

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

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

**Confessions:** Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

**Newsletter**

**Solemnity of the Epiphany**

**January 5<sup>th</sup> 2025**

*My dear parishioners,*

I wish you and your families a very happy New Year; this weekend we are invited to reflect on the work of Justice and Peace Scotland. Archbishop Nolan has sent the following letter for your reflection:

**If the Church cannot offer people hope, then it has nothing to offer.** We live in a world where injustice is common-place and peace is sadly lacking. As we look at the many trouble spots around the globe, where there is war and conflict, death and destruction, misery inflicted on so many people, it is easy to lose hope; some conflicts never seem to go away, they may die down for a while, but then they flare up again: some enemies never seem capable of making peace.

**It is in this world that we have to offer people hope, hope that comes from Christ.** For God alone is our hope and the hope of the world. That hope comes through forgiveness, God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others. Popular wisdom says you should forgive and forget. No, we should not forget past hurts, for they should spur us on to seek justice, they should remind us of the need for compassion.

**What is essential is that we forgive.** '*Forgive us our trespasses*', we say in the Our Father, seeking God to show compassion to us. But we also say, '*as we forgive those who trespass against us.*' That is the hard bit, the forgiving of others. But if we don't forgive, there can be no healing, no reconciliation, no peace.

**In our world we all suffer due to a lack of forgiveness.** How many disputes in families go on for years, because the pain goes deep and the very thought of what happened is still too sensitive for forgiveness ever to be considered; no forgiveness means no reconciliation; no reconciliation means no peace. And when it comes to the family of nations, past grievances influence today's policies and actions, because the hurts of the past are not forgotten.

**I have listened for example to Palestinian politicians** recounting every abuse they have suffered at the hands of the Israelis. I have heard Israeli officials similarly recalling in detail all the abuse and discrimination that Jews have had to endure. Each side so caught up in their own grief and pain that they seem insensitive to the other side. The pain suffered is real, the injustices that have taken place are a reality but if their memory is used to justify continuing the conflict, there is no hope, and peace remains a distant dream; without forgiveness, there can be no peace, whether peace in our family life or peace among the nations. Without forgiveness the ills of the past continue to dictate and taint the actions of today and the suffering continues; it is forgiveness that gives hope,

**It can be of course that forgiveness feels like a betrayal,** betrayal of those who have suffered injustice, that it belittles the lives of those killed by acts of war and violence. It is right that there should be anger at injustice. Righteous anger, though, leads to a desire for justice, it nurtures a feeling of compassion; but beware of anger that causes bitterness and resentment, that seeks

restitution and revenge, that hardens the heart and takes away our compassionate humanity. The injustice of the past needs to stay in the past.

**The remedy for past injustice is the work for justice today.** It is a betrayal of those who suffered in the past if we continue the suffering today. We live in an imperfect world full of imperfect people, The failings of nations and of individuals mean we come constantly come face to face with injustice; only if we forgive their failings can there be any hope of being at peace with others.

**To bring the hope of Christ into the world is quite a challenge,** for what we are seeking is a change of heart, a change of our own heart, not just a change of other people's hearts. It means hearing the pain of injustice with the same compassion with which Christ endured his own pain: *'Father, forgive them'* was his prayer from the cross.

**May we, the church, bring hope to the world** by bringing it the forgiveness for which Christ prayed. May I wish you God's blessing and every peace in the year ahead.

+William Nolan

Archbishop of Glasgow

President of Justice and Peace Scotland.

### **I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:**

**Monday January 6th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Tuesday January 7th: Mass at 10am**

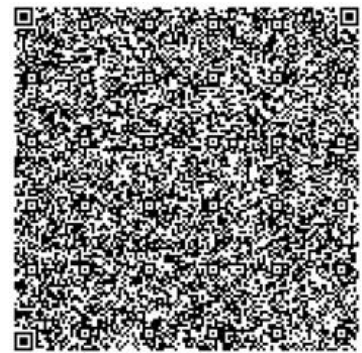
*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Wednesday January 8th: Mass 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Thursday January 9th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*



**Don't carry cash but wish to donate?**

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**The Bishops' Conference has asked that we take up a special collection to support the work of Justice and Peace Scotland; this will be taken next weekend.**

**Please pray for all who are ill:** Sarah McGrail

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret McCafferty, Marek Til, Tommy Gallagher, Fr. Joseph Docherty

**Special Remembrance :** Ian McNab, Anne Hunter, Alice and Michael Sweeney, Josephine Lynas McLean, James Lynas, James McDonald, Daniel Devanney, Lynne Devanney, Catherine Devanney, 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.