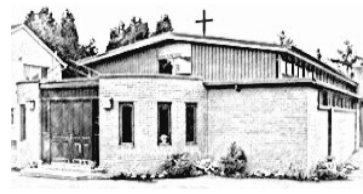




St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Tel: 01698 423552



St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

Thirtieth Sunday of Year

October 25th 2020

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

Our journey through the Pandemic continues and I hope this finds you well and in good spirits despite the many challenges we are facing. Let us continue to encourage one another and look out for one another. While listening to the radio during the week I heard the First Minister of Scotland say that we should not underestimate the importance of a kind word or a smile or an offer of help.

Last Sunday we celebrated Mission Sunday and Fr. Vincent Lockhart, National Director of Missio Scotland, asked the Catholic community of Scotland to reach out to our brothers and sisters who live in the Andes Mountains in Peru. There is no doubt that praying for others allows them to find a place in our thoughts and in our hearts and so I want to thank you for your generous response to the appeal and I am glad to tell you that I was able to send £2,000 in your name to Missio Scotland to support the people of Llusco in the diocese of Siquani. Let us continue to pray for them and hope that their situation improves, especially for the disabled children who were mentioned in Fr. Vincent's letter.

Next Saturday morning begins our parish celebration of First Holy Communion and this will continue over three weekends because of the restricted numbers in the church at the moment. I look forward very much to welcoming our young parishioners and their families for this special occasion.

In one of the Eucharistic Prayers we find these words: "Look with favour on the oblation of your Church, in which we show forth the paschal sacrifice of Christ that has been handed on to us, and grant that, by the power of the Spirit of your love, we may be counted now and until the day of eternity among the members of your Son, in whose Body and Blood we have Holy Communion."

This beautiful prayer reminds us that the Eucharist is both a gift and a responsibility. For over 2,000 years the Catholic Church has sought to hand on the Eucharist with great reverence and faith, for it is the source and summit of all authentic Christian life. Jesus is the Bread of Life and invites us to embrace life ever more deeply with all its joys and sorrows. My prayer for our First Communicants and indeed for us all is that we will go on receiving Holy Communion with love and faith until the day of eternity dawns for us.

I am very grateful to Mrs Fitzpatrick and the teachers of St. Mary's for their good work in preparing the children for this special moment of encounter with Jesus in the great sacrament of Holy Communion. Of course we are all sorry that we are not having our usual celebration, but still, we want to do our best for the children in circumstances that no one could have predicted.

Please remember our First Communicants and their families in your prayers,
Father O'Brien

First Holy Communion Cards and Gifts are available in the stall at St. Mary's Church and in the stall at St. Paul's Church.

Christmas Cards will be available at St. Mary's from early November

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A Message from the Catholic Men's Society: Let the Children Live – Zoom Meeting:

parishioners and friends are invited to join us on Monday 26th October from 11am, for a presentation on the work of 'Let the Children Live' our adopted charity, which helps street children in Medellin, Columbia. Fr. Peter Walters is in the UK just now and he has agreed to give us a presentation on the situation in Medellin (Columbia). The street children whom he cares for are facing new challenges in the pandemic. Also, the situation in neighbouring Venezuela, which is hardly reported on in the UK, has added seriously to problems which the charity faces. This is an opportunity to have an insight into the caring side of the church.

To join the Zoom meeting contact laverypeter93@yahoo.com; you will be sent an invitation to the Zoom meeting with (a) a link to Zoom (b) meeting ID (c) password. If you are already using Zoom you will only need (b) and (c). The meeting will be opened at 11am and start about 11.15 to allow signing in. The host gets a message you are joining and clicks you into the meeting.

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.am;

Tuesday is the Requiem for Mrs. Maureen Gillespie

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.

The guidelines from the Government advise that on entering the building you will be asked to wear a face-covering (this can be a scarf rather than a face-mask) and use the sanitizing gel for your hands. You will then be shown to a seat. 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.

Thank you to those parishioners who have assisted in the re-opening of our churches by acting as stewards or helping with the cleaning of the benches. I know others would like to help and through time we will need you all as it looks as though we are in this for the long haul!

I am aware that the restrictions which are still in place mean that for the foreseeable future we will be much fewer in number for Sunday Mass. The Scottish Bishops have asked the clergy to remind parishioners that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. This leads me to suggest that you consider attending one of the weekday Masses, especially if you are retired or still furloughed from your employment. This would also leave places free on the Sunday for those who are working.

Recently Deceased: Kevin Shallow, Eugenio Palazzi, Maureen Gillespie, Michael Dunn, Mary Smith, Jim Glancy, Charles Wallace, Margaret Hannah, James Dunbar, May Cairns, John Greaney (Oban), Thomas Currie McGougan, John Dalton, Jane Dalton, Dorothy Kirkham, Michelle Simpson, Thomas Cooper, Andy Leonard

Special Remembrance: Tommy O’Donnell, Eddie and Betty Smith, Margaret and Sandy Paterson, Sarah Turner, Jim and Mary Neary, John and Mary McCaig, Hugh Connor, Joseph O’Neil, Brian and Margaret Bonnar, John Allen, May Kinnie, Anna McAdam, Ella Paterson, James and Christopher Whyte and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s through the years, *reqiescant in pace*.