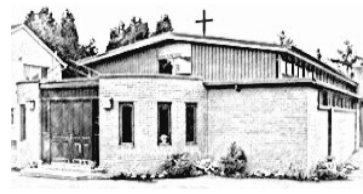




St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The Second Sunday of Lent

March 5th 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this first week of Lent has gone well for you and your families. However, if you have found it difficult to get underway for one reason or another then know that it is not too late to join the great spiritual pilgrimage of Lent, which the whole Catholic Church throughout the world is making at this time. It is good to be a part of that; truth be told we need to be part of this pilgrimage.

In some ways the Gospel of the Second Sunday of Lent comes as something of a surprise, for the moment of Transfiguration is a moment of unexpected glory, a fleeting moment that will strengthen Jesus and his disciples for the great sufferings that are to come. In fact Peter, James and John hear the words that have the power to transfigure all our lives; from within the bright cloud that had covered them with shadow comes the voice of the eternal Father: *“This is my Son, the Beloved One, listen to him.”* What a moment of revelation, what a moment of truth! In Lent we seek together to listen with love to the Beloved One, with the willingness to be changed by his words, to be transformed and transfigured by the mystery of Christ.

The long weeks of Lent are a privileged season of grace, an invitation to change whatever needs to be changed in light of the words of Jesus. Of course we are often afraid of change, in ourselves and in others, especially if this change costs us something. Interesting then that before leaving the mountain Jesus came up and touched Peter, James and John and said: *“Stand up, do not be afraid”*. And in this liturgy he says the same to us: Stand up, do not be afraid, of anyone or anything.

Fr. O'Brien

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:

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

Confessions from 6.30 – 6.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm;

Tuesday March 7th: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

St. Paul's Primary will be with us; Coffee Morning in School after Mass

Wednesday, March 8th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.35am

Thursday, March 9th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday March 11th

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday March 12th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Special Collection this Sunday for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund; in these challenging times please feel free to put what you would normally give in the Offertory into the Second Collection instead.

Holy Water is once again available in the fonts if you would like to bless yourself on entering and leaving the church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: several requests have been made to restore the times of adoration in the side chapel; the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after Mass on Wednesday until 2pm if enough people sign the sheet at the back of the church pledging to pray before the Sacrament for 30 minutes.

Bishop Toal has written a Pastoral Letter to the people of Motherwell Diocese encouraging us to make a sacramental confession during Lent; the text can be found on the Diocesan webpage.

Annual Special Collection for SCIAF on the Fourth Sunday of Lent: please remember the work of this important Scottish charity in your prayers and if possible share something with them to support their good work among those living in the most challenging of circumstances.

CREDO, the parish prayer group, meets this Tuesday at 1pm in the parish meeting room; afterwards, around 2.30pm, participants enjoy some tea and cake together.

Faith sharing is about quiet and respectful listening and a celebration of how God is at work in my life and in the lives of the other members of the group.

New members are most welcome.

Coffee Morning Next Sunday to mark Fairtrade Fortnight (27 Feb-12 March); please come around to the hall after the 10.30 am Mass; proceeds will go to support the Hamilton Foodbank; some fairly traded crafts for sale and Fairtrade Easter Eggs.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Tracey Archibald, Hugh Speirs, Tony Spencer

Special Remembrance:

Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Eilidh McHugh, Gerard Falsey, Bobby and Barbara Jones, Frank Docherty, Kevin Bryant, Ella and Joe Paterson, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*