



St. Mary's R. C. Church

Fr Henry O'Brien – St. Paul's R. C.

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

Tel: 01698 423552



Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX

Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

email: stmaryhamilton@rcdom.org.uk

Newsletter

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7th 2024

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

Let me wish you a very happy New Year, a peaceful and fruitful 2024. This beautiful solemnity of the Epiphany is dedicated as World Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace. Archbishop William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow, has sent the following letter to be read at this Sunday's Masses:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Astronauts share a unique experience, for they have been able to go into outer space and look down in awe at the beauty of the earth. The astronauts see the earth as God gave it to us, *one earth, one world.*

But for us, when we look at our maps, we see a world that is divided by lines, including the borders and barriers that partition this world into territories and countries. We put up walls; we erect fences of barbed wire and we say to our fellow human beings: *"This is my land, this land and its resources are not yours, but mine."*

But God has given this one world to all of humanity, so that all human beings can live and flourish and grow, sharing its resources. We have of course got to manage creation and organise it. We cannot have chaos. But can we say to someone living where it is arid and barren, that they have no right to come here where the soil is good and the food is plentiful, because this is my territory? Do migrants and refugees not have God-given rights to move to a better life?

And the borders we create are often the cause of friction. How many wars are fought over disputed territory, both sides claiming it as their land? How much conflict as people seek to claim as their own the oil, gas or mineral wealth that lies under the surface? How many countries grow wealthy, keeping for themselves the riches of the earth and see no obligation to share with the poor?

We are a long way from living in a world where all benefit from the gift of creation given by God to all. We are a long way from peace when countries continue to fight for what they claim is theirs. We are a long way from a united world where we work together for the good of all humanity.

We are not the owners of God's earth, we are its stewards. The astronauts in space see a world that is beautiful and so it is. It is also rich and plentiful, with resources given to us by God for the good of everyone. Poverty will only disappear when the earth's resources are fairly shared. Only when we act as stewards and not as owners of creation will there be peace and justice on earth.

May Jesus the Prince of Peace inspire us to work for justice and establish a peaceful world!

+William Nolan

Bishop President of Justice and Peace Scotland

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

Monday January 8th 2024: Requiem Mass for Anne Boyd at 10am

Reception on Sunday at 6pm (Novena resumes next Monday, January 15th at 7pm)

Tuesday January 9th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday January 10th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday January 11th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Parish Pastoral Council meets this Wednesday in the parish meeting room at 7pm. The PPC is there to serve the parish community of St. Mary's and St. Paul's. During 2023 you brought forward various concerns and suggestions and a good number of these have been addressed, for example, additional lighting for the car-park area, removal of a small tree growing at the very top of the church roof and maintenance to the path leading from car-park, handrail for side-entrance to church, Missalettes for Sunday Mass, more frequent coffee mornings, faith-sharing group during Advent, and the restoration of the cross in the parish garden. So as you can see, your comments and suggestions matter. Please use the email PPC1846@hotmail.com or the paper and pens at the back of the church to contact the parish council.

This is a good opportunity to say a special word of thanks to Mr. Robert Burns who made and installed our new cross and then, with his wife Margaret, donated the finished work to the parish as a gift. The cross is greatly appreciated by so many, especially those who come into our garden to say a prayer *Sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Burns.*

CREDO the parish faith-sharing group resumes 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's and St. Paul's Walking Group meet 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.

Good wishes to all our teachers and pupils as they return for the new school term on Monday; may it be happy and fruitful for all, especially those who will take important exams.

Congratulations and good wishes to Kerry McHugh and Stephen McNeil, who were married on Saturday 30th December in St. Brigid's Church, Killester, Dublin.

We wish them a long and happy married life together.

Recently Deceased: Ann Boyd, Margaret McGuire, Jean Young, Pat Elvin, Jean Paterson

Special Remembrance: Katy Jones, Anne Hunter, John Harkins, Michael and Elizabeth McSorley, Mary Daly, Sheila Duffy, Wullie Savage, Mary Dorman, Katy Jones, Alice and Michael Sweeney, Ian McNab, Mary Ann Dorricott, Elizabeth Gallagher, James Lynas, Josephine Lynas McLean, deceased members of the McGinn, McParland, O'Neil, Reid and MacFadyen families, Daniel Devanney, James McDonald, Catherine Devanney, Lynne Devanney, Paul McGlynn, Fr. Joseph Brannigan, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.