



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent

November 29th 2020

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

I hope this finds you and your family well. This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the new Liturgical Year for the Catholic Church. It is a moment of real grace, that for one more year we have the privilege, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, of meditating on the great mystery of Christ and on all that he has accomplished for us and for all. May we open our hearts anew to Christ the Saviour, whose word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path!

While preparing for this Sunday's liturgy I came across these thoughtful words by Pope Benedict:

“With the First Sunday of Advent a new liturgical year begins: the people of God begin again on the way to living the mystery of Christ in history. Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever; history, instead, changes and requires constant evangelisation; it needs to be renewed from within and the only true novelty is Christ; he is its fulfilment, the luminous future of humanity and of the world. Risen from the dead, Jesus is the Lord to whom God subjects all enemies, including death itself. Advent is therefore the propitious time to awaken in our hearts the expectation of he “who is and who was and who is to come” (Rev 1.8).

I would like to draw your attention to four Advent evenings prepared by the Diocesan Adult Formation Team. Taking place on Sunday evenings via Zoom, this opportunity for Advent Quiet Time will offer a guided meditation on the Sunday Gospel with music, reflection and prayer. They will take place on 29th November, and the 6th, 13th and 20th December from 7.30pm. Anyone interested should contact Fr. Magill at missions@rcdom.org.uk.

Finally, you will be able to book for next weekend's Masses on Monday evening at 8pm; the prescribed number is twenty people. Once we learn what the Scottish Government will permit after the present restrictions end, you will be able to book for the remainder of December. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Let us keep encouraging one another,
Father O'Brien

Monday is the feast of St. Andrew, principal patron of Scotland: it is an opportunity for us to pray for our country: for the Government, for local authorities, for the people of our beautiful land. We will remember also all the names written on our November Lists: family, friends and neighbours, and indeed and all who have gone before us here at St. Mary's and St. Paul's.

Thank you for the donations included in your envelopes, which reached the wonderful sum of £1,000. Each year, as we give thanks for the lives of those we have loved, we have used these donations to reach out to those who need a helping hand in life. This year the donations will be distributed as follows: £500 to International Refugee Fund; £250 to Mary's Meals (the UK Government is doubling donations to Mary's Meals at this time), and £250 to Jesuit Missions.

These three charities are working with people in truly desperate situations. You can find out more about their work on these sites:

www.irt.org.uk

www.marysmeals.org.uk

www.jesuitmissions.org.uk

I cannot thank you enough for such kindness. Even though we are facing challenges of our own in these difficult times, it is important that we continue to love and support those who often have nothing and no one. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

Christmas Cards are available in the parish meeting room at St. Mary's this weekend; we will need to observe the usual protocols regarding wearing masks, sanitizing of hands and social distancing. Clare Jones will be present to guide you.

Booking for Weekday Masses needs to be done on a weekly basis to allow for Requiems; booking for the coming week will be possible on Saturday evenings around 8pm. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

**At present St. Mary's has seating for twenty people.
St. Paul's has seating for twenty people.**

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, stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org, to book a place through Eventbrite or by phoning the church house. Details of our services will be given on the parish website, but please be aware that timings for Mass on the Sunday are different to our normal programme:

**Sunday services at St. Mary's: Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm and Sunday Morning at 10.30am
Sunday Services at St. Paul's: Saturday Vigil at 4pm and Sunday Morning at 9.15am.**

The weekday Masses this week will be at St. Mary's:

Monday at 10.am (Solemnity of St. Andrew).

Tuesday at 10am

Wednesday at 10am;

Please book through Eventbrite as this makes things easier for the stewards meeting you at the church door.

Recently Deceased: Kevin Bryant, Rosemary Stevenson, Vincenzo Crolla, Lawrence Hendry, Louise Muldoon, Michael McCafferty, Guiseppe Clemente, Catherine McArthur, Kevin Shallow, Eugenio Palazzo, Arthur Pollock, Catherine McCready, James Brown,

Special Remembrance: Jim Cox, Bill O'Mailley, Tommy Daly, Robert Daley, Brian Burke, John Malone, Esther McManus, James and Irene Gray, Maureen Gillespie, John, James and Elizabeth Fulton, James and Elizabeth Glancy, Patrick Bodwick, deceased members of the Ward and King families, and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *reqiescant in pace*.