



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

Newsletter

Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Year

October 11th 2020

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

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. This week our schools are taking their October break and I'm sure we all wish the staff and pupils a refreshing week after the extra effort involved in getting our schools back to work after the Lockdown. So much is being asked of so many and it is often encouraging to see all that is being done to cope with our 'new normal'. I feel very grateful to all who are showing such care and concern for our young parishioners.

This week I celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with some of the pupils from St. Paul's Primary, catching up with those who missed their First Confession back in March when Lockdown was announced. Arrangements have now been made in both Primary Schools to celebrate First Holy Communion with those children who had this special moment postponed. I look forward to these celebrations very much. It is a singular privilege to hand on the devout reception of Holy Communion to those who are coming after us. From this moment onwards they will be Eucharistic members of the Catholic Church.

Of course this leaves the celebration of Confirmation with those young people who missed out on this sacred moment back in May. Bishop Toal has asked the parish priests of the Diocese to celebrate the sacrament. When the schools return after their break I will ask the Headteachers how we might move forward and make arrangements for the celebration of Confirmation. Hopefully we will be able to do this before the Christmas break. If you are reading this and have a young person in your family who missed Confirmation earlier in the year please tell them that we have not forgotten about them.

Finally, it has been a joy to catch up with some of the baptisms that were postponed, for baptism is the gateway to the life of grace. All that the church holds dear about the mystery of faith is opened to this new member of the body of Christ. From this moment onwards this little boy or girl (or indeed this adult) will belong, body and soul, in life and in death, to Christ the Saviour. How wonderful is that!

You remain in my thoughts and prayers and I often think of you all, at home or at school, college and university, or at work. May the Lord continue to bless us and give us the grace to help one another and to care for one another. Please remember I am here at home, at St. Mary's, should you need me for anything,

Father O'Brien

World Mission Sunday: next week we celebrate this special day in the life of the church when we seek to support our Christian brothers and sisters who live and work in challenging circumstances. If you wish to make a donation to Missio Scotland then please place your donation in an envelope and bring it to the church or online by visiting www.missioscotland.com or by texting Misioscot to

70085 to donate £3. Fr. Vincent Lockhart, National Director of Missio Scotland, has written a letter to mark World Mission Sunday and it will be printed in next week's newsletter.

A Message from the Catholic Men's Society: the CMS continue to meet via Zoom on Monday mornings at 11am to discuss matters of faith and practice in the modern world. Any men of the parish who wish to join in this conversation would be most welcome. Please contact Peter Lavery at laverypeter93@yahoo.com

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.

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 10.am;

Tuesday: Requiem Mass at St. Paul's for Mr. Charles Wallace at 10 am

Wednesday at 10am;

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

Please note that Government guidelines state that only 20 people are permitted to attend Requiems. This means that funerals should be looked upon as private family gatherings; thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

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.

Recently Deceased: Charles Wallace, James Dunbar, Mary Donnelly, James Scott, Billy Dawson, Amy Paterson, Patrick Brannigan, John Greaney (Oban), John Dalton, Jane Dalton, Dorothy Kirkham, Michelle Simpson, Thomas Cooper

Special Remembrance: Nessie Lynas, Cathleen Lynas Sheerin, Tommy Daly, Theresa Brown, Jim Kerr, Maureen Chapman, deceased members of the Dalton and McKenna 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.*