



**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

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**St. Paul's R. C. Church**

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**Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest**

**Charity Number - SC011041**

**[www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org](http://www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org)**

## **Newsletter**

### **The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 27<sup>th</sup> 2022**

*My dear parishioners,*

Let me begin by wishing a very happy Mother's Day to all the mothers of the parish; may you receive today the love and affection of your family. Our Lenten pilgrimage continues as the whole world is shocked and deeply moved by the sufferings of the people of Ukraine. Our thoughts today are with the mothers and fathers who are trying to keep their family safe. Let us continue to hold them in our hearts. In fact today's gospel is about a merciful father and I thought you might like to read these thoughtful words by Pope Benedict:

“On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of the father and the two sons, better known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, is proclaimed. This passage of St. Luke constitutes one of the peaks of spirituality and literature. After Jesus has told us of the merciful Father, things are no longer as they were before. We now know God; he is our Father who out of love created us to be free and endowed us with a conscience, the Father who suffers when we get lost and rejoices when we return. The two sons represent two immature ways of relating to God: rebellion and childish obedience. Both these forms are surmounted through the experience of mercy. Only by experiencing forgiveness, by recognising one is loved with a freely given love, a love greater than our wretchedness but also greater than our own merit, do we at last enter into a truly filial and free relationship with God.” *Pope Benedict XVI*

While visiting St. Paul's Bookshop in Glasgow the staff invited the customers to join them in a prayer for peace. I asked to keep my copy so that I might share it with you; perhaps you might like to use this prayer at home with your family:

#### **A Prayer for Peace**

O Prince of Peace,  
Once more we hear the guns of war,  
Once more we see the faces  
of frightened children.  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
That they may be granted peace;  
We pray for the people of Russia,  
That they may demand peace;  
We pray for our country, that we may be a positive part  
of peacemaking in this world.  
O Prince of Peace,  
Lead us from this dark time  
To a deeper understanding  
Of the global human family,  
So all may break bread together

In the secure embrace of peace  
Amen

*Written by Jane Deren, Education for Justice, a project of Ignation Solidarity Network.*

Let us continue to make this a special Lent at St. Mary's and St. Paul's; offering our prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the building up of the culture of justice and peace in our fragile world.  
Fr. O'Brien

**I offer here the schedule for the liturgy:**

**Saturday, March 26th**

**Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm**

**Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm**

**Sunday, March 27th**

**Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am**

**Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am**

Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday, March 29th Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am.

Wednesday, March 30th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Requiem for Mrs Cecilia Mann, St. Mary's at 9.30am

**Saturday, April 2nd**

**Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm**

**Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm**

**Sunday, April 3rd**

**Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am**

**Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am**

**GIFTAID ENVELOPES for the next tax year 2022-2023 are now available for uplifting from the church porch. Thank you for your continued support of our parish.**

**Thank you** to those who signed up to make the synodal journey; our final meeting will be on Wednesday; Please gather at 6.45pm in the parish hall; the meeting will be from 7-8.30pm.

**Catholic Men's Society Annual Day of Recollection:** all men in the diocese are invited to take part in this retreat day on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in St. James' Coatbridge, led by Fr. Paul Denney. The cost is £15 which includes a meal in a local eating place. Anyone who would like this opportunity to add an uplifting experience to this year's Lenten journey can contact Peter Lavery Snr in person or e-mail, [laverypeter93@yahoo.com](mailto:laverypeter93@yahoo.com).

**CREDO**, the parish prayer group, will meet this Tuesday in the parish meeting room, beginning at 1pm and concluding with some tea at 2.30pm. The group welcomes prayer requests from parishioners and a box is available at the back of the church for you to place such requests. *Please do not include donations in these requests.*

**Please remember in your prayers:**

**All who are ill and have asked us to pray for them:**

**Recently Deceased:** Cecilia Mann, Mgr. Tom O'Hare, Fr. Peter Lafferty

**Special Remembrance**, Nessie Lynas, John and Edna Wilson, Mary Wilson Snaith, Alec and May Morgan, Canon Patrick O'Hare, Catherine Barr, Kathleen Barr, Molly Kennedy, James and Helen O'Donnell, Alex

and Esther Malone, Muriel Malone, Geraldine McCarthy, Winifred McGuire, Rosaleen Mournian, Helen Lennon and Mary O'Brien and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.