



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Third Sunday of the Year

January 21st 2024

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

I hope this finds you and your families well as we move through the challenges of the winter. On Monday evening we will welcome local members of the St. Vincent de Paul for Mass at 7pm. Even though much fewer in number than in previous times, the SVDP continues to reach out to those facing challenging times and tries to be a support in all sorts of ways, financially, practically and socially. A good example of this is their furniture programme, through which they provide much needed support in a very practical way. This will be our parish Mass on Monday and, if you are free, please join us at 7pm. Our welcome and our presence will be a good support to those who continue to give generously of their time to others.

On Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, a special moment for us as a parish. Mass will be celebrated in St. Paul's Primary School at 9.30am; even though our church building in Whitehill has now closed, the life and ministry of the church continues as we look for new ways of being *church*. By any standards, St. Paul made a remarkable human journey, from persecuting people for following the way of Jesus to becoming the great herald of the gospel to the nations and the servant of all. It was a remarkable change of heart brought about by his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. I will anticipate this feast at St. Mary's on Tuesday morning at 10am; please join us as we seek to come to know and love St. Paul, our patron, more deeply.

On Tuesday of last week I attended an assembly of the Clergy with Bishop Toal, who invited every parish to participate in a pastoral initiative called, **Project Wellspring**, which will be initiated by the diocese in February. As members of the church we will be invited to **renew** our witness to the great commission, *go make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19)*, to ensure that all people are welcome in our churches and are heard, respected and recognised, and to enable young people to live and share their own love for the Gospel. This pastoral project will encourage us to keep looking beyond our church buildings, *to share the joys and hopes, the grief and anxieties of all, especially the poor, bringing the healing love of Jesus Christ to all.*

I mention this here to keep you informed and to invite you to pray for the success of this pastoral initiative in our Diocese of Motherwell.

Father O'Brien

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

Monday January 22nd: Mass at St. Mary's at 7pm

Local members of the SVDP will be present; no morning Mass

Tuesday January 23rd: Mass at St Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday January 24th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday January 18th: Mass at St. Paul's School

No morning Mass at St. Mary's

Thank you to all who came along to the Coffee Morning last Sunday after the 10.30am Mass and to all who served and baked for the occasion; it is good for us to get these opportunities to meet together after the liturgy. Thank you also for the donations which came to £200 and this will be donated to Hamilton Foodbank.

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

Recently Deceased: James Kincaid, Edwina Ward, George Terrett (Canada), Frances Howden, Mary Hepburn, Liam Reid, Amy Cannon, Jean Young, Pat Elvin, Martin Francis Cullen

Special Remembrance: John McInnes, Campbell Esper, Ann Daly Quay, Tommy Quay, Daniel Daly, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, John Emerson, Agnes Sheerin, Joe Mitchell, Anne and David Hunter, David Hunter Jnr., James O'Donnell, John and Edna Wilson, Mary Snaith, Owen and Bella Currie and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.

A Prayer for the Success of 'Project Wellspring'

*Grant us O merciful God
that our offering may find
acceptance with you
and that through it
the **Wellspring** of all blessing may be laid open before us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*