



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
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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

Eighth Sunday of the Year

March 3rd 2019

Church Services

Sunday Mass at St. Mary's:

Saturday Vigil, 5.30pm
10am, 11.30am

Sunday Mass at St. Paul's:

Saturday Vigil, 4pm
10.30am

Weekday Mass:

St. Mary's, Monday and Wednesday at 10am
St. Paul's, Tuesday and Friday at 10am

Rosary prayed each weekday after the Morning Mass.

Confession:

St. Mary's, Monday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 5 pm
St. Paul's, Tuesday Morning after Mass and on Saturday after Mass.

Monday 7pm: Novena at St. Mary's in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's in the side chapel Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from after Mass until 2pm, and at St. Paul's on a Tuesday from after Mass until 2pm

This is a sacred space for those who would like to pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and a day of Fasting and Abstinence: this special Wednesday of the year still means a great deal to people and invites us to prepare ourselves to make the great spiritual journey of Lent 2019. Even though not a Holyday of Obligation many people come to church to receive the prayer of blessing and the invitation to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.

The ashes on our foreheads are a sign that we are pilgrims on the earth; they are not given to frighten us but rather to remind us to be a pilgrim who seeks God's grace and mercy, and Lent is a good opportunity to do precisely that. Let's support and encourage one another to make the journey of Lent together.

Our prayer is a sign of our hunger and thirst for God; our fasting is a sign of our genuine sorrow for our sins and a sign of our openness to conversion and turning back to God; our almsgiving is a sign of gratitude for the blessings of life and a commitment to solidarity with those who have very little in life.

Towards the end of his letter for Lent, Bishop Toal invited us to support the work of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) as part of our Almsgiving. This weekend, therefore, you are asked to uplift one of SCIAF's Wee Boxes and to have it at home throughout Lent as a means of sharing something with some of the poorest people in the world. It is a good opportunity for us to speak about this aspect of Catholic life, namely, a sincere concern for the disadvantaged, with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It is important that we hand on this important part of our tradition to the next generations.

Services on Ash Wednesday:

St. Mary's Church:

Mass at 10am (St. Mary's Primary will be with us), 12.30pm and 7pm

St. Paul's Church

Mass at 10am (St. Paul's Primary will be with us)

*Please note there will be Mass at St. Mary's this
Thursday morning at 10am.*

Please join us for the St. Patrick's Night, Dinner and Social Evening, on Friday 29th March in the Church Hall at 7pm, tickets cost £16; you will be most welcome for this enjoyable evening.

The Diocesan Mission and Evangelisation Team has arranged three Lenten Encounters during the coming weeks: A Lenten Day of Reflection (Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, 17th April 11am -3.30pm); a Lenten Saturday Day of Prayer (Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, 13th April, 11am – 3.30pm); four sessions of Contemplative Theology, Thursdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March 7.15- 9pm, the Xavier Centre, Carfin; *all are very welcome to attend and please see the posters in the side porch for more details.*

Fairtrade Fortnight 25 February – 11 March: the theme of this year's fortnight is, "She Deserves a Living Income" and highlights the plight of women cocoa farmers; £1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day; *this information may encourage us to choose Fairtrade chocolate.*

A Message from The Traidcraft Group: please join us next Sunday March 10th for our final Traidcraft coffee morning. Everyone who comes to the hall will be entered into a free draw with the chance to win various prizes and we will have our annual fair-trade quiz. On sale will be a range of Easter Eggs, including the only egg that tells the Easter story. All Fairtrade Easter Eggs give the cocoa producer a living wage. *Please join us for our final Traidcraft coffee morning and look out for lots of bargains and surprises!*

Hamilton Old Parish Church invites us to a screening of "The Trafalgar Square Passion Play Film" on Saturday 9th March at 2pm in their church hall. (Just behind the church building) This powerful Passion Play is performed in Trafalgar Square in London each Good Friday and in 2020 Drama Kirk will be performing this play here in Hamilton. There will also be some fun stalls and Christian fellowship. There is no charge for entry but there will be an opportunity to make a donation. Please consider going along. *It is a very good way to begin the journey of Lent and in the company of our fellow Christians here in Hamilton.*

Are you interested in Drama? The People's Passion – Be Part of It! Drama Kirk needs people for crowd scenes and to lead participation from the pews. People to help behind the scenes are also needed. There will be two rehearsals for those interested, Tuesday 12th March at 7pm in Hamilton Old Parish Church and Tuesday 19th March at 7pm in Dalziel St. Andrew's; further details at dramakirk@gmail.com

Credo, St. Mary's and St. Paul's Faith Sharing Group meets on Tuesday 5th March at 1 o'clock on the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome; the meeting lasts until 2.30pm and is followed by some tea, cakes and conversation!

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Walking Group meets on a Tuesday morning at 11 am at the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street and then walks for 1 hour in the park and returns to the Museum café for some tea and coffee and conversation. *You will be made very welcome if you wish to come along.*

A Lenten Talk by Patrick Parsons, "A Reflection on the Crusades", in St. Mary's Parish Hall on Wednesday March 13th at 7pm; please phone Harry Doyle on 01698 427821 to say if you are attending, so we have an idea of numbers for some tea and coffee and light refreshments.
All welcome.

Please pray for those who have died recently: Mary Duff (**Requiem at St. Mary's on Tuesday morning at 10am**), William Bonar, James Dempsey, Jean Montague, Joe Fitzpatrick, Jan Hay, Brian Whelan, Anne Wright, Mrs. Meechan

Special Remembrance: Eilidh McHugh, Charlie Boyle, Gerard Falsey, Thomas Lynch, John McCarthy, Tommy Daly, Anne and Robert McCallum, Mary and Ellen McCallum, Elizabeth McCallum, Mary Law, Kathleen Tiernan, Marie Aitmen,