



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

The Thirty-First Sunday of the Year

November 5th 2023

Dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,

*I hope this finds you and your families well as we begin the journey into November, this special month when we remember with thanksgiving the Faithful Departed. Bishop Toal has asked the clergy to highlight this important statement he has made to the priests and people of the Diocese on '**Project Wellspring**':*

*"I am pleased to announce we have very recently launched a new renewal project entitled **Wellspring** which seeks to equip the Diocese of Motherwell for growth over the next 10 years. The primary focus of this new project will be to renew and re-energise our missions by setting out a simple Gospel-centred vision and a fresh, new pastoral plan. It will also include a strategy for property and finance management.*

We are already engaged in the early stages of planning with the clergy, supported by a small team of unpaid lay professionals who will manage the process with us. The discussion phases will very soon engage parishes and laity so that we can all contribute to the important work of preparing for the future. I expect to engage the entire diocesan community, young and old, as we move into 2024.

*I am excited at the prospect of setting a new course as we look ahead with confidence to the next 10 years of mission in our diocese. Please pray that **Wellspring** will indeed be a great gift that renews and strengthens our bonds with the Lord and his Church. Pray too, that it inspires sisters and brothers who have distanced themselves to re-engage with the regular practice of the Catholic Faith. *May Our Lady of Good Aid, our Patroness and Mother, crown our work with her grace.*" *Bishop Joseph Toal**

*As the parish of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Hamilton, let us support the Bishop by entering into this period of spiritual renewal as deeply as we can. The first step is a new commitment to taking our place at the Eucharist on Saturday evening for the Vigil or at one of our Sunday Masses. Please speak to your family and friends about this important project and encourage them to support the life and mission of the church, which is to be Christ's instrument of peace and goodness in our world. Recently in the Liturgy we made this prayer at the beginning of Mass: "*Grant us O merciful God that our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the **Wellspring** of all blessing may be laid open before us.*" *May it be so for our Diocese of Motherwell!**

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

Monday November 5th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions at 6.30-6.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday November 6th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday November 7th: Requiem Mass for Mr. Thomas Selfridge at 9.30am

Thursday: November 8th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

November Lists for the Faithful Departed: one of our lovely customs is to write down the names of our deceased relatives and friends on one of the November Lists available at the back of the church. Many include an offering (which you do not need to do) and these will be shared between two very good charities, Mary's Meals and Friends of the Holy Land. *Thank you.*

Annual Census of those attending Sunday Mass in Scotland: each year in November the Scottish Bishops ask that a census be carried out of Eucharistic members of the Catholic Church and it will be taken this weekend at the Vigil and the Sunday Masses. As you know, over the past 10 years, there has been a steady decline of Catholics attending Mass on a Sunday. Can this year be different? Please speak about the life of the church with your family and friends and encourage one another to support the ministry of the church. Every day we watch the news we can see how vital the Gospel of Jesus is for the wellbeing of society.

Annual Motherwell Diocesan Education Mass: Motherwell Cathedral on Thursday November 16th, the Feast of St. Margaret at 7pm: please join Bishop Toal for this special liturgy to pray for the Head-teachers, teachers and pupils in our Catholic Schools. Let us do all we can to support the church in the important work of handing on and celebrating the Christian Faith.

New Mass Times at St. Mary's Church: the Vigil Mass will move to 5pm and the Sunday Masses will be at 9am and 10.30am. This will last for a trial period to see if in fact we will need two Sunday Morning Masses. *I hope this proves to be the case.*

A Message from Missio Scotland: Thank you for supporting World Mission Sunday; together as a parish we raised £2,060, which is a wonderful sum. Your donations and prayers will go towards supporting the work of missionaries worldwide. Furthermore, your example, like that of our missionaries all over the world, will serve as an inspiration to others to live out their Baptismal mission and play their part in the universal Church. Thanks to your generosity, Missio Scotland has been able to send much-needed funds to support a great number of projects. *Thank you once again.*

Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale, Sunday 12th November: the parish stall and Fairtrade are holding a joint coffee morning in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass. Christmas Cards, Nativity Sets, Advent Calendars (including Fairtrade chocolate ones) Christmas ornaments etc will be on sale. A small selection of Fairtrade food and crafts will be available. Holy Cross High School will also be selling Christmas Cards. *Toast and home-baking will be served; proceeds will be donated to the Hamilton Foodbank.*

Please pray for all who are ill in our parish and pray also for:

Recently Deceased: Tommy Selfridge, John Flynn, Palma Rougier Ferguson (Kenja), James McClafferty, Patricia McLachlan, Gowans McHutchon, Margaret Caulfield, Mary McPake, Siobhan Lochrie, Rosanna Crolla, Patrick Emmanuel Omeje (Nigeria)

Special Remembrance: Mark Owen McGuire, Alex and Kathleen Lind, Thomas and Mary Linden, Bertie and Maureen Dawson, Sadie Burns, Jon Smith, Brian Bonnar, John Boylan, Margaret McFall, Michael McCafferty, Maria Celeste Barclay, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.

For reflection:

*"Take your children and your own inner-child
outside into Nature for at least thirty minutes every day,
and be prepared to be amazed together."*

D. Roberts (1957-2023)