



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

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

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**Church**

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**Parish Priest**

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## **Newsletter**

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**March 17th 2024**

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

I hope this finds you and your families well as our Lenten pilgrimage reaches the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Sincere thanks for the great generosity to the SCIAF appeal. It's true that a little donation from us all goes a long way; our collection raised £3,000 to support SCIAF's pastoral projects in Rwanda. I offer the following words from Pope Benedict on this Sunday's Gospel:

"In the immanence of his Passion Jesus declared: *'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit'*. Now is no longer the time for words and discourses; indeed the crucial hour has come for which the Son of God came into the world and although his soul is troubled, he makes himself available to fulfil the Father's will to the end. And this is the will of God: to give eternal life to us who have lost it. However, in order for this to be brought about Jesus dies, like a grain of wheat that God the Father has sown in the world. Indeed, only in this way can a new humanity germinate and grow, free from the dominion of sin and able to live in brotherhood, as sons and daughters of the one Father who is in heaven." Pope Benedict XVI

**Please welcome the Spiritan Fathers from Carfin this weekend; Fr. O'Brien is spending a few days at St. Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull.**

### **I offer here the schedule for the next two weeks:**

**Monday March 18th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Tuesday March 19th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am; Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary*

**Wednesday March 20th: No public liturgy as electrical work is carried out in the church**

**Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

### **Liturgy for Holy Week**

**Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Vigil Mass at 5pm**

**Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 9am and 10.30am**

**Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>: Requiem Mass for Annie O'Connell at 10am; reception on Sunday at 6pm**

*Confessions at 6.15pm; Novena at 7pm*

**Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10am (Confessions after Mass)**

**Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10am (Confessions after Mass)**

## **Sacred Triduum**

### **Holy Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>: Chrism Mass in Motherwell Cathedral at 11am**

*Bishop Toal warmly invites the clergy and people of the diocese to join him for this special Liturgy during which the priests renew their priestly promises and the Holy Oils are blessed.*

**Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm;** *all are welcome to this special liturgy when we celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist; watching at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer at 9.30pm*

**Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>;** *today, with great reverence, we remember that the Lord Jesus died on the Cross out of love for us; it is a day of fasting and abstinence.*

**Stations of the Cross at 12 noon, with veneration of the Cross**  
**Solemn Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 3pm**  
**Stations of the Cross at 7pm, with veneration of the Cross**

### **Holy Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>: Easter Vigil 8pm**

### **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

**Mass at 9am and 10.30am**

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**Parish Conversation about the Wellspring Pastoral Project:** please join us in the parish hall on **Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**Coffee Morning:** please join us this Sunday in the hall after the morning Masses for some tea/coffee/juice, toast and home-baking. There will be a small selection of Fairtrade Foods and Cards for sale including Fairtrade Easter Eggs.

**St Patrick's Night Celebration in the Parish Hall on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>;** 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](mailto:ronnieboyd@icloud.com)

**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](mailto: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 O'Connell, Judith Wardle, Annie Wilson

**Special Remembrance:** Jaimie Donnelly, William Miller, Essie and David McDonald, Cornelius McMurray, Catherine Coyle and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.