



**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP  
Tel: 01698 423552



**St. Paul's R. C. Church**

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX  
Tel: 01698 423552

**Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest**

**Charity Number - SC011041**

**[www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org](http://www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org)**

**Newsletter**

**The Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year**

**September 10th 2023**

*My dear parishioners,*

*I hope this finds you and your families well and enjoying this beautiful late summer.*

**Bishop John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley, has sent the following letter to every parish in Scotland for our reflection:**

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday we begin our celebration of Vocations Awareness Week in Scotland. It is a time when we are encouraged to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life. Our Gospel this Sunday tackles the difficult issue of how a Christian community should deal with internal problems and disputes. At first the answer seems a bit obtuse and legalistic, at least to our modern ears. A bit of reflection on the Lord's advice to the community, however, opens up a horizon of love and compassion. At the heart of the Lord's instruction is a reminder that we need to be a *caring community*, a community that cares for any person in difficulty and a community that cares for the truth that alone can set them free.

*A Community that cares about the person and cares about the truth;* might I suggest that this simple maxim, drawn from our Gospel, is a concise yet powerful description of a life of service in the Church. Our priests, your priests are called and chosen to care for each and every person, to respond to every human need wherever and however they encounter it. Following the example of Jesus himself, our priests seek out the lost, offer guidance to the young, forgive sinners and offer comfort to the sick, the dying and the bereaved; from the beginning to the end of their lives they offer us direction, meaning and compassion.

*Our priests are also called to care for the truth;* in a time of uncertainty, confusion and anxiety, they are witnesses to God's presence and his promise in our world. Faithful to a life of prayer, their priestly ministry reminds the world that God's Word lasts forever, is always faithful and is ever inspiring of new ways of hope.

*Our Vocations Awareness Week* is a precious opportunity for recalling the wonder of God's call to serve his people, and of gratitude for all those who said *Yes* down the years. This week I hope you and your parish communities will pray for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life, and encourage all those engaged in ministry in your community, and finally that our young people may be given time and space to discern if they are called to these special vocations in the life of the Church.

May the prayer that Pope Paul VI composed for the first World Day of Prayer for Vocations accompany us on our journey: "O Jesus, Divine Shepherd of Souls, You called the Apostles and made them fishers of men. Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers. Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all and open before them the horizons the entire world. By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and *be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.*

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, watch over you and protect you.  
With the assurance of my prayers and blessings,  
John Keenan,  
Bishop of Paisley

**I offer here the times of the Liturgy for the coming week:**

**Monday September 11th:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

*Rosary at 9.40; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm*

**Tuesday September 12th:** Requiem for Mrs Margaret Kane at St. Mary's at 10am

*Reception at 6.15pm*

**Wednesday September 13th:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

*St. Mary's Primary will be with us for Mass*

**Thursday September 14th:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

*Rosary at 9.40am; Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

**Saturday, September 16th**

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

**Sunday, September 17th**

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wrap-Up Lanarkshire Appeal:** once again the Rotary Club of Hamilton are inviting us to support 28 local charities which care for people who are homeless, seeking refuge from domestic violence, reliant on food-banks or refugees seeking asylum. Please donate a spare winter coat, jacket or anorak by bringing it here to the church during September. *It was the late Mr. Harry Doyle who arranged this in the past and so let us do this in memory of Harry, who is greatly missed here at St. Mary's*

**The Beginning Experience: Listen, Accompany, Heal:** this is a weekend for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood; the venue is the Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, from 29<sup>th</sup> September-1<sup>st</sup> October; for details contact Louise on 07926 571004 or email: [louisep398@gmail.com](mailto:louisep398@gmail.com); completed applications must be returned by 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**OCTAVE CONCERT, "From the Top":** In GLO Auditorium Motherwell, 14-16 September; tickets cost £15, from Julie 07901 878706; proceeds from the concert are going to the MS Society Scotland.

**CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group** meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1pm. New members are always welcome and after the meeting there is a cup of tea together.

**Please pray for,**

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Kane, Donald Alan McQuarry, Flora Ann McLean, Isobel Parker, Catherine Casey (London), George Currie, James Campbell, Andrea McGarry (Australia), Jimmy Carr (Carfin), Jim Scrimgeour

**Special Remembrance:** Brian Scrimgeour, Sandy Kennedy, Margaret Stewart, Elsie Daly, Matthew Munro, Marie Stirrat, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Mary and Michael O'Brien and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.