



**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

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## **Newsletter**

## **The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**March 29th 2020**

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

If you are reading this newsletter online then please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I have said to you before that a parish priest is never less alone than when alone. This has been my experience over many years, especially in times of retreat, and it is certainly my experience in these days. You and your families occupy my thoughts and have a special place in my heart and in my prayers. Let us continue to pray for one another, that we all find the strength and courage that we need at this very challenging time.

**I thought it would be good to try and keep in touch with you through the Newsletter online and offer some suggestions that you might find helpful:**

**A valuable point of reference for us all in these days** is the Diocese of Motherwell website, [www.rcdom.org.uk](http://www.rcdom.org.uk). Bishop Toal's communications with the people of the Diocese can be found there. The Bishop is holding the clergy and the people in his prayers and sends his prayerful concern to all. A good number of people are using their gifts and talents to provide information and links which may well be useful to you in various ways. Some parishes are able to stream the liturgy and this will enable you to participate in the Sunday liturgy and also the Holy Week liturgies which begin next Sunday.

**The most recent addition concerns the Children's Liturgy for the 5th Sunday of Lent.** It can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMusma8XwXY>

**A further point of reference** is the Vatican's website, [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va). This will enable you to follow Pope Francis' pastoral care of the church and the world in these most challenging days. It is well worth spending some time reading the Pope's reflections at his daily Mass and at other events. He is inviting the church and all people of good will to give a courageous response to this virus which is spreading throughout the world with such devastating effect. It is good to stay close to the Bishop of Rome in these days and to allow the successor of Peter to strengthen us.

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**

I would ask your prayers for my aunt, Mrs. Tess McMahon who died last Sunday and whose funeral service will take place this week; please remember also Mrs Mary Teresa Lees who died on Monday and whose funeral service will take place this week.

Let us remember too the many thousands of people from around the globe who have died as a result of the Coronavirus and their families who have lost a loved one in such a terrible way.

***Please share this information with parishioners who may not access the parish website***