



## The Catholic Parish of St. Mary & St. Paul, Hamilton

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Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

Charity Number SC011041

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**Sunday Masses:** Vigil 5pm, 9am and 10:30am

**Confessions:** Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

**Newsletter**

**Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> 2025**

*My dear parishioners,*

I hope this finds you and your families well as we begin the great Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope as members of the Catholic Church in 2025. May this pilgrimage of prayer be a real blessing on each one of us. I offer the following words from Pope Francis for your reflection:

**Today, in the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**, the gospels describe the scene which occurred at the river Jordan: Jesus too is among the penitent crowd that approaches John the Baptist to receive Baptism. He has stood in line. John would like to prevent him from being baptized. The Baptist is aware of the great distance there is between him and Jesus. But Jesus has come precisely to bridge the gap between humanity and God: if Jesus is completely on God's side, he is also completely on humanity's side and reunites what has been separated. For this reason, he asks John to baptise him, so that all righteousness may be fulfilled through the plan which takes the way of obedience and solidarity with fragile and sinful humanity, the way of humility and of God's closeness to his children, Because God is very close to us!

**At the moment in which Jesus, baptized by John**, comes out of the waters of the river Jordan, the voice of God the Father is heard from on high, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* At the same time the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove rests on Jesus, who publicly begins his mission of Salvation, a mission characterised by a manner: the way of a humble and gentle servant, armed only with the power of truth,

**This is the humble and gentle servant.** This is Jesus' way, as well as the manner of Christ's disciples' missionary work: to proclaim the Gospel with gentleness, but also firmness, without shouting, without reprimanding anyone, but gently and firmly, without arrogance or imposition. The true mission is drawing people to Christ. But how? How is this attraction to Christ achieved? With one's own witness, starting from the unwavering union with him in prayer, in adoration, and in concrete works of charity, which is service to Jesus present in the least of his brothers and sisters, In imitation of Jesus, the good and merciful Shepherd, and moved by his grace, we are called to make our life a joyous testimony that illuminates the way, that brings hope and love.

**This feast makes us rediscover the gift and the beauty of being a community of baptized**, that is, of sinners – we are all sinners – saved by the grace of Christ, truly integrated, by the work of the Holy Spirit, in the filial relationship of Jesus with the Father, welcomed into the bosom of Mother Church, making possible a brotherhood and sisterhood that knows no barriers or borders.

**Pope Francis**

**The Bishops' Conference has asked that we take up a special collection to support the work of Justice and Peace Scotland; this will be taken this weekend.**

## I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

### **Monday January 13th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am; confessions at 6.30pm; novena at 7pm*

### **Tuesday January 14th: Mass at 10am**

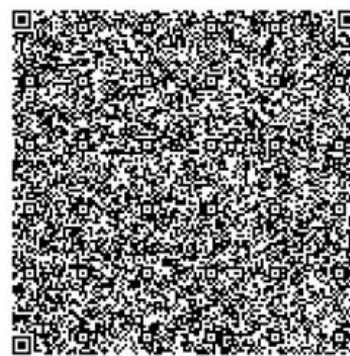
*Rosary at 9.40am*

### **Wednesday January 15th: Mass 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

### **Thursday January 16th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*



#### **Don't carry cash but wish to donate?**

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone to make a donation; you will be able to Gift Aid your donation using this method.

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**Parish Pastoral Council** meets this Wednesday in the parish meeting room at 7pm, The Parish Council is there to serve the people of the parish; your comments, suggestions and indeed hopes are important. Please speak with one of the Council members or write down what you would like to share and place it in the box at the back of the church.

**Pilgrims of Hope:** each Jubilee is proclaimed through the publication of a Papal Bull of Indiction, generally written in Latin, bearing the seal of the Pope. The 2025 Holy Year Bull is identified by its initial words: *Spes non confundit – Hope does not disappoint.*

**“Hope is the central message of the coming Jubilee. For everyone may the Jubilee be a moment of personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, our Hope.”** This is the invitation Pope Francis makes to every member of the church. The daily liturgy enables us to listen to the words of Jesus and to find real hope in what he says and does; the moment of Holy Communion is indeed a moment of personal encounter with Jesus. *If you are free on weekdays, please consider joining us for the rosary and Mass as part of our parish pilgrimage of hope,*

**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** a little group of parishioners meet on a Monday evening to pray this Novena for all who belong to our parish of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, as well as their own personal petitions. The Novena consists of some beautiful prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, a moment of reflection and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, then the opportunity to receive Holy Communion; *please consider making the Novena part of your Pilgrimage of Hope? You would be most welcome.*

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the side chapel at St. Mary's:** some parishioners have asked that there be an opportunity for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; this Tuesday the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the side chapel after the morning Mass until 2.30pm. It would be helpful if people would sign the sheet at the back of the church to ensure we have people present. *This is a further opportunity to have some prayerful time as part of our pilgrimage of hope.*

**Recently Deceased:** Sarah McGrail, Margaret McCafferty, Marek Til, Tommy Gallagher, Harry Barrett, Fr. Joseph Docherty, Fr. Bill Tollan, Fr. Dermot Healy, Anne McCrossan, Patrick O'Donnell, Lyn Boyd

**Special Remembrance :** Wullie Savage, Mary Dorman, Agnes Sheerin, Joseph O'Neil, William Cannon, Margaret Burke, Patrick and Alice Mackle, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Agnes and Jim McKay, Jack, Catherine and Barbara Armstrong, Elizabeth and Joe McCafferty, Frank and Mary McAteer, David, Jim, Brian, Donald and Nan Scrimgeour, Agnes Daly, Mary Daly, Elizabeth and Michael McSorley, John Harkins, Antonietta Tedesco, Laura Matteo and all our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.