



**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

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27th 2025

My dear parishioners,

What days of intense emotion we are living through as members of the Catholic Church as we offer thanks to God for the life of our brother Francis, Bishop of Rome. What an Easter Day Pope Francis had as he moved among his people in St. Peter's Square, blessing them for the final time; how moving that his final words to the church and the world were *Buona Pasqua, Happy Easter!*

In the outpouring of love that has accompanied his death, it is clear that humanity has lost a great friend and the poor have lost their greatest champion. One of my brother priests said to me, *"Who will phone the parish priest of Gaza now?"*

Easter 2025 will live long in the memory of the church and in our own personal memories. In these days I have felt moved to look at what Pope Francis himself has said about Easter; I offer a few of his thoughts here for your consolation:

"Today the church repeats, sings, shouts: "Jesus is Risen!" But why is this? Peter, John, the women went to the tomb, and it was empty. Jesus was not there. They went away with their hearts closed in sadness, the sadness of defeat: the Teacher, their Teacher, the One whom they loved so much has been put to death; he is dead. And there is no return from death. This is the defeat. This is the path of defeat, the path towards the tomb. But the angel says to them, *"He is not here, Jesus is Risen!"* Jesus, who was crucified, is raised. Death no longer has the last word. Life does! This is our certainty. The tomb does not have the last word; it is not death, it is life! This is why we repeat *'Christ is Risen'* many times, because in him, the tomb was overcome. Life was born!

In light of this event, which constitutes the true and real news of history and the cosmos, we are called to be new men and women in accordance with the Spirit, confirming the value of life. There is life! This is already the beginning of rebirth. We will be men and women of resurrection, men and women of life if, in the midst of the events that afflict the world, in the midst of worldliness, which distances us from God, we will know how to offer gestures of solidarity and gestures of welcome, strengthening the universal desire for peace and the hope for an environment free from degradation.

These are common and human signs, which if supported and kept alive by faith in the Risen Lord, acquire a power that is well beyond our abilities. And this is so because Christ is alive and working in history through his Holy Spirit: he redeems our shortcomings and reaches each human heart and gives back hope to whoever is oppressed and suffering.” *Pope Francis*

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday April 28th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday April 29th: Requiem Mass for John Lavery at 10am

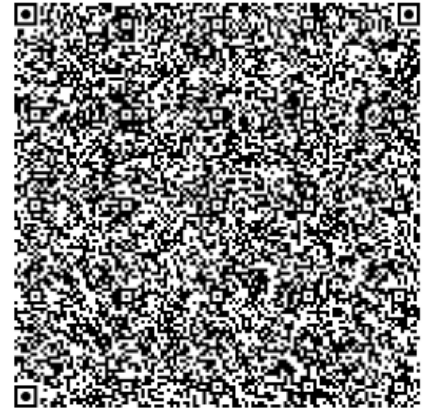
Reception on Monday at 6.15pm

Wednesday April 30th: Mass at 10 am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday May 1st: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am



Bishop Toal sent the following message of condolence to the Vatican on behalf of the Diocese of Motherwell:

“The Community of the Diocese of Motherwell joins the Church and so many others in mourning the death of our Holy father, Pope Francis. We give thanks to God for his 88 years of life, particularly his service to the Church as a Jesuit, Priest and Bishop and ultimately as Bishop of Rome. May his faith in the Lord’s Resurrection, which he celebrated with us on Easter Sunday, be fully realised and may his good soul rest in God’s peace.” +Joseph

Bishop Toal also invites the diocesan community to join him for the following two special Liturgies:

Mass for the Eternal Rest of Pope Francis on Thursday May 1st at 7pm in Motherwell Cathedral.

Mass invoking the Holy Spirit on the Cardinals about to enter the Conclave to elect the successor to Pope Francis, Carfin Grotto on Sunday May 4th at 3pm.

Congratulations to the children from St. Paul’s Primary who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday. Thank you to Mrs. McAuley and the teachers for preparing the children for this very special moment on their faith journey.

Recently Deceased: John Lavery, Walter Stewart, Nan Dalton, Marian King, Greg Leighton, Mairi McLean, Ann Callaghan

Special Remembrance: Marion Russell, Krystyna and Sigmund Jasiewicz, Jan and Mary Kozak Jeanie Lynas McKenna, James (Mez) McMenemy, Kate Burns, Maureen Donnachie, and all our own deceased relatives and friends, and all the benefactors of our parish.