



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX
Tel: 01698 423552

Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

Sixth Sunday of the Year

February 17th 2019

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 pm
St. Paul's, Tuesday Morning after Mass and on Saturday after Mass.

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

A Message from Bishop Toal to the Diocese of Motherwell in Preparation for the Holy Season of Lent

On Ash Wednesday, March 6th, we begin the Holy season of Lent, a time of personal conversion and spiritual renewal. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, for that matter, are not Holydays of Obligation, and yet they clearly mean a great deal to the faithful of the Catholic Church, evident in the large numbers who attend the liturgy. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence and members of the church over the age of 14 years are obliged to keep these days in accordance with the Church's laws on fasting and abstinence, namely eating a simple meal and avoiding eating meat.

On Ash Wednesday ashes are blessed and the foreheads of the faithful are marked with these ashes as a sign of repentance for sin and a desire to live the Gospel message with stronger conviction and devotion, while acknowledging our mortality and the realisation that we will give an account of ourselves to God when life on this earth ends.

On Ash Wednesday we are exhorted to take up the traditional Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving and to persevere in keeping them through the 40 days of Lent. The proclamation of the Word of God in the Readings provided for Mass on Ash Wednesday is a vital part of the Church's instruction on this day and indeed the Lord's own expectation on Prayer, fasting and Almsgiving. The Faithful most commonly receive the ashes during Mass on this special day. When it is not possible to attend Mass the blessed ashes may be placed on the foreheads of the faithful in a service in which the Word of God is proclaimed and prayers are said communally.

Since there is a strong penitential aspect to Ash Wednesday it should be a day on which the faithful are exhorted to renew their sorrow for sin and resolve to confess their sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during lent. Only then, after making their confession, should those who have absented themselves from going to Mass receive the Holy Eucharist. It rather defeats the purpose of Ash Wednesday if people presume they can receive Holy Communion without first of all going to confession to confirm their desire to practice their faith in the manner the church asks of us all.

In the Catholic Church in Scotland we are encouraged to support the Church's International Aid Fund (SCIAF) as part of our Lenten Almsgiving. The Faithful are exhorted therefore to pick up a "Wee Box" and fill it up through Lent.

I wish everyone a blessed Ash Wednesday and a spiritually fruitful Lent.

+Joseph Toal

Bishop of Motherwell

A Message from The Traidcraft Group: The good news as some of you may already know is that Traidcraft PLC will remain open but with a much reduced staff and capacity. They will be selling a reduced range of food and only a few crafts. The not so good news is that the parish Traidcraft group has decided to call it a day and so our last coffee morning will take place during Fairtrade Fortnight, on Sunday 10th March. The coffee mornings have been running for over 20 years and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us in any way during this time; thanks also to the parish which provided the hall, heating and lighting, free of charge during these 20 years. We would ask that you keep the many producers who used to supply Traidcraft in your prayers. *Please join us for our final Traidcraft coffee morning and look out for lots of bargains and surprises!*

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish Council meets this Wednesday, 20th February at 7pm in the parish meeting room; the Council tries to support the pastoral life of the parish; a box is available at the back of the church and if you have a comment or suggestion then please write it down on one of the cards and place it in the box.

Credo, St. Mary's and St. Paul's Faith Sharing Group meets on Tuesday 19th February at 1 o'clock on the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome; the meeting lasts until 2.30pm and is followed by some tea, cakes and conversation!

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Walking Group meets on a Tuesday morning at 11 am at the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street and then walks for 1 hour in the park and returns to the Museum café for some tea and coffee and conversation. *You will be made very welcome if you wish to come along.*

St. Aloysius College Junior School and Kindergarten Open Morning, Saturday, 16th March, 11am-1pm: the college is holding this event for parents and children who might be considering joining the special community that is our Junior School (Primary 1-7) and Kindergarten (3+); please consult the notice in the church porch and register at stalloysius.org

Are you a Graduate of Craiglockhart College of Education? A Reunion Rally has been planned for Saturday 11th May 2019 to mark the Centenary of the Founding of the College; for more information contact Ann on 07762 575 803 or Silvana on 07793 545 025 or email gripfast2019@gmail.com

Lent Faith Sharing Groups: this Lent the small faith-sharing groups will be using a booklet entitled, "*Rejoice and be glad.*" To prepare for the season Fr. Philip Marsh will lead an evening of reflection on Thursday 28th February at 7.30pm in the Xavier Centre, Carfin. All welcome.

Congratulations to Brian Clarke and Maureen Pllu and to Myles Gillespie and Claire Gallacher who exchanged their vows of marriage this week; we wish both couples a long and happy married life together.

Please pray for those who have died recently: William Bonar (**Requiem at St. Mary's on Friday at 10am**), Albert Wyatt, Joe Daly, Marina Cairney, Hugh Moran, Michael Brown

Special Remembrance: Robert Daley, Maimie Lally, Ronnie Boyd, Margaret Phairs, John Skelton, Susan and Lawrence Connelly, Ambrose and Eileen Tonner, Mary Tonner, George Terrett, Alex and Agnes Grant, Maragert and Sandy Paterson, Sarah Turner, Maureen and Brian Buttigieg, Lizzie and Harry Morgan