



St. Mary's R. C. Church

Fr Henry O'Brien St. Paul's R. C.

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

Tel: 01698 423552



Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX

Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

email: stmaryhamilton@rcdom.org.uk

Newsletter

Third Sunday of Lent

March 3rd 2024

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

I hope this finds you and your families well as we welcome the beautiful season of Springtime. Already we are at the mid-point of our Lenten journey towards Easter; I offer the following words from Pope Benedict XVI for your reflection:

“The words of the Apostle Paul, which today’s liturgy proposes for our meditation, resound in my mind: ‘*We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to the Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jew and Greek, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.*’ I have nothing to propose or give to those I meet except Christ and the Good News of his Cross, a mystery of supreme love, of divine love that overcomes all resistance and even makes forgiveness and love for one’s enemies possible. This is the grace of the gospel that is capable of transforming the world. The Church proclaims Christ, certain that the Gospel can move the hearts of all and transform them, thereby renewing people and societies from within.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Next week is what has come to be called *SCIAF Sunday* and it is an important moment in the life of the Catholic Church here in Scotland. We are rightly proud of the work carried out on our behalf by the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. Global news enables us to witness the plight of so many of our brothers and sisters in various parts of the world. Some are living in abject poverty with little access to the very basics, especially a daily meal and clean water, medical care and education. Next Sunday, every parish in Scotland will take up a second collection to support the work of SCIAF. I’m aware of the challenges at home for many people and therefore please feel free to keep your offertory collection for the second collection. This year’s project is for the women and girls of Rwanda; *let’s do something beautiful for them!*

St. Mary and St. Paul’s Parish Mission Statement: thank you to those who commented on our proposed mission statement. Revisions have been made to produce the following Statement: ‘Our parish of St. Mary and St. Paul’s Hamilton is a community of faith where priest and people seek to work together to build up a life-giving Christian community that is characterised by prayer, hospitality and mission. In the spirit of *Wellspring* we seek to be a welcoming, nurturing, inclusive and caring parish that gathers together at the Eucharist to celebrate Christ’s presence among us and, with his help and strength, to continue in loving and compassionate service to others, especially those most in need.’

Parish Conversation about the Wellspring Pastoral Project: please join us in the parish hall on Tuesday March 26th at 7pm to share your thoughts about this important initiative in our Diocese. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you intend to come along; this will enable us to plan for the evening. *Thank you.*

Monday March 4th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am Confessions at 6.30-7.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday March 5th: Mass in St. Paul's Primary School at 10am

Wednesday March 6th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday March 7th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

The Beginning Experience is holding a weekend for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood. This weekend will take place from 5th-7th April 2024 at St. Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth. For details contact Louise on 07926 571004 or email louise398@gmail.com. Completed applications must be returned by 22nd March 2024.

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1 o'clock; new members are always welcome and some tea and biscuits are shared together at the end of the meeting.

Lenten reflection Group on Wednesday Evenings in the parish meeting room at 7pm, March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th; Mr. Ronnie Boyd has offered to lead the group and if you would like to take part please contact him on 07803941573 or ronnieboyd@icloud.com

St Patrick's Night Celebration in the Parish Hall on Friday March 22nd at 7pm; please join us for this social gathering; tickets cost £15 and this includes a dinner and some musical entertainment; tickets are available at the back of the church or from the sacristy.

Thank you for your generous response last weekend to the special collection for sick and retired priests of the Diocese, £1,236; a little donation from us all went a long way. *Thank you.*

Coffee Mornings at St. Mary and St. Paul's: thank you to everyone who supported our recent coffee morning and to those who provided home-baking and helped in the kitchen; we donated £200 to the Hamilton Foodbank. Our next Coffee Morning will be **Sunday March 17th** after both Sunday morning Masses. There will be a small selection of Fairtrade Foods and Cards for sale including Fairtrade Easter Eggs.

A Message from St. Andrew's Hospice: Make a Will Month – March 2024: make or update your Will and support St. Andrew's Hospice during the month of March. Several Lanarkshire Legal Firms have agreed to write a basic Will or update an existing Will and waive their legal fee, in return for a donation to St. Andrew's Hospice. For further information please contact Lorna McCafferty, Trusts, Legacy and Individual Giving Manager at St. Andrew's Hospice on 01236 772087 or email lorna.mccafferty@standrews.scot.nhs.uk

Bank Mandates: the Diocese of Motherwell recently transferred all parish bank accounts to the Bank of Scotland. All those who support the parish through a Standing Order paid into Virgin Money, please check, when you receive your March/April statements, that your contribution has been automatically transferred to the new parish account with Bank of Scotland. *Thank you.*

Recently Deceased: Annie Wilson, Annie O'Connell, Judith Wardle, John Darby, Ronnie Vaneker, Joseph Moran

Special Remembrance: Eilidh McHugh, Frank Docherty, Gerard Falsey, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Bobby and Barbara Jones, John Jones, Thomas McKain, Lizzie Morgan, Bella Currie and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.