



The Catholic Parish of St. Mary & St. Paul, Hamilton

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

Charity Number SC011041

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Sunday Masses: Vigil 5pm, 9am and 10:30am

Confessions: Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

Newsletter

Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

August 31st 2025

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well. In the last two newsletters I have shared some reflections Sister Gemma Morato Sendra has made about the early months of Pope Leo's ministry as Bishop of Rome. The following paragraphs offer us insight into God's unconditional love for us:

“God loves us. God loves you all.” These simple words, spoken by Pope Leo in his first public message as Bishop of Rome, are not sentimental. They are foundational. They echo the heart of the gospel and reflect the deepest truth of Christian faith: that everything begins in the love of God.

For Pope Leo, this is not only doctrine but also the starting point of everything the church believes and does. Rooted in the teaching of St. Augustine, the Pope reminds us that love is not something we manufacture: it is something we receive. *“We love,”* St. Augustine says, *“because God first loved us.”* God does not wait for us to be good before he loves us. He loves us into goodness. He embraces us while we are still far off. His love is freely given, faithful and unconditional.

Pope Leo has lived this truth in the most pastoral of ways. During his years spent in Peru, especially through the trials of the pandemic, he wrote tenderly to his people. In a Pastoral Letter titled, *Come and See...Let Us Come to Know Jesus Christ*, he insisted that faith is not about maintaining routines or sustaining structures. It is about returning to the heart of it all: the person of Jesus. We cannot proclaim what we have not encountered, and we cannot encounter Christ without being transformed by his love.

This encounter is not only for mystics or saints. It is for all. Christ comes to us personally. And for Pope Leo, this truth demands a response, not of fear but of joy. The Church must not merely teach doctrine: it must communicate beauty. People are drawn not by obligation, but by attraction – by the radiant joy of knowing they are loved and welcomed by God. God's love cannot be hoarded; it must be shared. He invites the Church to become a space of encounter.

G.M.Sendra, “10 Things Pope Leo Wants You to Know.”

In this spirit of sharing what we ourselves have been freely given, let us as a parish offer the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) to those who are thinking about becoming a member of the Catholic Church: if you are interested in making this journey, please speak to Fr. O'Brien in the first instance. On Thursday September 4th at 7pm there will be a meeting in the parish meeting room for those interested in becoming a member of the church. Please spread this invitation widely, especially if you know someone who might be interested in making this journey of faith.

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday September 1st: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; confessions at 6.30pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday September 2nd: Mass at 10am

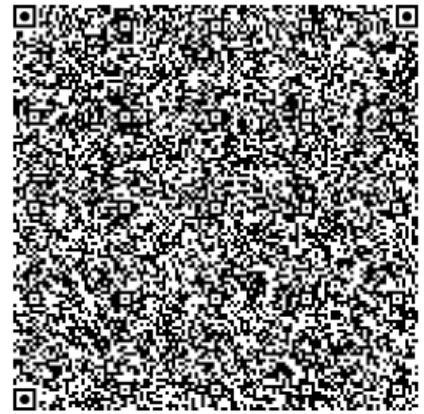
Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday September 3rd: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday September 4th: Mass at 10am;

Rosary at 9.40am



Don't carry cash but wish to donate?

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone to make a donation; you will be able to Gift Aid your donation using this method.

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on September 2nd at 7pm in the parish meeting room. The PPC is there to serve the parish; your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please speak with one of the council members or put your suggestion in the box at the back of the church.

SCIAF's 60th Anniversary Mass: please join us on Saturday 13th September at 12 noon in St. Columbkille's Parish Church, 2 Kirkwood Street, Rutherglen G73 2SL. You are warmly invited to this special Mass of Thanksgiving for 60 years of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need, promoting human dignity, justice and peace across the world. We would be touched by your presence as we unite in faith and renew our commitment to building a better world, inspired by the Gospel.

Beatson Cancer Charity: A Big Weekend at David Lloyd Hamilton, 5-7th September, something for everyone to enjoy: please see the poster in the side porch as you leave the church; all ticket proceeds and funds will go directly to the Beatson Cancer Charity.

National Pilgrimage to Carfin next Sunday, with Mass at 3.15pm. All welcome.

A Deanery Mass with Bishop Toal and the Jubilee Cross on Wednesday 10th September in St. Bride's Church Bothwell at 7pm. All are invited to join the bishop for this special occasion and to the refreshments afterwards.

Message from The Parish Stroller's Group: we are still strolling along every Tuesday. We meet at the Museum on Muir Street at 11am and walk for one hour; we have tea/coffee and a chat after our stroll in the Museum café; new members are always welcome; *just turn up and stroll along!*

Parish Coffee Morning: please join us in the parish hall after the morning Masses on September 21st to mark Fairtrade Fortnight; *proceeds to the Hamilton Foodbank.*

Recently Deceased: Ruth Campbell, Tom Jack, Sarah Scullion, Jenna McNally, Mary Teresa Brown, Hugh Carlton, Solange Murphy, Thomas Sweeney, Margaret Neary Dempsey

Special Remembrance: Jaime Donnelly, Eilidh McHugh, Jim and Mary Neary, Hugh Connor, and all our own deceased relatives and friends, and all the benefactors of our parish.

Special Collection next Sunday for the training of students for the priesthood.