



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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## Newsletter

## Sixth Sunday of the Year

February 11th 2024

*My dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,  
I offer below Bishop Toal's Pastoral Letter for the Launch of 'Project Wellspring'*

***Dear brothers and sisters,***

This weekend I am pleased to announce the launch of ***Wellspring***, our new diocesan renewal project. *Wellspring* is the fruit of many months of discernment and preparation and offers hope of a new, energised pastoral landscape in our local Church, seventy-five years since our foundation. It is the prayerful and practical response to the findings of our diocesan synodal conversation.

At its core, this new project seeks to form missionary, evangelical disciples who are ready and equipped to respond to the challenges of our day. It will rely on the support of clergy and lay people working together, in a spirit of genuine synodality, for the building up of the Kingdom of God in our diocese. Of course, it will also look at other practical areas of our diocesan life such as property management, finances and effective working practices. *Wellspring* will focus on three specific areas of pastoral renewal:

### **Promoting a Common Vision**

Now, more than ever, we want to unite our diocesan family around the core ideals of the Gospel. Everything we do will flow from our common, scripture-centred ambitions. We will be inclusive and outward-looking, eager to share the riches of our faith beyond the physical walls of our churches. (The full version can be found in your *Wellspring* parish information flyer).

### **Launching Renewed Missions**

We will prioritise and resource five key missions to foster deeper faith and greater witness to the Gospel. These five missions are:

1. ***Liturgy***, ensuring high-quality, dignified and engaging Masses and services, especially the Sunday Eucharist.
2. ***Adult Formation***, offering opportunities for prayer and learning to deepen our understanding of the Christian Faith,
3. ***Youth Formation***, providing programmes of prayer, fellowship and learning for our young Catholics,
4. ***Poverty Relief***, ensuring we offer generous practical and material support to those most in need
5. ***Education***, supporting our Catholic Schools to be nurturing environments alive with faith.

### **Engaging Parish Renewal**

We want to create thriving communities where all are invited to contribute and serve. We will renew our parishes *from the soil upwards*, identifying key areas of spiritual and pastoral growth. This local, bespoke approach will vary from parish to parish, meeting the needs and wants of individual communities. The diocesan Wellspring Team will be available to support clergy and parish teams throughout the journey of renewal.

**The success of *Wellspring*** depends on two things. **Firstly**, it requires generous and big-hearted co-operation from each one of us. It invites us to live our faith more completely and share our faith more courageously, especially in our homes and families. Living and sharing the joy of the gospel is surely what will un-tap a new sea of grace in our diocese. So everyone is invited to take up this vital work. **Secondly**, and most importantly, we need to pray that God will bless and multiply our human endeavours so that our diocese experiences a new and abundant spring of living water. The Lord is the one who will lead *Wellspring*; we simply make the offering of our lives as his instruments.

**Finally**, we entrust our future into the maternal hands of Mary our Mother. May the ancient image of the '*Mother's Well*', from which our diocese takes its name, flow again with new graces. May Our Lady grant a new springtime in the life of our beloved diocese.

Yours sincerely,  
+Joseph Toal  
Bishop of Motherwell

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

#### **Monday February 12th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am Confessions at 6.30-7.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm*

#### **Tuesday February 13th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

#### **Ash Wednesday February 14th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am, 12 noon and 7pm**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

#### **Thursday February 15th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am**

*St. Mary's Primary with us for morning Mass.*

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**The next coffee morning will be next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, after the 9am Mass and 10.30am Mass;** please come around to the hall and enjoy some tea/coffee/juice toast and home-baking. A small selection of Fairtrade food and crafts will be on sale, including Fairtrade Easter Eggs; these are the only eggs to come with a booklet telling the Easter story.

**CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group** meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1 o'clock; new members are always welcome and some tea and biscuits are shared together at the end of the meeting.

**St. Mary and St. Paul's Walking Group** meets on Tuesday mornings at 11am outside the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street; new participants are always welcome and after the walk, which lasts for one hour, some gather in the coffee shop at the Museum.

**Recently Deceased:** Theresa Henderson-Forsyth, Edwina Ward, Ellen Grant, Kevin McGoldrick, William Higgins, John Fegan, Paul O'Keane, Mary McGowan, Margaret Semple, Eileen Haggarty, Alex Belmas-Carroll, Alfredo Guerra Marraro, John Connor, Samantha Cunningham

**Special Remembrance:** Jane Feenie, Liza Feenie-Johnson, Mamie Lalley, Ronnie Boyd and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.