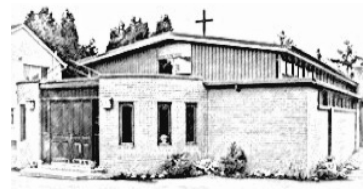




St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The Second Sunday of the Year

January 15th 2023

My dear parishioners,

On Monday, in the daily liturgy, we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus and this brought our celebration of Christmas to a close. Now, Jesus accepts his destiny as the Saviour; in the moment of his baptism in the river Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist, Jesus immerses himself in his Father's will. In fact, we hear the voice of the Father saying: "*This is my Son, the Beloved One*" and the Holy Spirit is also present in the visible form of the dove, and so the entire Trinity is present at the Baptism of Jesus. It is quite a moment for Jesus and for humanity. In a real sense the evangelist is inviting us to receive Jesus as, '*the Beloved One*'.

This Sunday we begin Ordinary Time with an introduction to Jesus prior to his public ministry. Today, only John the Baptist speaks; he introduces Jesus to his own disciples as '*the Lamb of God*'. The Jewish people, our older brothers and sisters in faith, chose a lamb from their flocks to offer to God at Passover. Jesus, *the Beloved One*, is God's choice of victim; one who takes away the sins of the world. Of course, we know that it will cost Jesus everything he has to give in order to take away the sins of the world. It is this very moving and complete self-giving that touches us so deeply and opens the doors of our hearts for Jesus to enter in and become for us, in the most personal of ways, '*the Beloved One*'.

Father O'Brien

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:

Saturday January 14th

Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday January 15th 2023

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday January 16th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm; Confessions from 6.15-6.45pm

Tuesday: January 17th: Mass at St Paul's at 10am

Wednesday January 18th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Thursday January 19th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday January 21st: Requiem for Desmond Henaghen

Saturday January 21st:

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday January 22nd:

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Bishop Toal sends his thanks for your prayers; he has come through hip-replacement surgery and will now recuperate for some 4-6 weeks.

CREDO, the parish prayer group, meets this Tuesday at 1pm in the parish meeting room; afterwards, around 2.30pm, participants enjoy some tea and cake together.
New members are most welcome.

The Parish Walking Group goes from strength to strength; new members are always welcome; simply come along to the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street for 11am; people then walk for one hour before meeting together in the museum café for some tea together.

The Walking Group have organised a Coffee Morning next Sunday after the 10.30am Mass; *the proceeds will go to Mary's Meals in memory of Harry Doyle whose first anniversary occurs at this time.*

Motherwell Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 14th-21st July 2023: the diocese will once again make a spiritual pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Lourdes, where St. Bernadette Soubirous experienced her mystical encounters with Our Lady; the cost will be around £1,000 and this includes travel and full-board. A diocesan pilgrimage is a beautiful way to visit Lourdes, especially if you have never visited before.

Youth Group Needed to Assist the Pilgrimage: Bishop Toal hopes that some of our young people (aged between 18-25 years) will accompany the pilgrimage to provide much needed physical assistance, especially with wheel-chairs to and from the grotto and assistance with the Liturgy; there will be a meeting for those interested with Fr. Mark O'Donnell, parish priest of St. Aloysius, Chapelhall on Thursday 2nd February at 7pm; contact frodonnell@rcdom.org.uk.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Desmond Henaghen, Anne McGuire, Fr. Joseph Clements, Fi Marron, Michael Barkey, Celeste Barclay, Rachael Church, Michael Lyons, Joseph O'Donnell, Margaret Duddy, Michael Donnelly, Michael McGarrity, Catherine Reilly

Special Remembrance:

Harry and Patricia Doyle, Ian McNab, Agnes Sheerin, John Harkins, Elizabeth and Michael McSorley, Mary Daly, Agnes Daly, Margaret Phairs, John and Annie Henderson, Edward, James and Anne Henderson, David and Rebecca Jack, James Graham, Helen Reuley, Hettie Syme, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Anne Terrett and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*