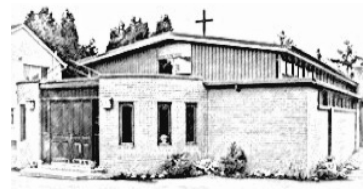




St. Mary's R. C. Church

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

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year

October 15th 2023

Dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,

*This Sunday is a very moving one for us as the parish community of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Hamilton. It will see us gather together in St. Paul's Church for our special **Mass of Thanksgiving** for all the graces and blessings received from this much loved church since it opened its doors in 1955. My thoughts are with those who have gone before us here: Fr. Denis Lucey, Fr. John Moss, Fr. Gerard Maher, Fr. Patrick O'Hare, Fr. Bernard Mahoney, Fr. Damian Murphy and of course the people they served in the Whitehill area of Hamilton. We have so much to say 'thank you' for.*

The next stage of our journey together as St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish will see us continue as the one parish, but with only one church building, and that will be the venerable old house of prayer that we know and love as St. Mary's Hamilton, the mother church of the whole of South Lanarkshire. This will be our common spiritual home, where we will gather now as a parish community to celebrate the eucharist together. Let us open wide the doors of St. Mary's and our own hearts in warm welcome to our friends and neighbours from St. Paul's.

It is clear that the 21st century has its own particular challenges for us as Christians, especially the movement away from regular practise of the Christian faith. It is important that we face these challenges as a community. The truth is we need one another very much. We often sing the popular hymn, "Bind us together Lord" and my deepest hope as your parish priest is that the Lord Jesus will bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Together let us make our parish a place that is welcoming and life-giving.

Father O'Brien

I offer here the times of the Liturgy for the coming week:

Monday October 16th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; no Novena this week

Wednesday October 18th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday October 19th: Requiem Mass for Stephen McQuillan at 10am

Reception on Wednesday at 6pm

Saturday, October 21st

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5pm

Sunday, October 22nd

Mass at St. Mary's at 9am and 10.30am

New Mass Times at St. Mary's Church: please note the following changes to our schedule. From the weekend of 21/22 October the Vigil Mass will move to 5pm and the Sunday Masses will be at 9am and 10.30am. This will last for a trial period to see if in fact we will need two Sunday Morning Masses. *I hope this proves to be the case.*

Participating in the Synod on Synodality in the Diocese of Motherwell: as well as praying for the success of the Synod throughout the month of October in our parishes and communities, we will do so as a Diocese, led by Bishop Toal, at a special gathering for prayer and reflection on **Thursday 19th October between 7 and 9pm in the Xavier Centre, Carfin.** Delegates from each parish are invited, but anyone else who would like to attend is most welcome. Parish Priests will nominate 3 representatives from their parish.

At this gathering, time will be spent in prayer followed by discussion and discernment on the three questions presented in the Working Document for the Synod.

The three questions are:

How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of God and the unity of all humankind?

How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?

What processes, structures and institutions are needed in a Missionary Synodal Church?

Prayer booklets and cards have also been printed so that the whole People of God can make intercession for the success of the Synod.

Next Sunday is Mission Sunday: there will be a second collection next week in parishes across Scotland to support Missio, the Pope's Official Mission Charity; this year we will be supporting our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. *In these challenging times please feel free to keep your offertory donation for the second collection*

The Parish Walking Group meets every Tuesday at 11am at the Museum on Muir Street. Those gathered walk for around 1 hour and then enjoy some refreshments together in the Museum café. *New walkers are always welcome.*

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1pm. New members are always welcome and after the meeting there is a cup of tea together.

Please pray for,

Recently Deceased: Peter Devine, Stephen McQuillan, Jim Carr, William McCole, Philomena Ogbudikey, Morag Lynas, Muriel McGeough, Kathleen Gallagher, Margaret Egan, Anne Whalin, David Gillespie, Jim Donnelly

Special Remembrance: John and Mary Donnelly, John Mallon, Maureen Gillespie, James and Helen Lennon, Patrick and Joan Lennon, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Nessie Lynas, Cathleen Lynas Sheerin, Catherine O'Donnell, Rose Terrett, Helen Aiton, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.