



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

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

Newsletter

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year

August 2nd 2020

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

It has been lovely to celebrate the Eucharist again with some of you at St. Mary's and St. Paul's. I know the limited number is a challenge for us at the moment, but it is good that at least some people can gather and together we are able to pray for all who belong to our parish. It is clear that Lockdown has asked a great deal from us all and it feels refreshing to be able to meet as friends again around the altar of the Lord and to hold each other in prayer.

This Sunday's gospel reading is St. Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand. I thought you might like to reflect on the following paragraphs which are taken from 'The Living Word':

“Jesus teaches and heals, but he also feeds those who come to him. He nourishes his listeners with the word of God, but he also feeds the crowds that come to him in a real way, providing them with more than enough food for their needs. Why does he do this? It is as though he is both looking back and looking forward. He looks back to the way God fed the people in the Old Testament, especially with the manna in the desert, when again there was more than enough for the people's needs. Jesus is taking over the role as the one who provides for us in abundance.

Looking forward, Jesus is anticipating the time when he will no longer be with us in the flesh but will continue to feed us. The final act he performs with his disciples is to eat with them at the Last Supper and leaves them with the instruction, “*Do this in memory of me.*” This sacred action is the bloodless way of remembering and making present the sacrifice that Jesus makes through his death on the cross. But that too is not the end of the story, for among his risen appearances to his disciples we find him revealing his presence through the breaking of the bread as he journeys with them to Emmaus and he also feeds them once again after a night of fruitless fishing. It is as though he wants to reinforce his message that he is the food of life and it is in coming to receive him that we are transformed from our sinfulness into the new life of Christ.”

I look forward to seeing some of you this weekend and ask that you consider the following information:

St. Mary's has seating for thirty-six people (the balcony is not to be used)

St. Paul's has seating for thirty people.

Please think about choosing St. Paul's for your visit as it may well be quieter there, especially on Sunday morning.

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 10am;

Tuesday at 10am

Wednesday at 10am

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

Thursday is the Requiem for Mr. Kenneth Smith at 10am; numbers for Requiems are limited to 20 persons

The guidelines from the Government advise that on entering the building you will be asked to wear a face-covering (this can be a scarf rather than a face-mask) and use the sanitizing gel for your hands. You will then be shown to a seat. As you leave the building you will be asked to use the gel once more. I am sure that we will very quickly adjust to this 'new normal' for the moment.

Thank you to those parishioners who have assisted in the re-opening of our churches by acting as stewards or helping with the cleaning of the benches. I know others would like to help and through time we will need you all as it looks as though we are in this for the long haul!

I am aware that the restrictions which are still in place mean that for the foreseeable future we will be much fewer in number for Sunday Mass. The Scottish Bishops have asked the clergy to remind parishioners that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. This leads me to suggest that you consider attending one of the weekday Masses, especially if you are retired or still furloughed from your employment. This would also leave places free on the Sunday for those who are working.

***Congratulations to.** Conal Shirazi and Le Xuan Tan were married at St. Mary's on Saturday; we wish the young couple every blessing and a long and happy life together.*

Recently Deceased: Kenneth Smith, Helen Lowe, William (Bill) Kane, Vicky Glancy, Frances Murphy, Christopher Airlie, Sarah McBain,

Special Remembrance: Betty and John Higgins, Scott Docherty, Mary Alton Jenkinson, Helen Jenkinson, James Ward, Patrick Cox, Peggy Boyd, Jim Russell, John and Mary Dalton, Sonny, Jim and Maureen Dalton, Simon Di Silva, Annie and William Carlin, Catherine Carney, Peter Carney, Patricia Walker, Eddie Bradshaw, Catherine Franchitti, Frank Lyons, John, James and Elizabeth Fulton, Anthony Gallo, Josephine O'Mailley, Martha McCluskie, Moira Girvan, Christopher Neville, Jan Pelosi, John McGuire, Betty O'Kane, Cathy Cochrane, Michael Cochrane, Edward Power, Paul McGowan and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *requiescant in pace.*