



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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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

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

July 19th 2020

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

After four long months we are able to gather together again to celebrate the eucharist at St. Mary's and St. Paul's. What a happy day and one we have waited on patiently during the restrictions of Lockdown.

Our first public liturgies will take place this weekend, 18/19th July. As you know Social Distancing Regulations of 2 meters remain in place and this means our seating capacity is greatly reduced.

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, www.stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org, to book a place through **Eventbrite**; a designated phone number will be available soon and in the meantime please phone the church house if you have any difficulties. 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 Masses at St. Mary's: Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm and Sunday Morning at 10.30am

Sunday Masses at St. Paul's: Saturday Vigil at 4pm and Sunday Morning at 9.15am

The Weekday Masses will be at St. Mary's:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10am

Please book through Eventbrite and the number of bookings will give us an idea if we really need to use the booking system for the weekday Liturgy.

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.

With goodwill, we will manage! Let us face this challenge with serenity, trusting that the Risen Lord is leading us. At the very end of John's Gospel, in one of the resurrection passages, Jesus' final words to Peter are, "*Follow me!*" The truth is, these are the words of Jesus to every disciple, including you and me. It is in our shared following of the Lord that he will lead us through this to pastures new.

I cannot tell you how much I look forward to celebrating the eucharist again with you and for you. Let us do our very best to serve the Lord with a joyful heart,

Father O'Brien

Bishop Joseph Toal has written a Pastoral Letter to the priests and people of Motherwell Diocese and the full text can be read on the diocesan website, www.rcdom.org
The following extract is from the introduction:

*"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I join with your Parish Priests in welcoming you back to the public celebration of Holy Mass this weekend. While offering warm greetings to those present at Mass, I extend my prayers and good wishes to those unable to come, particularly those still shielding and those anxious about sharing enclosed spaces with others. Our prayers at Mass today are for all members of our parish communities, especially the most vulnerable. Our dear loved ones and fellow parishioners who have passed away over the last four months are very much in our prayers also, and we ask the Lord's consolation for all who grieve their loss. There are many people therefore for us to hold in our prayer and commend to God's mercy and protection."*

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A Message from the Catholic Men's Society (CMS)

We have received word that Fr. Daley has taken unwell and so the On-Line retreat is postponed. Please remember Fr. Daley in your prayers.

Recently Deceased: James Ward, Patrick Cox

Special Remembrance: Jim Russell, John, James and Elizabeth Fulton, Frank Lyons, Catherine Franchitti, Eddie Bradshaw, Mark Murray, Karen Wilson, Anthony Gallo, Josephine O'Mailley, Martha McCluskie, Moira Girvan, Christopher Neville, Jan Pelosi, John McGuire, Laurence and Susan Connolly, Kathleen Carney, Betty O'Kane, Cathy Cochrane, Michael Cochrane, Pat Muldoon, Ruth Muldoon Hawkins, Philip Muldoon, Georgia Dickson, Elizabeth Canning, Christopher Clancy, Brian Pearson, Mark Hughes, John Kane, Elizabeth and Edward Owens, Michael Owens, John Allan and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *reqiescant in pace.*
