



St. Mary's R. C. Church
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Newsletter

The Fifth Sunday of the Year

February 5th 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well. Last Sunday we listened together to Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount, a passage known and loved by so many followers of Jesus. Immediately after his moving Sermon, Jesus describes his disciples as *'the salt of the earth'* and *'the light of the world'*. It is clear that Jesus believes in his disciples and of course that means he believes in us too, for we are his 21st century disciples. We could even say that Jesus is entrusting his mission to those who follow after him. In the mind and heart of Jesus it is a deep and lasting relationship, for we are to remain *salty* and we are to let our *light* go on shining brightly.

In quiet moments, we might wonder what this will mean in practical terms. This week's first reading from the prophet Isaiah provides a moving answer: "Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your kin, then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon."

I think we would agree that there are enough clenched fists in our world, fists that do real and lasting damage. As a parish community, let's take a moment to look at our hands and commit ourselves anew to using them in the ways Isaiah suggests.

Father O'Brien

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:

Saturday February 4th

Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday February 5th 2023

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Nuptial Mass at 1pm for the Marriage of Martin Scott and Maria Goodwin;

please remember the young couple in your prayers that they have a beautiful wedding day.

Monday February 6th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm; Confessions from 6.30-6.45pm

Tuesday February 7th: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am
Coffee Morning after Mass in St. Paul's Primary School; all welcome.

Wednesday February 8th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Thursday February 9th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday February 11th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday February 12th:

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

A Message from the Parish Pastoral Council: our next meeting will be held on 16th February; there will be a box at the back of both churches this weekend and next should you wish to have a topic discussed or leave a comment. We also have a dedicated email address which is stmstpppcouncil@hotmail.co.

CREDO, the parish prayer group, meets this Tuesday at 1pm in the parish meeting room; afterwards, around 2.30pm, participants enjoy some tea and cake together.

Faith sharing is about quiet and respectful listening and a celebration of how God is at work in my life and in the lives of the other members of the group.

New members are most welcome.

The Parish Walking Group is greatly enjoyed by members of our parish and beyond; new walkers are always welcome; simply come along on Tuesday morning to the Museum at the bottom of Muir Street for 11am; people then walk for one hour before meeting together in the museum café for some tea together.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Furniture Project: for uplift and delivery enquiries: tel. 07483363888 or 07483904658; Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11am-3pm; we accept good quality pre-loved furniture and electrical goods; sofas, suites and beds must have fire-retardant label attached.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Thomas Smith, Nan O'Rourke, Mary Heffernan, James Cassidy

Special Remembrance:

Fr. Walter Scott, Lorraine Fox, Rita Kane, Patricia Harkin and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*