



**The Catholic Parish of
St. Mary & St. Paul, Hamilton**

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Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

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Sunday Masses: Vigil 5pm, 9am and 10:30am

Confessions: Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

Newsletter

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4th 2025

The Bishops of Scotland have asked that the following letter be read and made available in every parish in Scotland this weekend:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last year we alerted you to a Bill in the Scottish Parliament to introduce assisted suicide for citizens in Scotland aged sixteen and over. We urged you to contact your MSPs, asking them to reject this dangerous proposal which devalues human life and puts our most vulnerable brothers and sisters under terrible pressure to end their lives prematurely. We advised you to encourage your MSPs to champion the improvement of palliative care instead across Scotland.

Thankfully, many of you wrote to or met your MSPs to express your concerns and it influenced a number of them to oppose the bill. Now we are reaching another critical stage in the process where two Bills, one before the Westminster Parliament and the other before the Holyrood Parliament, are coming up for the next voting stage in the coming weeks. The Bishops of Scotland are calling the Catholic Community to a Day of Prayer today, Sunday 4th May, to pray for our parliamentarians to cast their vote to care and not to kill, and to pray for Catholics across Scotland to reach out to their MSPs and MPs to urge them to work to improve palliative care and reject assisted suicide.

Assisted Suicide, allows the state to provide the means of killing our brothers and sisters. Not only is this wrong but it takes us down a dangerous spiral that inevitably harms the most vulnerable members of our society, by which we mean the elderly, the disabled and those who struggle with mental health, all those, in fact, who cannot stand up for themselves. One of the tests of good law is that it ensures our weakest citizens can feel safe. This law does the opposite and frightens the most vulnerable all around us.

When vulnerable people, including the elderly and disabled, express concerns about being a burden, the appropriate response is not to suggest that they have a duty to die. Rather, it is to commit ourselves to meeting their needs and providing the care and compassion they need to help them live.

Until now, we have trusted our doctors without question to be on the side of life, health and wellbeing. It is wrong to think of them asking our loved ones if they would be better off dead. Introducing killing as medical treatment would, at a stroke, end all confidence in our treasured doctor patient relationship.

At a time when suicide is on the rise in Scotland and we are doing our best to reduce it, what message are we sending when we say that suicide is the right choice provided it is overseen by a doctor? Laws like this normalise suicide and, with it, the false ideas that some people's lives are beyond hope. We all feel compassion for those who are terminally ill and dying and are perhaps in fear of a painful death. Our desire for better palliative care is about ensuring those at the final stage of life feel valued, treated with compassion, given the benefit of modern pain relief and helped feel some peace at the end. We owe a common responsibility to each other, especially to those who are weak, ill and dying. Legalizing assisted suicide amounts to a rejection of this shared duty.

Focusing the energies of both parliaments on improving palliative care, which is underfunded and inaccessible to many, is the right and better way to go. We invite you to join us in praying at today's Masses and in your personal and family prayers for the defeat of assisted suicide, the safety of the vulnerable and the dignity of life. Yours devotedly in Christ,
The Bishops of Scotland

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday 5th May: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions at 6.30pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday May 6th: Mass at 10am

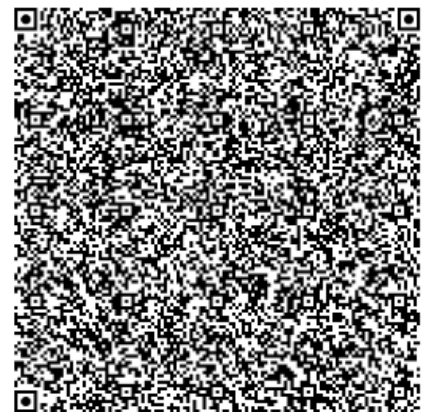
Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday May 7th: Mass at 10 am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday May 8th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am



Parish Pastoral Council meets this Wednesday at 7pm in the meeting room. The council is there to serve the parish community; if you have suggestions or comments, please share these with a member of the council or place written comments in the box at the back of the church or email PPC1846@hotmail.com

Credo, the parish faith sharing group, meets this Tuesday in the meeting room at 1 o'clock; members enjoy some tea and biscuits after their meeting.

Recently Deceased: Walter Stewart, Greg Leighton, Mairi McLean, Ann Callaghan

Special Remembrance: Tommy and Anne Quay, Nan McCluskey, Michael Fitzpatrick and all our own deceased relatives and friends, and all the benefactors of our parish.