



St. Mary's R. C. Church

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP



St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21st 2024

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

I hope you and your families are well as we reach the Fourth Sunday of Easter, what is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations. I offer some words from Pope St. John Paul II for your reflection:

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

How can we fail to see in these words an implicit reference to the mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection? *“I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord, and I have power to take it up again (Jn 10:17-18.)”*. Christ freely offered himself on the Cross and rose by virtue of his own divine power. Therefore the allegory of the Good Shepherd has a strongly paschal character and for this reason the church proposes it for our reflection during this Easter season. Christ's pastoral mission is a universal mission that is not limited to the sons and daughters of Israel, but by virtue of his sacrifice on the cross, embraces all men and women and all peoples.”

St. John Paul II.

On Monday evenings at 7pm we have our Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; it is a prayerful half-hour in the company of Mary, praying for the Church, the world, the families of our parish and indeed our own needs too. The service concludes with a simple Benediction and the opportunity to receive Christ in Holy Communion. Do you have a special intention which you are praying for? Why not join us and place your intention prayerfully before Our Lady of Perpetual Help?

A Message from Deacon Joseph Dowds and Mrs. Susan Dowds: “Deacon Joe and Susan express their thanks and gratitude for the kindness and generosity shown to them in marking the Silver Jubilee of Joe's Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Thank you to Fr. O'Brien and the parishioners of St. Mary and St. Paul's for the gifts and cards and thanks also to those who were able to attend the Mass of Thanksgiving. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.”

Congratulations to the Children from St. Paul's Primary School who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday morning; sincere thanks to Mrs. Quinn, the Headteacher, and to the teachers who prepared the pupils for the Sacrament. Congratulations also to the pupils from Hamilton College who joined with St. Paul's to receive their First Holy Communion.

I offer here the Schedule for the daily liturgy:

Saturday April 20th: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sunday April 21st: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Monday April 22nd: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday April 23rd: Requiem Mass for Mr. Richard Brannan at 10am

Reception on Monday evening at 6pm

Wednesday April 24th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday April 25th: Requiem Mass for Mrs. Ann Quigley at 10.30am

Reception on Wednesday evening at 6pm

The Children's Liturgy is an important part of our parish outreach to our young parishioners, a way for us to be Good Shepherds to them: the liturgy group will meet this Sunday after the 10.30am Mass. Anyone interested in joining the group as a helper is welcome to come along; the Children's Liturgy offers a simpler version of the Gospel and a little discussion or activities designed to enhance the key message of that Sunday's liturgy. It helps children to form their own relationship with Jesus and his gospel; it is a beautiful gift to give our children and they deserve this from us. It is currently provided for children at (or about to start) primary school and who are able to attend and participate independently.

CREDO: our parish faith-sharing group meets this Tuesday at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; we pray and read the Scriptures of the day and discuss what they mean to us, our own lives and our personal relationship with God; a passage from Bible Alive for that day summarises the readings. Participants are welcome to sit and simply listen; no one is asked to speak unless they wish to do so. The meeting lasts until 2.30pm when we then enjoy some tea and biscuits together.

Parish Conversation about the Wellspring Pastoral Project: thank you to all who came along to the hall in Holy Week to share your thoughts about this important initiative in our Diocese. ***The feedback from this gathering is now available on the parish website.***

Donations to St. Mary and St. Paul's Parish, Hamilton: sincere thanks to all who make a donation to the upkeep and mission of our parish. As you know the parish is a registered charity and depends on donations to continue its ministry, which extends way beyond those who come along to church on a Sunday. At the beginning of the new financial year it is a good moment to ask you to consider signing up to Gift Aid your donations, which means the government, if you are a taxpayer, donates 25 pence for every £1 that you donate. Would you consider making your donation by Standing Order? Please ask for a Gift Aid Form; it makes a huge difference to the upkeep of our parish.

Recently Deceased: Richard Brannan, Ann Quigley, Margo Allen, Catherine Grant, Marjory Begley (France), Philip Wilson, Clare Nicolson, Cathie Watson, Anne Marie Egan, Sheila Beg, Douglas Russell, Clare Gallagher, William Brady, Caroline Welsh

Special Remembrance: Mary Kate McMenemy, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Mary Burns, Brenda Reilly, Jeanie Lynas McKenna, Esther and Thomas Reid, Catherine Phairs, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.