



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

Solemnity of All Saints

November 1st 2020

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

We begin a new month today and our pilgrimage through the Pandemic continues, with no sign yet of our liberation. As November begins we sense winter approaching, a season with particular joys and challenges, a good moment therefore to renew our commitment to encourage one another and to look out for one another. This is our moment and we pray not be found wanting. Perhaps All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day will inspire us to go the extra mile with one another.

Sunday is the beautiful Solemnity of All Saints and celebrates all those who are in Heaven, living in the light of God's face – both those recognised by the Church as saints and those known only to the Lord. Today, in a special way, we ask for their intercession and we pray for the grace to follow their good example, so that we too can fulfil our own personal vocation to follow Jesus.

The great communion of saints reminds us that there is a wonderful depth to being human; our life's work is to grow into the good person that God wants us to be. Each saint is quite unique, with different gifts and interests, and moved by the Holy Spirit to respond in his or her own way to the challenges of life. This means that the spiritual life is a very personal experience of the mystery of God and this awareness grows as we seek to follow Christ more deeply, not because someone has told us to do this but rather because we ourselves want to do this, to follow after Jesus.

It's important therefore that we do not try to imitate someone else. The grace of baptism invites each one of us to be a disciple of Jesus and that personal following is where our own holiness of life is found. In other words, the spirituality of a mother or father is clearly different to the spirituality of an enclosed monk or nun; the spirituality of a fifteen year old is different to that of an eighty year old. Holiness is found in the real life that we are living, this flesh and blood life of ours that is nourished by the flesh and blood life of Jesus. In other words, Jesus seeks to have Holy Communion with us in the real life that we are living each day and in our responses to that life.

Monday is All Souls' Day, a truly beautiful moment of commemoration of our beloved departed; Pope Benedict XVI offers these thoughts for our reflection:

“On All Souls' Day we renew our hope in eternal life, truly founded on Christ's death and resurrection. ‘I am risen and I am with you always’, the Lord tells us, and my hand supports you. Wherever you may fall, you will fall into my hands and I will be there even to the gates of death. Where no one can accompany you any longer and where you can take nothing with you, there I will wait for you to transform for you the darkness into light.

Christian hope however is not solely individual; it is also hope for others. Our lives are profoundly linked, one to the other, and the good and the bad that each of us does always affects others too. Hence the prayer of a pilgrim soul in the world can help another soul that is being purified after death. This is why the church invites us today to pray for our beloved deceased and to pause at their tombs in the cemeteries.”

May these beautiful feasts, All Saints and All Souls, give us strength and hope!
Father O'Brien

November Lists: you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased relatives and friends and bring them in an envelope to be placed before the altar during this special month of remembrance for our faithful departed.

This weekend 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. Please remember our First Communicants and their families in your prayers,

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

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; Holy Souls' Day

Tuesday at 10am

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.

Recently Deceased: Kevin Shallow, Eugenio Palazzo, Maureen Gillespie, Michael Dunn, Mary Smith, Joseph Paterson, 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: Stephanie Higgins, John Boylan, Margaret Burke, James Russell, John, James and Elizabeth Fulton, Tommy Daly, Margaret Lynas Higgins, Willie McKane, deceased members of the Jones and Lovelock families, 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*.