



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The Eleventh Sunday of the Year

June 18th 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to a summer break from work and school and to some relaxation together.

In last week's Newsletter I raised some important matters with you by reference to Bishop Toal's recent Pastoral Letter to the priests and people of Motherwell Diocese in which he addresses some of his concerns for the future. As you now know the Bishop envisages that the Diocese of Motherwell will consolidate its presence and celebration of our Catholic Faith in fewer buildings and I mentioned that one of the buildings being assessed by the Diocese is our church of St. Paul's. I know this is not a surprise to you, for on quite a number of occasions you have asked me about the possibility of St. Paul's Church closing. Of course the thought of this is difficult for us all and so what I ask of you is that we face this together, priest and people, in the good and sincere spirit of the Bishop's letter. I look forward to meeting with you, those who are able to come along, at our gathering in St. Paul's this **Tuesday evening, June 20th at 6pm in St. Paul's Church**. It matters a great deal to me to hear what you are thinking and feeling, to listen to your concerns.

The meeting will begin with a period of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament; we will listen again prayerfully to what the Bishop has written and then I will invite you to share your own reflections and concerns. Through the experience of our synodal meetings, it is best that we listen carefully and openly to what each one has to say, without interruption or comment. Notes will be taken and a summary produced for further reflection.

In preparation for our meeting I would ask *you* to reflect on the life and ministry of the Catholic Church in the 21st Century. For example, it looks as though it is going to be much smaller than in previous times, especially in Europe. How are we to respond to this reality? The closure of a church building does not mean the closure of the Church, for the Church is present in its people. How do you respond to this thought? Should we be identifying and supporting individuals who could be church leaders in particular areas of our parish? Looking ahead, even a little, would it be better to have Centres of Catholic Life and Faith that are vibrant, which we can *realistically* sustain, both pastorally and financially.

The future does not just happen to us; through our choices, especially our small choices, we are involved in shaping the future. What future do *you* envisage for the Catholic Church in our area? This is why the synodal journey that Pope Francis is asking the church to make is so important, for it is *you* who will shape what the Catholic Church will look like in the future. I look forward to listening to you on Tuesday evening,

Father O'Brien

I offer now the times of the Liturgy for the coming week:

Monday June 19th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

*Rosary 9.40am; Mass of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mass in Holy Cross High School at 7pm to mark Mr. John Reilly's retirement*

Tuesday June 20th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday June 21st: Requiem for Mrs Margaret Walker at St. Paul's at 10am

Thursday June 22nd: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

St. Mary's Primary will be with us as we say a fond farewell to Mrs Marie Seenan, who is retiring

Saturday, June 24th

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday June 25th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Credo: Parish Faith Sharing Group will meet this Tuesday at 1pm.

An Invitation from Clyde Valley Ramblers: Do you like walking? Please join us for an Introductory walk on July 1st 2023 at 10am; for further details please see the poster in the church porch or call the booking line on 07748 523308.

A Sponsored Walk in Aid of the Maggie Centres: Gavin Shirkie, a parishioner here, will walk from Airdrie to Inverness to support the good work done by the Maggie Centres. *Father O'Brien will be happy to pass on any donations to Gavin.*

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish Council: thank you for all the comments, ideas and suggestions; an update of the Council's response is on the notice board in St. Mary's and in the porch at St. Paul's. Our next meeting is in August and we will continue to monitor the e-mail over the summer.

Please remember in your prayers: Agnes Gallacher,

Recently Deceased: Margaret Walker, Kathleen Lynas, Terry Lennox, Helen Kelly

Special Remembrance: Helen and John Carney, Elizabeth Canning, Christopher Clancy and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's

For Reflection:

"To grow is to change, to have grown much is to have changed often."

Cardinal John Henry Newman