



St. Mary's R. C. Church

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP



St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7th 2024

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

I hope you have enjoyed some beautiful Easter days with your family and friends. With Easter all again feels possible! The Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Jesuit Order have taken the unprecedented move in releasing the following statement on the emergency situation in Gaza. I offer it here for your reflection and consideration:

“Almost six months of war in Gaza and the guns have not fallen silent. We, the members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), like so many other Catholics, Christians, men and women of all faiths and non-believers, refuse to be silent. Our voices continue to be lifted up in prayer, in lament, in protest at the death and destruction that continue to reign in Gaza and other territories in Israel/Palestine, spilling over into the surrounding countries of the Middle East.

Following the horrors of the attacks on southern Israel on October 7th 2023, the massive Israeli bombardments of the Gaza Strip, the ground offensive that has left most of the Gaza Strip in ruins, we are now witness to famine and the spread of disease in Gaza. Tens of thousands have died, almost 1,800 Israelis, over 32,000 Palestinians, not including those still to be unearthed from under the rubble. In addition to the lives snuffed out, there are hundreds of thousands of lives ruined, those who are wounded, homeless and now hungry and smitten by disease.

We, Jesuits, reiterate our commitment not to remain silent. It is unacceptable that, despite attempts, almost six months into the present round of conflict, no one has been able to stop the killing; it is scandalous that no one has been able to ensure that the residents of Gaza have enough to eat; it is shameful that no one has been able to call the warmonger to account. Sadly, we remember that an ongoing conflict in the land called to be holy has been allowed to continue and fester as an open wound on the face of the Middle East. Engaged for decades in the communities and societies of the Middle East, we, as Jesuits, want to say that it need not be this way. The choice of death over life, vengeance over reconciliation, wrongdoing over justice, self-interest over relationship, violence over dialogue is a choice and not fated destiny. There are other choices that could be made. We will continue to foster a dream of a different future, a future already seen by the Prophets in the Holy Scriptures: *“They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:4)”*.

We join our voice to that of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who has repeatedly warned: *“War is a defeat! Every war is a defeat.”* (Angelus, 8th October 2023). We repeat our call for an immediate ceasefire, for the release of all the October 7th hostages, for negotiations and for the beginning of a process that will bring freedom, liberty and justice for all in the Middle East, the only road to true and lasting peace.”

I offer here the Schedule for the daily liturgy:

Saturday April 6th: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sunday April 7th: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Monday April 8th: Requiem Mass for Moya McDermott at 9.30am

Tuesday April 9th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday April 10th: Requiem Mass for Martin McGinnes at 10am

Thursday April 11th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Diocese of Motherwell Young Adults Group: please come along to our next event on Sunday 14th April in Motherwell Cathedral at 7.30pm. We will spend some time in prayer and then gather afterwards to socialise. These evenings are proving popular and fruitful; please mention these occasions to the young adults in your families.

Parish Conversation about the Wellspring Pastoral Project: thank you to all who came along to the hall in Holy Week to share your thoughts about this important initiative in our Diocese. We reflected together on the following areas: *How do you feel about Wellspring? What works well in our parish? What or how can we improve? How can we collectively do more? Where do you want our parish to be in 10 years?* These are just some of the questions we have been asked to consider; what you think really matters. ***The feedback from this gathering is now available on the parish website.***

Donations to St. Mary and St. Paul's Parish, Hamilton: sincere thanks to all who make a donation to the upkeep and mission of our parish. As you know the parish is a registered charity and depends on donations to continue its ministry, which extends way beyond those who come along to church on a Sunday. At the beginning of the new financial year it is a good moment to ask you to consider signing up to Gift Aid your donations, which means the government, if you are a tax-payer, donates 25 pence for every £1 that you donate. Would you consider making your donation by Standing Order? Please ask for a Gift Aid Form; it makes a huge difference to the upkeep of our parish.

Recently Deceased: Moya McDermott, Martin McGinnes, Catherine Grant, Philip Wilson, Caroline Welsh, Mary McClernon, Denis McCann

Special Remembrance: Jim Carr, John and Julia O'Neil, Hugh and Mary Carr, Jim Russell, Ashley Boyle, Hugh Morgan, Hugh and Mary Morgan, Moira Boylan, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.