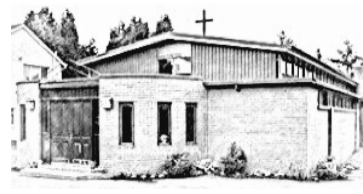




St. Mary's R. C. Church
120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP
Tel: 01698 423552



St. Paul's R. C. Church
Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX
Tel: 01698 423552

Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest
Charity Number - SC011041
www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

Newsletter

Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul

June 28th 2020

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

This weekend the Church celebrates the beautiful liturgy of St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles.

St. Peter (+c.64) was the brother of Andrew and a Galilean fisherman. He was called by the Lord and, despite his obvious human frailties, eventually chosen as leader of the Twelve, the 'rock' on which Jesus would build his Church. After Pentecost, he became particularly associated with Antioch and then Rome. He was crucified under Nero and buried at the Vatican.

St. Paul (+c.64/67) was a tent-maker from Tarsus (then capital of the Roman province of Cilicia, now in Turkey), a Pharisee and a Roman citizen. He was initially a persecutor of Christians but was converted by the Lord on his way to Damascus. He became the Apostle to the Gentiles, preaching the Gospel to the uncircumcised, reaching Greece, Italy, Malta and possibly even Spain. He was beheaded along the Via Ostiense and buried nearby, on the site where the basilica bearing his name now stands.

It is a real joy to let you know that St. Mary's and St. Paul's will open our doors in welcome to you on the great Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul. As Scotland emerges carefully from Lockdown, the churches will open in this phase only for personal prayer. The celebration of the Liturgy together will come later in the summer.

The guidelines from the Government advise that on entering the building you will be asked to wear a face-covering and use the sanitizing gel for your hands. You will then be shown to a seat for your period of prayer. As you leave the building you will be asked to use the gel once more. I am sure that we will very quickly adjust to this 'new normal' for the moment.

Due to the social distancing requirement of 2 metres seating is very limited: St. Mary's has 36 spaces and St. Paul's has 30 spaces. Please think about choosing St. Paul's for your visit as it may well be quieter there.

For many years now as a parish priest I have treasured the moment when I go through to the church to open the doors each day in welcome to whoever wants to enter our buildings. It is a real privilege. As I open the doors I find myself praying quietly for all who will enter, that each one will find the grace needed for life at this moment. St. John Paul II has said that the heart of Jesus is a pledge of hope for every man and woman and child. What wonderful news! No one is excluded!

St. Mary's will open this Sunday and next Sunday with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 10am and 1pm; the church will also open on Wednesday between 11am and 1pm.

St. Paul's will open this Sunday and next Sunday with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 10.30am and 12 noon.

The Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul feels like a very appropriate day to welcome you back and I look forward very much to seeing you.

Father O'Brien

Let me share with you the names of those who have died during these weeks when we have been unable to gather for Mass:

John Boyce
James Donnelly,
Mary Teresa Lees,
Silvio (Steve) Ferri,
Tess McMahon,
Helen Brown,
Margaret McCluskey,
James McDougall,
John Henderson,
Tom O'Brien,
James McMenemy,
Frances Murphy,
Brian Porteous,
Susan McAteer,
Margaret Boyd,
Julia (Sheila) O'Neill
Stephen Mann
William McKane
Jane Kane

I know you will remember these men and women in your prayers and also their families, who said farewell to a loved one in the most difficult of circumstances. It is painful not to have the beauty of the Requiem Mass in the church and the comfort and strength that comes from the good presence of family and friends and neighbours.

Special Remembrance: Martha McCluskie, Christopher Neville, Jan Pelosi, John McGuire, Georgia Dickson, Elizabeth Canning, Christopher Clancy, Brian Pearson, Mark Hughes, John Kane, Elizabeth and Edward Owens, Michael Owens, John Allen, Jim and Mary Neary, Hugh Connor, Joseph O'Neill, John and Mary McCaig, Anna McAdam, May Kinnie, Minnie and Edward Morgan, Ellen and Willie Miller, Betty Brookes, James McCann and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *requiescant in pace*.
