



**The Catholic Parish of
St. Mary & St. Paul, Hamilton**

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

Charity Number SC011041

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Sunday Masses: Vigil 5pm, 9am and 10:30am

Confessions: Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent

December 1st 2024

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well as we begin our journey through December, this month which holds so much beauty and hope; already the bright lights of Christmas are softening the darkness of winter. How wonderful is that! Today with the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year in the life of the church. I offer these words from Pope Benedict for your reflection:

“In Advent, the liturgy frequently repeats and assures us that God ‘comes’; he comes to be with us in every situation of ours, he comes to dwell among us, to live with us and within us; he comes to fill the gaps that divide and separate us; he comes to reconcile us with him and one another. He comes into human history to knock at the door of every man and woman of good will, to bring to individuals, families and peoples the gifts of unity, harmony and peace. This is why Advent is the season of hope in which believers in Christ are invited to remain in watchful and active waiting, nourished by prayer and by the effective commitment to love.” Pope Benedict XVI

The church’s daily liturgy is a wonderful gift and enables us to journey with Jesus, Mary and the saints every day of the year. The daily Eucharist offers us the opportunity to meditate on the great mystery of Christ for one more year and indeed to follow in his footsteps and in the footsteps of those who have gone before us in the life of faith, hope and charity. Have you considered making this Advent a type of pilgrimage of prayer by coming along to our weekday Mass whenever time permits? You are always welcome to join those of us who are privileged to gather each day to celebrate the Eucharist in memory of Jesus. It is a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas.

Faith in Action for Young People: in line with the Wellspring Project, this new parish initiative hopes to engage teens and young adults in their local community, while exploring faith together. We would need a team of interested adults to support this project. If you have an interest in exploring this further please contact Claire Moinar on 07906 832201

Sincere thanks to everyone who came along to our special November Mass for the faithful departed; thanks also to those who baked and to those who served the refreshments in the hall. *Thank you for the donations in the November Lists, which came to £2,000; this will be shared between Mary’s Meals and Friends of the Holy Land in memory of our faithful departed; it is a beautiful witness to the circle of love. Thank you!*

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday December 2nd: Mass at 10am

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

Tuesday December 3rd: Mass at 11am with the staff and pupils from St. Paul's Primary *Please join us to welcome our friends from St. Paul's*

Wednesday December 4th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday December 5th Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Santa's Sausage Sunday: the Parish Council invites you to the hall for a roll and sausage and a hot drink after both Masses next Sunday, December 8th; cost £1.50; Santa will visit the children after the 10.30am Mass; there will be an opportunity to purchase Fairtrade goods as well as items from the parish stall. *Proceeds will be donated to Kilbryde Hospice.*

A Message from Kilbryde Hospice (East Kilbride): as the Christmas holiday season approaches and as part of their seasonal efforts, Kilbryde Hospice is collecting selection boxes to share with those in need during this special time of year; the Hospice would be grateful for any donations.

Staff and pupils of St. Mary's Primary School warmly invite senior citizens and parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish to the Christmas Nativity on Wednesday 11th December at 1pm; if you would like to attend, please write your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of the church.

Vocations Evening: a meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 7pm in Motherwell Cathedral for those in our diocese who feel called to the priesthood. This informal evening will begin with a short time of prayer and it will provide an opportunity to ask questions, come together and learn a bit more about priesthood and the discernment process. If you cannot make this meeting and are interested in learning more then please email Fr. Sean Wylie, Diocesan Vocations Promoter on frwylie@rcdom.org.uk

Advent Holy Hour for young adults on Tuesday December 3rd in Motherwell Cathedral at 7.30-8.30pm; these gatherings are proving popular with young adults from across the diocese.

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group will not meet this week; the group will meet as normal next Tuesday at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; all are welcome to take part and to enjoy some tea and biscuits afterwards.

The Parish Defibrillator is located in the first confessional and is clearly visible on the wall as you open the door.

Please pray for all who are ill: John Rimmer, Jim Breslin, Jim Strachan

Recently Deceased: Andrew Montgomery, Helen Mallagh, Robert McArthur, Pat Ross, Joseph Cairns, Theresa Dunn, Daniel Coffey, Theresa Carlton, John McKale,

Special Remembrance: Cornelius (Neil) McMurray, Jim Cox, Bill O'Mailly, Peter and Betty Maxwell, George and Helen Connor, Michael Meechan, deceased members of the Dalton and McKenna families and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.