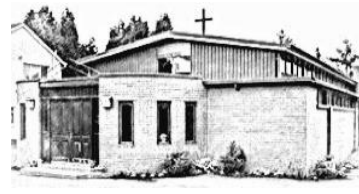




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Newsletter

The Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

September 3rd 2023

My dear parishioners,

I thought you might like to read some words by Pope Francis on this Sunday's Gospel:

Today's Gospel is the continuation of last Sunday's, which highlighted the profession of faith by Peter, the rock upon which Jesus wishes to build his church. Today, in stark contrast, Matthew shows us the reaction of the same Peter when Jesus reveals to his disciples that he will have to suffer, be killed and rise again. Peter takes the teacher aside and reproaches him because this, he says, cannot happen to him, the Christ. But Jesus, in turn, rebukes Peter with harsh words: *Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.* A moment before, the apostle had been blessed by the Father, because he had received the revelation that he was a solid rock on which Jesus could build his community, and immediately afterward he becomes an obstacle, a rock, but not for building, a stumbling block on the Messiah's path. Jesus knows well that Peter and the others still have a long way to go to become his apostles!

At that point the Teacher turns to all those who were following him, clearly presenting to them the path to follow: *Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.* Always today too, the temptation is that of wanting to follow a Christ without the cross, and, on the contrary, to teach God what is the right path, like Peter saying: *O no Lord! This shall never happen.* But Jesus reminds us that his way is the way of love, and that there is no true love without self-sacrifice. We are called not to allow ourselves be absorbed by the vision of this world, but to be ever more aware of the need of the effort for us Christians to walk against the current and uphill.

Jesus completes his proposal with words that express a great and ever valid wisdom, because they challenge the ego-centric mentality and behaviour. He exhorts: *For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.* This paradox contains the golden rule that God inscribed in the human nature created in Christ: the rule that only love gives meaning and happiness to life. To spend one's talents, one's energy and one's time only to save, protect and fulfil oneself, in reality leads to losing oneself, that is to a sad and barren existence. Instead let us live for the Lord and base our life on love, as Jesus did: we will be able to savour authentic joy, and our life will not be barren, it will be fruitful.

In the Eucharistic celebration we relive the mystery of the cross; we not only remember but we commemorate the redeeming sacrifice in which the Son of God completely loses himself so as to be received anew by the Father and thus find us again, we who were lost, together with all creatures. Each time we take part in the Holy Mass, the love of the crucified and risen Christ is conveyed to us as food and drink, so that we may follow him on the daily path, in concrete service to our brothers and sisters. *Pope Francis*

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

Monday September 4th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions from 6.30-6.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday September 5th: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am, *Memorial of St. Teresa of Calcutta*

St. Paul's Primary will be with us for Mass; coffee morning in school afterwards; all welcome

Wednesday September 6th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday September 7th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; we will anticipate tomorrow's feast of the Nativity of Mary

Saturday, September 9th

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday, September 10th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

A Special Collection will be taken up this Sunday to support the costs involved in training people for service in the priesthood and diaconate. In these challenging financial times please feel free to put your offertory donation into the second collection. *Bishop Toal greatly appreciates any assistance we can give to this collection as the costs involved in training people for ordained service are challenging for the diocese. Thank you!*

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 29th September-1st October; for details contact Louise on 07926 571004 or email: louisep398@gmail.com; completed applications must be returned by 16th 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: Catherine Casey (London), George Currie, James Campbell, Andrea McGarry (Australia), Jimmy Carr (Carfin),

Special Remembrance: Jaime Donnelly, Eilidh McHugh, Dick Green, Vincent Doherty, Kevin Bryant, Joe and Ella Paterson, Anna McAdam, Owen Moore, Jim and Mary Neary, Margaret Ducey Flynn, Ellen Ducey Jenkinson, Harry and Patricia Doyle and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.