



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

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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22nd 2024

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well as we draw closer to the great feast of Christmas. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, I offer Bishop Toal's Christmas Message for your reflection:

On the First Sunday of Advent, a phrase from the Reading from St Paul's Letter to The Thessalonians caught my attention – it was '*more and more*'. In some ways '*more and more*' may sum up Christmas for many of us - more lights and decorations, more shopping and presents, more parties and festive treats, more songs and entertainment, more gatherings of family and friends. The list continues and we are very lucky when we can enjoy many of these good things.

Why did St Paul use these words then? Here is what he wrote:

**Brothers and Sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus,
that, as you received from us how you ought to walk and please God,
just as you are doing,
that you do so more and more.**

It sounds that he recommends making *more and more* room for Jesus in our lives, so that we can walk and please God in the way Jesus himself and the Apostles taught. We should certainly try to make more room for Jesus at Christmas as we listen again to the great story of his birth at Bethlehem and celebrate it in prayer and in song in our churches, homes, and schools. The true and full celebration of Christmas is a mark of our identity as Christians, and our joy that God became one of us to bring us salvation. In the spirit of St Paul's instruction let us be united in the Lord Jesus this Christmas and, through his grace, draw closer to him through our prayer and our charity to those more needy than ourselves. By doing this we strive to fully please God as true and faithful followers of Jesus, his Son and Our Lord

On Christmas Night Pope Francis will begin the Jubilee Year of 2025 by opening the Holy Door at St Peter's in Rome. Along with dioceses throughout the world we will begin the Jubilee here in Motherwell on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. I invite you to join me that afternoon for the Opening Service, followed by Mass in the Cathedral. Like Christmas, our Jubilee Year will be a period of '*more and more*' as we make extra efforts to celebrate and live our faith both at home and on pilgrimage. The theme for the year is *Pilgrims of Hope* and, as we continue our earthly pilgrimage in our difficult world, we do indeed need *more and more hope*, flowing from our faith in God, and witnessed by our charity as members of Christ's Body.

May the Lord bless you and your families with love and peace this Christmas and may our celebration of his birth bring renewed hope to all in hardship and distress.

+ **Joseph Toal**

Bishop of Motherwell

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday December 23rd: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Tuesday December 24th: Vigil Mass at 4pm and 8pm

Wednesday December 25th: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Thursday December 26th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Saturday December 28th: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sunday December 29th: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Monday December 30th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

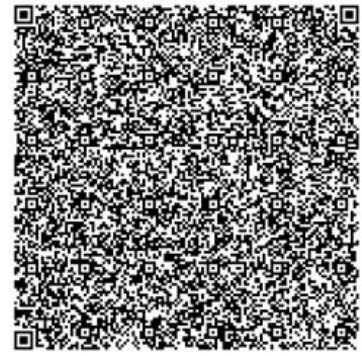
Tuesday December 31st: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday January 1st 2025: Mass at 10.30am

Thursday January 2nd: 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.

A Message from Bishop Toal: All people from across the diocese are invited to gather at St. Bride's Hall Motherwell at 2.30pm for the short walk behind the Cross to the Cathedral, where there will be veneration of the Cross, renewal of our baptismal promises and the celebration of Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family.

Annual Crib Appeal: offerings at the crib will be donated to St. Margaret's Children and Family Care Society: the work of St. Margaret's continues to progress and develop; early in the new year they will venture into fostering once again and look forward to welcoming the first foster carers to the St. Margaret's family.

Please pray for all who are ill: Jim Breslin, Jim Strachan

Recently Deceased: Helen Mallagh, Robert McArthur, John Rimmer, Thomas McNally, Maureen McGhie, James Kaney, Liz Johnstone, Eileen Allison, Eryn O'Donnell

Special Remembrance : Ian McNab, Sheila Duffy, Mary Dornan, Wullie Savage, Mrs. Brown, Neil McMurray, Margaret Stewart, Catherine and Daniel McKenna, Catherine and Richard Purcell, Agnes, Walter and Joan Stewart, Jaime Donnelly, Anna and Elizabeth Donnelly, Eilidh McHugh, Matt and Betty Paton, Nan McCluskey, Gerard Falsey, Mary and John Dowds, Betty and Tommy Falsey, Margaret Duffin, Catherine Seagrave, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Edward McGeary, Pat McFadden, Maureen and Brian Buttigieg, Elizabeth and Joe McCafferty, Frank and Mary McAteer, John and Hannah McGuire and the deceased members of the McGuire and Gallacher families, John and Edna Wilson, Philip Wilson, Mary Snaith, Patricia Wilson, Thomas and Esther Reid, Catherine Phairs, Margaret and Brian Bonnar, James Keeney, Margo Egan, Catherine Reilly, deceased members of the Mallon family, Peter and Johanna McGeough, Rosaleen and Bernard Mournian, James and Helen Lennon, Patrick and Joan Lennon, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Mary and Michael O'Brien and all our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.