communion; *please consider making the Novena part of your Pilgrimage of Hope? You would be most welcome.*

Vocations to the Priesthood: are you thinking and praying about a possible vocation to the priesthood? The Diocese of Motherwell is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For further information, please contact Fr. Charles O'Farrell by telephone on 01698 423044 or email frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk

Aid to the Church in Need: Scottish Conference, 'Courage to be Catholic' Saturday 29th March, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 9.30-4pm. Hear from inspiring speakers, meet representatives of Catholic organizations from around Scotland and help build the Catholic Community. To register: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR>

Credo, the Parish Faith Sharing Group resumes on Tuesday in the meeting room at 1 o'clock; new members are always welcome.

Recently Deceased: Margaret Campbell, Jimmy Ward, Jane Newlands, Peter Gilmour, Marie McCluskey, Nan Docherty, Sheena McGrail, Anne Tait

Special Remembrance: Helen and James Lennon, Joan and Patrick Lennon, George Terrett, Gerard and Rita Kane, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, James O'Donnell, Jean McAvoy. Jim Canning, Mary Malone, Patrick Cavanagh, Blane McGrath, Jane Coccozza, Kevin Bryant, Ella and Joe Paterson, and all our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.

Please join us in the parish hall for tea/coffee and biscuits after morning Mass on Wednesday.