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Newsletter

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16th 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope you had a lovely Easter with family and friends, and in Spring sunshine!. I offer some thoughts on the Second Sunday of Easter from Pope St. John Paul II:

'Peace be with you!' This is how Jesus greets his Apostles in the Gospel for this Sunday, which closes the Octave of Easter. Peace is the gift of God. The Creator himself has written the law of respect for life on the human heart.

When the merciless logic of arms prevails everywhere, only God can redirect hearts to thoughts of peace. Only he can give the energies that are necessary to be freed from hatred and the thirst for revenge and to undertake the process of negotiation for an agreement for peace. The liturgy today invites us to see in Divine Mercy the source of that authentic peace that the risen Christ offers us. The wounds of the risen and glorious Lord are the permanent sign of God's merciful love for humanity. From them flows a spiritual light that enlightens consciences and pours into hearts comfort and hope.

Our parish community looks forward to welcoming back Deacon Joseph Dowds and Mrs Susan Dowds next Sunday, April 23rd for Mass at 10.30am. Many of us remember Deacon Joseph's ministry here with great affection and thanksgiving. He has recently retired now from parish ministry and this is an opportunity for us to thank him and his wife Susan for the years they spent with us here and to wish them a very happy retirement. Deacon Joseph will assist at Mass and deliver the homily; afterwards we will have a parish coffee morning in the hall.

Please join us if you are free.

Diocese of Motherwell, 75th Anniversary: The Mass of Thanksgiving for the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the Diocese will take place in Motherwell Cathedral this Friday, April 21st at 7pm; Archbishop William Nolan will be the Principal Celebrant. *Please come along to the Cathedral if you are free.*

First Holy Communion at St. Paul's: this is a very special week for the sixteen young girls and boys who will receive Holy Communion for the first time on Saturday, April 22nd at 11am. *Please remember them and their families in your prayers.*

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead: Eastertide is a time for the church to enjoy the company of the risen Lord and to reflect on the early days of the church.

Monday April 17th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am
Confessions from 6.30-6.50pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday April 18th: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Wednesday April 19th: Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Lennox at St. Mary's at **9.30am**

Thursday April 20th: Requiem Mass for Henry McDermott at St. Mary's at **10am**
Reception on Wednesday evening at 6pm

Saturday April 22nd: **First Holy Communions at St. Paul's at 11am**

Saturday, April 22nd

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday April 23rd

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group, resumes this Tuesday at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome. After the meeting the members enjoy some tea and cake together.

Parish Pastoral Council, Tuesday 25th April at 7pm: the parish council is there to help serve the needs of the parish community and indeed to help build a sense of community, and so your thoughts, hopes and wishes are important to us. Should you wish to have a topic raised or leave a comment or suggestion, please e-mail PPC1846@hotmail.com.

Alternatively, there is a box and some paper at the back of our churches for your comments.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Betty Lennox, Henry McDermott, Peter McCourt, Mary O'Donnell, Mary Dorricott, Gino Nelli, Benita Taylor, Moira Boylan, Peter O'Hara, Bobby Lees, David George, Liam Docherty, Fr. Damien Gilhooley

Special Remembrance:

Mgr. Alex Devanny, Fr. Walter Scott, John Seagrave, Eileen Seagrave Wood, John and Mary McCaig, Minnie Morgan, May Kinnie, Charlie and Brenda Reilly, Kevin Bryant, Ella, Joe and Ryan Paterson, deceased members of the McMurray and Miller families and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.