



St. Mary's R. C. Church

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP



St. Paul's R. C. Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX

Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

email: stmaryhamilton@rcdom.org.uk

Tel: 01698 423552

Newsletter Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 2nd 2024

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

I hope this finds you and your families well. As you know I am spending the weekend at Sancta Maria Abbey, Nunraw, for the Ordination to the Priesthood of Brother Michael Downie; please remember him in your prayers and all who have accompanied him to this very special moment in his life. I am sorry not to be with you to celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, a feast so dear to those of us who have come to and love the Eucharist. I offer these words from Pope Benedict for your reflection:

“The Eucharist is the food reserved for those who in Baptism were delivered from slavery and have become sons and daughters of God; it is the food that sustains them on the long journey of the exodus through the desert of human existence. Like the manna for the people of Israel, for every Christian generation the Eucharist is the indispensable nourishment that sustains them as they cross the desert of this world, parched by the ideological and economic systems that do not promote life but humiliate it. It is a world where the logic of power and possessions prevails rather than that of service and love; a world where the culture of violence and death is frequently triumphed. Yet Jesus comes to meet us and imbues us with certainty: he himself is the Bread of Life. He repeated this to us in the words of the Gospel Acclamation: *“I am the living bread from Heaven, if anyone eats this Bread, he will live forever.”* Pope Benedict XVI

A Message from Father O'Brien

During these past months we have made a very moving journey along at St. Paul's, firstly with the closure and then the beautiful Liturgy of Thanksgiving, presided over by Bishop Toal, for all the graces and blessings received through our little church in Whitehill, dedicated to the apostle Paul. As your parish priest I said to you at the time that it really mattered to me that we made this journey together and that we closed our building with respect and dignity. I am grateful to you for your support in what has been a difficult journey for us all. In these past days the demolition of our buildings and the clearing of the site have been completed and I know this was distressing for those who live around or near to the church, even for those who are not members of the Catholic Church. It has been moving to hear them say how much it meant to them to have the church in their midst.

I want you to know that all of our sacred items were donated to other churches or to our schools; the beautiful Stations of the Cross now hang on the walls of St. Dominic's Church, Craigend, and our Monstrance is used there for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; the altar, the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the statue of Our Lady and the liturgical chairs are now in the Oratory at Holy Cross High School; the lectern is used at St. Paul's Primary when we have Mass in the School, the lovely credence table is used for our altar; one of the other statues of Our Lady is at St. Mary's Primary school and the Tabernacle and sacred vessels are used here at St. Mary's.

I am grateful to the men who have worked in the grounds for the great care and respect they have shown in removing the cross from the roof of the church and the wrought iron work giving the name of our parish, St. Paul's Church, before they began the work of demolition. I hope you will agree that we have managed to do something very difficult with sincere respect and dignity.

Of course our journey as St. Mary's and St. Paul's Hamilton continues, for as I have said to you so often, *we are the church*, and so it has been heartening for me as your parish priest, to see our faithful parishioners from St. Paul's taking their place here at St. Mary's for the Eucharist; in doing this, you are the living members of the church in Whitehill. We have also celebrated First Holy Communion with some of the pupils from St. Paul's Primary here at St. Mary's; it was a beautiful day and a further sign that we are making this journey together. Where there is a will there is a way! *May St. Mary and St. Paul continue to bless us and show us the way,*
Father O'Brien

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday June 3rd: Mass at 10am;

Rosary at 9.40am; our Novena will resume on Monday 17th June

Tuesday June 4th: Bishop Toal will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at 7pm

No morning Mass at 10am

Wednesday June 5th: Requiem Mass for Mrs. Rose McCann at 10am

Thursday June 6th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40pm

Friday June 7th: Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Saturday June 8th: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sunday June 9th: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Defibrillator/CPR Training will take place in the parish hall on Saturday 8th June at 10.30am; instruction will be given on how to use the parish defibrillator as well as some basic CPR training and potentially how to save a life. Everyone is welcome, including young people from our parish. Training will be provided by Mr. Pat O'Meara, a parishioner from St. Leonard's in East Kilbride, who has spent over 40 years with the ambulance service; tea and coffee will be served after the training, which should last around 45 minutes. ***Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you intend coming along; this will help in planning.***

Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to remember them at Mass:

Jim Breslin

Recently Deceased: Rose McCann, Margaret Leonard, Patricia Oakes (Dumfries), James Dickie, Michelle Morrell,

Special Remembrance: Alex and Kathleen Lind, Thomas and Mary Linden, Tom Bridges, John and Helen Carney, Desmond Peter Henaghen Snr. and Jnr., Mark Hughes, John Kane, Thomas and Elizabeth Kane, James and Elizabeth Fulton, John Fulton, Rick Anderson, Moira Douglas, William McKane, Bishop Joseph Devine and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.