



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Eleventh Sunday of the Year

June 16th 2024

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

I hope this finds you and your families well and beginning to look forward to the summer holidays. This Sunday the Catholic Church in Great Britain and Ireland marks our annual *Day for Life*; Bishop John Keenan has written the following Pastoral Letter to be read in Catholic Churches in Scotland.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today the Catholic Church in Great Britain and Ireland marks our annual Day for Life, established by Pope St. John Paul II in 1995 to foster recognition in our consciences, our families, our Church and in civil society of the value of human life at every stage and condition; it draws our attention to the seriousness of abortion and euthanasia but also to other aspects of life deserving of our consideration. Over the years we have supported survivors of sexual abuse and those with addictions, as well as caring for refugees and asylum seekers, even though our largest grants continue to fund traditional pro-life concerns such as abortion and euthanasia.

This year a Bill has been introduced to the Holyrood Parliament to allow assisted suicide in Scotland for sixteen-year-olds and over, proposing that doctors hand a lethal concoction of drugs to patients to end their lives. In countries where assisted suicide has been legalised, palliative care provision has stalled and hospices refusing to offer assisted suicide have had their funding stopped, including Catholic hospices. This is why three quarters of palliative care doctors in Scotland said they would refuse to participate in assisted suicide, and just under half will resign if required to administer it.

In countries with assisted suicide, supposed safeguards have soon eroded to include people with arthritis, anorexia, autism and dementia, and even little children. Assisted suicide sends a message to disabled people that they are a burden and puts pressure in the vulnerable to opt to die, as in Oregon where half of those who chose assisted suicide felt a burden on their families, communities and healthcare system. When the elderly and disabled are worried about being a burden, our response should be to commit ourselves to providing care and compassion to help them have a life worth living.

As Catholics we offer just such a vision to our loved ones who are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life; our faith teaches us that there is no such thing as a useless life, and to reverence the gift of life to its natural end. Our Gospel calls us to protect the vulnerable from a culture that would pressure them into assisted suicide and support them with appropriate treatment and the best of care so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love. Jesus did not send the sick away and Our Lady remained at the foot of the Cross as her son died, as a model of compassionate presence to the very end. People close to death often go through darkness and pain, but experience shows they can come to a more complete understanding of their lives in treasured last moments accompanied by spiritual care and loved ones.

This year our Day for Life focuses on compassion and hope at the end of life; it is an invitation to us to renew our calling personally and as a society to care for others at the end of their lives, and to help our culture to see the end of life as an occasion for spiritual growth filled with grace and love.

With assurance of prayers,
Bishop John Keenan.

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday June 17th: Mass at 10am;

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions at 6.30-6.50pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday June 18th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday June 19th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday June 20th: Mass at 10am

St. Mary's Primary School will be with us for their End of Term Thanksgiving

Saturday June 22nd: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sunday June 23rd: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome; the meeting continues to around 2.30pm and then those present enjoy some tea and biscuits together.

The Strollers Group: on the first Tuesday of the month the group walks in Chatelherault Park and on the other Tuesday mornings they meet at the Museum on Muir Street at 11am, then walk for one hour and return to the Museum café for some tea/coffee and conversation. The Strollers warmly welcome new members; all you need do is turn up in your walking shoes!

Donations to St. Mary and St. Paul's Parish: sincere thanks to all who make a donation to the upkeep and mission of our parish. As you know the parish is a registered charity and depends on donations to continue its ministry, which extends far beyond those who come along to church on a Sunday. Would you consider signing up to Gift Aid your donations, which means the Government, if you are a tax-payer, donates 25 pence for every £1 that you donate. Would you consider making your donation by Standing Order? Please ask for a Gift Aid Form; it makes a huge difference to the upkeep of our parish.

Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to remember them at Mass:

Jim Breslin

Recently Deceased: Michael Campbell (Donegal), Margaret Leonard, Rose McCann, Patricia Oakes (Dumfries), James Dickie, Michelle Morrell, Mary McAuley, Mrs. Walsh

Special Remembrance: Christopher Clancy, Elizabeth Canning, Charlie Daly, Margaret Daly Rooney, Bob and Jenny Smith, Maureen Chapman, deceased members of the McKenna and Dalton families, Kathleen and John Lynas, Peter Lynas, Bishop Maurice Taylor, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.