



**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**

**[www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org](http://www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org)**

**Newsletter**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Year**

**September 20th 2020**

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

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. We are in the midst of the Season of Creation, September 1<sup>st</sup> - October 4<sup>th</sup> (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi). As I mentioned last week, in 2015 Pope Francis published his Encyclical 'Laudato si', (Praise to you My Lord) inviting us to care for our common home. I thought you might like to read some further paragraphs from the Pope himself:

“The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet. Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest. For example, the depletion of fishing reserves especially hurts small fishing communities without the means to replace those resources; water pollution particularly affects the poor who cannot afford to buy bottled water; and rises in the sea level mainly affect impoverished coastal populations who have nowhere else to go. The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are represented on global agendas.

It needs to be said that, generally speaking, there is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet's population, billions of people. These days, they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an afterthought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile. This is due partly to the fact that many professionals, opinion makers, communications media and centres of power, being located in affluent urban areas, are far removed from the poor, with little direct contact with their problems. They live and reason from the comfortable position of a high level of development and a quality of life well beyond the reach of the majority of the world's population. This lack of physical contact and encounter can lead to a numbing of conscience and to tendentious analyses which neglects parts of reality. At times this attitude exists side by side with a “green rhetoric”. Today however we have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Pope Francis is inviting us all, especially those who are young members of the church, to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. And in hearing their cry, let us respond in some way.  
Father O'Brien

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**First Holy Communion at St. Mary's and St. Paul's:** the following letter will be of particular interest to the parents of children at St. Mary's Primary who should have celebrated First Holy Communion in May 2020. Discussions are also underway with St. Paul's Primary to reach suitable dates for their celebration of First Holy Communion.

**A Message from the Catholic Men's Society:** the CMS continue to meet via Zoom on Monday mornings at 11am to discuss matters of faith and practice in the modern world. Any men of the parish who wish to join in this conversation would be most welcome. Please contact Peter Lavery at [laverypeter93@yahoo.com](mailto:laverypeter93@yahoo.com)

**Booking for Weekday Masses** needs to be done on a weekly basis to allow for Requiems; booking for the coming week will be possible on Saturday evenings around 8pm. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

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**St. Mary's has seating for thirty-six people (the balcony is not to be used)**

**St. Paul's has seating for thirty people.**

*Please think about choosing St. Paul's for your visit as it may well be quieter there, especially on Sunday morning.*

**The Diocese has recommended that we have a booking system for places at the liturgy;** this is for safety reasons and also to ensure that people are not disappointed if they arrive at church and discover they cannot enter. For each service the parish **must** retain details of all those attending to ensure that contact tracing can be carried out if necessary.

**Please consult the parish website, [stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org](http://stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org),** to book a place through **Eventbrite** or by phoning the church house. Details of our services will be given on the parish website, but please be aware that timings for Mass on the Sunday are different to our normal programme:

**Sunday services at St. Mary's: Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm and Sunday Morning at 10.30am**  
**Sunday Services at St. Paul's: Saturday Vigil at 4pm and Sunday Morning at 9.15am.**

**The weekday Masses this week will be at St. Mary's:**

**Monday at 10.am (Feast of St. Matthew)**

**Tuesday at 10.am**

**Wednesday at 10am (Memorial of St, Pius of Pietrelcina, Padre Pio)**

*Please book through Eventbrite as this makes things easier for the stewards meeting you at the church door.*

*Please note that Government guidelines state that only 20 people are permitted to attend Requiems. This means that funerals should be looked upon as private family gatherings; thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.*

**The guidelines from the Government advise** that on entering the building you will be asked to wear a face-covering (this can be a scarf rather than a face-mask) and use the sanitizing gel for your hands. You will then be shown to a seat. As you leave the building you will be asked to use the gel once more. I am sure that we will very quickly adjust to this 'new normal' for the moment.

**Thank you to those parishioners who have assisted in the re-opening** of our churches by acting as stewards or helping with the cleaning of the benches. I know others would like to help and through time we will need you all as it looks as though we are in this for the long haul!

**I am aware that the restrictions which are still in place** mean that for the foreseeable future we will be much fewer in number for Sunday Mass. The Scottish Bishops have asked the clergy to remind parishioners that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. This leads me to suggest that you consider attending one of the weekday Masses, especially if you are retired or still furloughed from your employment. This would also leave places free on the Sunday for those who are working.

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**Recently Deceased:** James Dunbar, Terence Kelly, Fr. Niall Hayes, Margaret Flynn, Catherine Burns, Sarah Lyle, James Paul Glancy, Estelle Fox, Elizabeth Mudie, John Cosgrove, Jane Dalton, Robert Reid, Sarah McBain, Elma Aikman, Patricia Hendry, Elma Aikman

**Special Remembrance:** Elsie Daly, James and Helen Lennon, Sandy Kennedy, James McCafferty, Mary and Frank McAteer, John McCarthy, Edward Power, Paul McGowan, Agnes Conlon, Tommy Daly, Robert Daley, Bridget and Tommy O’Kane, Fr. James Foley, Fr. John Fitzimmons and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s through the years, *reqiescant in pace.*