



St. Mary's R. C. Church
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Newsletter

12th Sunday of the Year

June 21st 2020

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

On Friday of this week the church celebrated the liturgy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope St. John Paul II said these words about this beautiful feast:

To celebrate the Heart of Christ means to go to the inner centre of the Person of the Saviour, the centre which the Bible identifies as his Heart, the seat of the love that has redeemed the world. If the human heart is really an unfathomable mystery, known only to God, how much more sublime is the Heart of Jesus in whom the very life of the Word is pulsating.

Echoing the Holy Scriptures, the beautiful Litany of the Sacred Heart suggests that we find in the heart of Jesus all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and the whole fullness of divinity. To save us, God wanted to give us a "new heart" that would be faithful to his loving will. This heart is the heart of Jesus, the Holy Spirit's masterpiece, which began to beat in Mary's virginal womb and was pierced by the spear as Jesus hung on the cross, becoming for all an inexhaustible source of eternal life. That heart is now a pledge of hope for every man and woman and child.
Pope St. John Paul II

With these moving words in mind 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 next Sunday, June 28th, which is 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.

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 next Sunday with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 10am and 1pm.
St. Paul's will open 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

Children's Liturgy Resources for 12th Sunday: https://youtu.be/60z71ZE_vHA

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: Christopher Neville, Jan Pelosi, John McGuire, Georgia Dickson, Elizabeth Canning, Christopher Clancy, Brian Pearson, Margaret Duffy, Tommy Maxwell, Angelina Di Marco, Ida Maxwell, Hugh and Mary Robertson, Patricia and James Connor.
