



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

email: stmaryhamilton@rcdom.org.uk

Newsletter

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10th 2023

Dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,

Let us continue to pray for one another, that we have a very happy and fruitful Advent! With the First Sunday of Advent, the Church began a new liturgical year, which is a moment of singular grace, for it means the People of God continues to make its pilgrim way through history. How inspiring is that! It is a wonderful privilege to be part of this journey of faith, hope and charity, to have the opportunity, for one more year, to celebrate together the great mystery of Christ, the Light of the World. Little wonder then that we light up our homes in special ways during Advent.

As I mentioned last week, the word *Advent* means *arrival* or *presence* and in ancient times it was used to describe the arrival or presence of a king or queen or some other dignitary. We now use this word *Advent* to describe the visit of the Lord to humanity. Of course the first visit is the one we look forward to celebrating at Christmas, the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem; the second *arrival* or *presence* takes place in the present, in the power of the Holy Spirit, as the Lord visits us each day, walking alongside us and being a consoling and life-giving presence; of course this includes the invitation to each one of us to be present again to one another, in a tender and compassionate way. In these weeks of Advent can we see one another again through the eyes of the Lord, who always sees what is beautiful in us? What a preparation for Christmas this would be! In the end, the Holy Scriptures tell us there will be the final visit, which we proclaim each time that we recite the Creed: *"He will come to judge the living and the dead."*

In describing the season of Advent, Pope Francis says, *"we are called to expand the horizons of our hearts, to be amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness."* As we journey on through Advent, let us pray for a new Springtime in the life of the Christian Church here in Scotland and especially in our own hearts and homes and parish.

Father O'Brien

Thank you for the warm welcome last weekend to Fr. Mark Connolly, a member of the Mill Hill Missionaries, who shared with us something of his own experience as a missionary in Pakistan and India; thank you for the generous donations which reached the sum of £2,000 and this has been forwarded to the Mill Hill Missionaries to support their good work

An Invitation from the Parish Pastoral Council: the members of the Council ask that you consider the following Mission Statement: *"Our parish of St. Mary and St. Paul's Hamilton is a community of faith, where priest and people seek to work together to build up a life-giving Christian community that is characterised by prayer, hospitality and mission. We seek to be a welcoming and caring parish that gathers together at the Eucharist, to celebrate Christ's presence among us and, with his help and strength, to continue in loving and compassionate service to others."* Does this reflect your own hopes and desires for our parish? Please consider this and give your feedback to the Parish Pastoral Council. *What you think and feel matters to us. Thank you.*

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

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

Rosary at 9.40am, Novena to Our lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday December 12th: Requiem Mass for Mrs Nadia Crolla at 12.30pm

Reception on Monday at 6.15pm

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

Rosary at 9.40am

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

Rosary at 9.40am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: many people like to go to Confession as part of their spiritual preparations for Christmas and so the following times are offered:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday after Morning Mass, from around 10.35am

Saturday 16th November: 11am-12 noon, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the main altar; 4.15-4.45pm

Christmas Masses at St. Mary's

Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th: Vigil at 4pm, First Mass of Christmas at 8pm

Christmas Day, Monday December 25th: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Advent Faith-Sharing Group: Mr. Ronnie Boyd has offered to lead an evening group on the Wednesdays of Advent, December 6th, 13th and 20th, between 7-8pm in the parish meeting room. Please contact Ronnie on ircboyd@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to take part.

A Message from the Catholic Men's Society: the Hamilton branch of the CMS will meet this Monday, December 11th after 10am Mass in the parish meeting room; the topics for discussion are Sunday's Gospel and 'The Saints' Who? Why? How? If anyone would like a copy of the discussion booklet contact Peter Lavery Snr on laverypeter93@yahoo.com. *All are welcome.*

An Invitation from St. Mary's Primary School: the pupils of St. Mary's Primary would like to perform a very special Nativity for the parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Paul's on **Friday 15th December at 10am in St. Mary's Primary;** if you would like to attend please write your name and contact number on the sheets at the back of the church.

Final Mass in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Motherwell: this special liturgy will take place in Motherwell Cathedral on Thursday 14th December at 7pm, as this year marking the 75th Anniversary of Motherwell Diocese draws to a close. *All are welcome to attend.*

Thank you for the many kind donations given along with your November Lists. In fact we reached the very generous total of £2,000 and this has been shared with Mary's Meals, Friends of the Holy Land and International Relief Fund.

CREDO: the parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday at 1pm in the parish meeting room; there is some tea and cake after the meeting; new members are always welcome.

Recently Deceased: Nadia Crolla, James Fletcher, Peter Hall, Margaret Keating, Emilio Fernandez, Kate Rodgers, David Capaldi

Special Remembrance: Margaret Bonnar, Catherine Seagrave, John Fitzpatrick Jnr., James, John and Elizabeth Fulton, Nan McCluskey, Jim and Mary Neary, Hugh Connor, John Allen and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.