



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21st 2021

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

What a deep joy it will be for me this Friday, March 26th 2021, to open again the doors of the church in welcome to you. What a consolation to me as your parish priest to see you take your place once again in your spiritual home and to gather with you around the altar of the Lord for the celebration of the Eucharist. Even though our numbers are still restricted, it is nonetheless a moment of real grace that at least some of us will celebrate the moving liturgies which mark the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I offer here the proposed schedule for the days ahead:

Friday March 26th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday March 27th: Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm and at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Palm Sunday March 28th: Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am and Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday, March 29th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday, March 30th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Wednesday, March 31st: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Holy Triduum:

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper: Mass at St. Mary's at 7pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at St. Paul's at 12 noon

The Passion of the Lord at St. Mary's at 3pm

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil at St. Mary's at 8pm

Easter Sunday: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am; Mass at St. Mary's at 10am and 11.30am

The Diocese of Motherwell has recommended that we have a booking system (**Eventbrite**) 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 gain access. For each service the parish must retain the details of all those attending so that contact tracing can be carried out if necessary.

Please consult the parish website, stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org to book a place through Eventbrite or phone the church house.

Bookings for the above liturgies can be made from Tuesday, March 23rd at 8pm

A personal message from Father O'Brien:

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, this Saturday I celebrate my 40th anniversary of Ordination. Now I know you will be thinking I look far too young! However the calendar tells me it really is so: March 20th 1981-2021. *Tempus fugit!* Of course, given current restrictions, I will mark the day quietly here at home at St. Mary's and happily so.

Important milestones in life provide opportunities to say 'thank you' and so I want to thank you very sincerely, my dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's, for your many kindnesses, your good humour, your patience with me (especially at the liturgy!), your generosity to good causes, and most of all for your loving presence at the Eucharist. You are indeed precious, each one of you. We just need more of you!

I have to admit that celebrations that come in the more mature years of life seem to have a fragile beauty, a mixture of tender joy and poignant thanksgiving, for so many that deserve heartfelt thanks have already gone before us to the Lord. And so, as you remember me this weekend in your prayers as I celebrate this significant anniversary of priesthood, I would ask that you remember also my mother and father, relatives and friends and parishioners who have shown me such a good example in life. I find the best way of honouring them is to try and follow their good example: their faith, hope and charity, their delight in life itself, with all its joys and sorrows, their sense of fun, their strength of character in adversity. What our patron, St. Paul, wrote to the Romans all those years ago, really is true, "*The life and death of each of us has its influence on others*". Your prayerful remembrance this weekend means a great deal to me. *Thank you!*

Sacramental Celebrations at St. Mary's and St. Paul's: dates for sacramental celebrations are being finalised with the schools and will be given in next week's newsletter.

A Message from the Catholic Men's Society (CMS): you are invited to join in praying the Stations of the Cross on the remaining Fridays of Lent. To receive the link, please contact Mr. Harry Doyle at h.doyle@blueyonder.co.uk.

Catholic Charities: we have some wonderful charities in the life of the church, which seek to be alongside people living in very challenging situations. Lent is a time of almsgiving and the following charities would be grateful for any donations:

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund: details at www.sciaf.org.uk.

Usually we have the Wee Box for Lent and you can collect one from the church house if you wish or you could use an empty jar and bring it along at the end of Lent. *The UK Government is doubling all donations to SCIAF until the end of May, so well done to the Government.*

Mary's Meals: details at www.marysmeals.org.uk.

This charity, which helps to feed over a million children every day, is having a special Lenten appeal for the people of Tigray in Ethiopia.

The UK Government recently doubled donations to Mary's Meals and the charity reached their £2 million target, so again well done to the Government.

International Refugee Trust (IRT): this small Catholic Charity, whose first patron was St. Teresa of Calcutta, helps support some of our brothers and sisters who live in the most challenging of circumstances. It deserves to be better known! Further insight into the projects they support can be found at www.irt.org.uk.

Please remember in your prayers:

All who are sick in the parish and all who have asked us to pray for them

Recently Deceased: Alice Lowell, Sheena Bogan, Tom Ward, David Roden, Catherine Phinn

Special Remembrance: Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, John Boyce, Kay Clancy, William Miller, Cornelius (Neil) Murray, Kathleen Tiernan, Bridget Lynas, Marie Lynas, Nessie Lynas, Mary and Michael O'Brien and deceased members of the O'Brien, Morgan and Currie families and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.