



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX
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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The First Sunday of Lent

March 1st 2020

Church Services

Sunday Mass at St. Mary's:

Saturday Vigil, 5.30pm
10am, 11.30am

Sunday Mass at St. Paul's:

Saturday Vigil, 4pm
10.30am

Weekday Mass:

St. Mary's, Monday and Wednesday at 10am
St. Paul's, Tuesday and Friday at 10am

Rosary prayed each weekday after the Morning Mass.

Confession:

St. Mary's, Monday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 5.10 pm
St. Paul's, Tuesday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 3.40pm.

Monday 7pm: Novena at St. Mary's in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's in the side chapel Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from after Mass until 2pm, and at St. Paul's on a Tuesday from after Mass until 2pm

This is a sacred space for those who would like to pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament

The great spiritual pilgrimage of Lent is now underway. On Ash Wednesday, with our foreheads daubed with ashes, we began our Lenten journey together with Pope Francis and millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. In every country, the Catholic community is listening attentively to God's invitation to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May this pilgrimage of faith, hope and charity bring real renewal to the Catholic Church in our age, especially to the Eucharistic life of the church on a Sunday; Holy Mass on a Sunday will always be the heart of Catholic life, the source and summit of all that we do. We are among the Christians of the 21st century and the faith of the church has been handed on to us with great reverence. Lent is an opportunity for each one of us to receive anew the wonderful gift of Christ the Saviour and his liberating gospel. Let us make it our very own!.

In today's liturgy Matthew's account of the temptation and the abridged version of the fall are both characterised by lies, half truths and 'spin' on the commands of God. Our need for redemption springs from our choosing illusory truths and abandoning what we know deep down is the path that leads to life. Today's readings expose that dynamic not to dispirit us but rather that we may have our eyes opened.

An important part of our Lenten journey in Scotland is the support we give to SCIAF, the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, which seeks to support some of the poorest people on our planet. It is a chance to sow seeds of hope and to give others a chance at life by sharing some of our own good fortune and blessings. At the back of our churches this weekend you will find some SCIAF wee boxes. Perhaps we could keep our own wee box in our kitchen and as we share food together we might pray each day for those who will be helped by what we give through the wee box; they are our brothers and sisters and they deserve our support and encouragement.

Let us try to make this Lent at St. Mary's and St. Paul's a special outpouring of love for the poorest of the poor in our world.

Services this week

St. Mary's Church

Monday: Stations of the Cross at 9.40am; Mass at 10am; evening Mass at 7pm; around twenty members of the local SVDP will be with us and our Novena prayer will also be said,

Wednesday: Eucharistic Service at 8.25am; Mass at 10am

St. Paul's Church

Tuesday: Stations of the Cross at 9.40am; Mass at 10am

Friday: Stations of the Cross at 9.40am; Mass at 10am

St. Patrick's Night Dinner and Social Evening in the Parish Hall, Friday 20th March at 7pm, tickets are now available and cost £16; please join us for this enjoyable evening.

The Mission and Evangelization Team, Diocese of Motherwell, offers Four Lenten Sessions of Contemplative Prayer on the theme *'Journey into Freedom'* on Monday Evenings, March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, 7.15-9pm in the Xavier Centre, Carfin, *All are welcome to attend.*

World Day of Prayer, Friday, 6th March 2020, 'Rise, take your mat and walk', written by Christian women of Zimbabwe, in St. Peter's Church, Buchanan Crescent, Hamilton, ML3 8LL at 7pm. *Fr. King and his parishioners will make all warmly welcome for this ecumenical evening of prayer.*

Credo, parish faith sharing group will meet this Tuesday, March 3rd at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room. It is an opportunity to share with one another the rich experience we have as Christians on matters of faith and life. At the end of the meeting there is some tea and cake! *New members are always welcome, just come along.*

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Walking Group: the group meets on Tuesday morning around 11am in the Museum car park at the bottom of Muir Street. Participants then walk together for around one hour and return to the Museum coffee shop for some refreshments. *Just come along and take part.*

Some old friends from Traidcraft are returning for a coffee morning on Sunday 15th March to mark Fairtrade Fortnight: the theme of this year's fortnight is, *'She Deserves Better'* and she certainly does, All producers in the developing world deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and receive a fair wage for their labours. At the coffee morning we will have a small amount of crafts and produce for sale and a few handmade Mother's day cards. Also, we will be selling Fairtrade Easter Eggs, including the only egg that tells the Easter story.

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Linda Park, Margaret Bodwick, James O'Donohue, Jean McCabe, Lynn Whiteside, John McCluskey, Bobby Lally, Jim Rooney, Theresa Kiernan, Maureen Law, Joseph Quinn, Gerald Grimley,

Please pray for those who have a Special Remembrance at this time:

Eilidh McHugh, Tom Lynch, Frank Docherty, Robert and Anne McCallum, Mary and Ellen McCallum, Elizabeth McCallum, Walter, Margaret and Nicholas Connelly, Kathleen Tiernan, Ercole DiVito, Marietta and Antonio DiVito, Antonietta, Quido, Giovanni and Yolanda Marini, Antonio and Giuseppe Marini, and all our deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's over the years, *requiescant in pace.*