



**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP



**St. Paul's R. C. Church**

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**Parish Priest - Fr Henry O'Brien**

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**Newsletter**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**May 12th 2024**

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

This weekend we celebrate World Communication Sunday and Bishop Toal has sent the following letter in his capacity of President of the National Communications Commission:

**“In his message for World Communications Day Pope Francis** has focused on the theme: *Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart*, a theme closely linked to his message for the World Day of Peace, which was devoted to the development of Systems of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

**AI is radically affecting the world of information and communication**, and through it, certain foundations of life in society. Pope Francis asks: *How can we remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose?* The Pope notes that at this time in history, which risks becoming rich in technology and poor in humanity, our reflections must begin with the *human heart*. In the Bible the heart is seen as the place of freedom and decision-making, symbolising integrity and unity, while also engaging our emotions, desires and dreams. But, above all, the heart is the place of our encounter with God. Wisdom of the heart, then, is the virtue that enables us to integrate the whole and its parts, our decisions and their consequences, our nobility and our vulnerability, our past and our future, our individuality and our membership within a larger community.

**The Pope remarks that such wisdom cannot be sought from machines.** Although the term *Artificial Intelligence* has replaced the term *Machine Learning* the very use of the word *intelligence* can prove misleading; it is not enough to be able to store data, like machines do, but that this data must be made sense of and human beings alone are capable of this; depending on the inclination of the heart, everything within our reach becomes either an opportunity or a threat.

**Pope Francis notes that the technology of simulation behind A1 algorithms** can be useful in certain specific fields; however the use of A1 becomes perverse when it distorts our relationships with others and with reality; in fact it is extremely important to know that in the wrong hands, such tools could lead to disturbing scenarios. In saying that A1 must be regulated, the Pope invites everyone to grow together, *in humanity* and *as humanity*, recalling that we are all challenged to make a qualitative leap in order to become a complex, multi-ethnic, pluralistic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society.

**In Scotland at the present time** there is much debate about the use of Smartphones in schools and a growing concern that overdependence on them may hamper the development of our young people. This debate reflects the concern of Pope Francis, who warns that information cannot be separated from living relationships, which involve the body and an immersion into the real world and human experiences like compassion and sharing. At the end of his message for World Communications Day, Pope Francis reminds us that *it is up to us to decide whether we will become fodder for*

*algorithms or will nourish our hearts with that freedom without which we cannot grow in wisdom. Wisdom can help us to put Systems of Artificial Intelligence at the service of a fully human communication. In echoing the thoughts of the Pope, I hope that as a Catholic community we too will use all forms of modern communication in the service of compassion and the promotion of the values of the Gospel.*

Yours sincerely,

Bishop Joseph Toal

President, National Communications Commission

**I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:**

**Monday May 13th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions at 6.30pm; Novena at 7pm*

**Tuesday May 14th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Wednesday May 15th: no public liturgy**

*Father O'Brien will be attending Mr. Joseph O'Toole's Requiem in St. Andrew's Airdrie*

**Thursday May 16th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

***Congratulations** to the pupils from St. Mary's Primary who will celebrate their First Holy Communion next Saturday at 11am and on Sunday at 12.30pm.*

**Credo**, the parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome; the meeting continues to around 2.30pm and then those present enjoy some tea and biscuits together.

**A Message from the Parish Strollers Group: Programme for May-September.**

On the first Tuesday of the month, beginning on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be walking in Chatelherault Park; we walk for one hour and then enjoy some tea/coffee and conversation in the café; we meet at 11am outside the main entrance to the café.

On the other Tuesdays of the month we will meet as usual at the Museum on Muir Street at 11am, then walk for one hour and return to the Museum café for some tea/coffee and conversation. *The Strollers warmly welcome new members; all you need do is turn up in your walking shoes!*

**Parish Coffee Morning, this Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> after the 9am Mass and after the 10.30am**

**Mass**; please come round to the hall after the liturgy and enjoy some refreshments together; it's a good way to come to know the people you see and sit beside here at St. Mary's. The proceeds from this coffee morning will be donated to the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC).

**World Communications Day**; the bishop has asked that we take up a second collection this weekend to support the diocesan apostolate of communications.

**Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to remember them at Mass:**

Jim Breslin

**Recently Deceased:** Pauline Fitzpatrick, Marion Russell, Peter McKeown, Michael McParlane, Fiona Seal, Mary Friar, Frances Glackin, John Chambers, Anne Millar, Ann McLaughlin, John Burns, Mary Scott, Andrew Harkin, Jim Wotherspoon, Patsy Murphy, Brian Farrell, Tony Kelly

**Special Remembrance:** Bernard and Rosaleen Mournian, Tommy Maxwell, Catianna Darragh, Bettina Julie Miller, John Higgins, Hugh and Mary Robertson, Maria Houston, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Michael and Mary O'Brien and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.