



St. Mary's R. C. Church

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP
Tel: 01698 423552



St. Paul's R. C. Church

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

Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

Newsletter

Twenty-Third Sunday of Year

September 6th 2020

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

I hope this message finds you and your families well and in good spirits despite the many challenges we continue to face at this time. The good news is that we are facing these challenges and we are doing so together!

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter Pope Francis is encouraging the church and the world to celebrate a Season of Creation from September 1st - October 4th (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi): we are to care for our common home, to heal our relationship with creation and with each other. This special month of prayer is an opportunity for us all to pray, reflect and respond to the Pope's challenging words: *"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"* (LS: 160). It is a challenging question.

In a series of addresses being given at his weekly general audience, Pope Francis is speaking about the crucial choice which is facing the whole human race: the following paragraphs are his own words:

"The coronavirus pandemic is a crisis affecting the whole world, but you cannot come out of a crisis the same as you were before: we come out better, or we come out worse. After the crisis will we continue with this economic system of social injustice and contempt for the care of the environment, of creation, of the common home?"

On the one hand, it is imperative to find the cure for a small but terrible virus, which is bringing the whole world to its knees. On the other hand, we must cure a great virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalisation and the lack of protection of the weakest."

The Pope is making clear the choice facing the church and the world, but he is speaking in a special way to each one of us as members of the Catholic Church. Yes, his words are often challenging. He is calling for a new compassion, one which is all-embracing. We are the living members of the church, the body of Christ: can we put our arms around the globe and be in the world as one who truly loves the world? I can think of no better legacy than this to leave those who are coming after us. Let us not disappoint them.

Father O'Brien

First Holy Communion at St. Mary's and St. Paul's: discussions are underway between the parish and our primary schools to plan for the celebration of this important moment in the lives of some of our young parishioners. It is necessary of course to follow the Government guidelines for churches and we are planning accordingly. Further information will be given in next week's newsletter.

A Message from the Catholic Men's Society: the CMS continue to meet via Zoom on Monday mornings at 11am to discuss matters of faith and practice in the modern world. Any men of the parish who wish to join in this conversation would be most welcome. Please contact Peter Lavery at laverypeter93@yahoo.com

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 10.30am is the Requiem for Mr. James Paul Glancy, requiescat in pace

Tuesday at 10.am is the Requiem for Mrs. Margaret Flynn, requiescat in pace

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.

Thank you to those parishioners who have assisted in the re-opening of our churches by acting as stewards or helping with the cleaning of the benches. I know others would like to help and through time we will need you all as it looks as though we are in this for the long haul!

I am aware that the restrictions which are still in place mean that for the foreseeable future we will be much fewer in number for Sunday Mass. The Scottish Bishops have asked the clergy to remind parishioners that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. This leads me to suggest that you consider attending one of the weekday Masses, especially if you are retired or still

furloughed from your employment. This would also leave places free on the Sunday for those who are working.

Recently Deceased: Fr. Niall Hayes, Margaret Flynn, Catherine Burns, Sarah Lyle, James Paul Glancy, Estelle Fox, Elizabeth Mudie, John Cosgrove, Jane Dalton, Robert Reid, Sarah McBain, Elma Aikman, Patricia Hendry,

Special Remembrance: Jessie Forbes, John, James and Elizabeth Fulton, Mary Harvey, and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *requiescant in pace*.