



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 Christ the King

Nov 22nd 2020

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

I hope this finds you and your family well. This weekend, the final Sunday of the church's liturgical year, we celebrate the beautiful solemnity of Christ the King. The readings at Mass invite us to think about Jesus as the shepherd-king whose flock includes all people throughout the earth. What a vision! This warm and tender image of the shepherd-king reflects God's love and care for every human person. The mystery of Divine Love invites all baptised Christians to share in this shepherding of the flock and so to participate in God's care for our world. Of course this is extremely challenging for us all and so today's feast is a good moment to renew our resolve to follow the example of the shepherd-king. It is good to remember that Christ is with us and for us.

You will be aware from the media that South Lanarkshire is among the districts which have entered a new phase of increased restrictions. For the Catholic Church, this means that our numbers at the liturgy have been reduced to twenty. As I mentioned in a recent newsletter, it is important that we abide by the rules laid down by the Scottish Government as these are put in place for our own safety and the safety of others. I am aware how frustrating it is to try to get a booking for Mass only to find the places already filled. Please bear with us as we make our journey through the pandemic with its many challenges.

Again I encourage you to treasure this deep desire for the Eucharist and to offer that very longing to Christ in prayer, asking him to bring this long Eucharistic fast to an end. Until that happy day, I urge you to continue making the effort to take part in Mass through the internet and, at the moment of Holy Communion, to make a spiritual communion with the risen Lord.

A moment of grace in the midst of our present difficulties was completing the celebration of First Holy Communions last Sunday. All six liturgies, spread over three weekends, were grace-filled and it was a deep joy to be able to hand on the gift of the Eucharist to some of our young parishioners. My hope is that their love for Jesus in Holy Communion will grow within them. I offer my thanks to the parents and guardians of the children for all the preparations at home and I thank the staff of St. Mary's Primary for the preparations at school.

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the new Liturgical Year for the Catholic Church. It is a moment of real grace, that for one more year we have the privilege, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, of meditating on the great mystery of Christ and on all that he has accomplished for us and for all. Let us open our hearts anew to Christ the Saviour, whose word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We have every reason to trust the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Keep looking out for one another and taking care of each other,
Father O'Brien

November Lists: you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased relatives and friends and bring them in an envelope to be placed before the altar during this special month of remembrance for our faithful departed. Many of you include a donation (which you do not need to do); for many years we gathered these donations together and sent them to Fr. Martin Kelly to help with his ministry in Peru. Since his retirement we have sent them to a small Catholic Charity called IRT (International Refugee Trust) which seeks to support some of the most disadvantaged people in our world. So we will do the same again this year; as we remember our dear departed relatives and friends with thanksgiving, let us give others a chance at life.

Christmas Cards are available in the parish meeting room at St. Mary's this weekend; we will need to observe the usual protocols regarding wearing masks, sanitizing of hands and social distancing. Clare Jones will be present to guide you.

Booking for Weekday Masses needs to be done on a weekly basis to allow for Requiems; booking for the coming week will be possible on Saturday evenings around 8pm. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

St. Mary's has seating for thirty-six people (the balcony is not to be used)

St. Paul's has seating for thirty people.

Please think about choosing St. Paul's for your visit as it may well be quieter there, especially on Sunday morning.

The Diocese has recommended that we have a booking system for places at the liturgy; this is for safety reasons and also to ensure that people are not disappointed if they arrive at church and discover they cannot enter. For each service the parish **must** retain details of all those attending to ensure that contact tracing can be carried out if necessary.

Please consult the parish website, stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org, to book a place through Eventbrite or by phoning the church house. Details of our services will be given on the parish website, but please be aware that timings for Mass on the Sunday are different to our normal programme:

Sunday services at St. Mary's: Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm and Sunday Morning at 10.30am
Sunday Services at St. Paul's: Saturday Vigil at 4pm and Sunday Morning at 9.15am.

The weekday Masses this week will be at St. Mary's:

Monday at 10.45am; Requiem for Mrs. Rosemary Stevenson

Tuesday at 10am

Wednesday at 10am;

Please book through Eventbrite as this makes things easier for the stewards meeting you at the church door.

Please note that Government guidelines state that only 20 people are permitted to attend Requiems. This means that funerals should be looked upon as private family gatherings; thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Recently Deceased: Rosemary Stevenson, Kevin Bryant, Vincenzo Crolla, Michael McCafferty, Guisepe Clemente, Catherine McArthur, Kevin Shallow, Eugenio Palazzo, Arthur Pollock, Catherine McCready, James Brown, Patricia Hendry, Jane Mulraney, Agnes Weir, Heather Stronach, William Lamont Baillie, George Hosie, Tessa McDade, John Coffey, Arthur McCool, Rusty Russell, Catherine Burns, Elizabeth Mudie, Robert Reid

Special Remembrance: Thomas Rooney, David O'Donnell, Margaret Phairs, Helen Lowe, Moira Girvan, deceased members of the Duffy and McKeown families, the Steven and McLaughlin families, the Millar and Nolan families 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*.