



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

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

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 Presentation of the Lord

February 2nd 2025

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well as we begin our journey through February. I offer the following words from Pope Francis for your reflection on today's feast:

“Today’s liturgy presents us with Simeon, who, prompted by the Holy Spirit, takes the Christ-child in his arms, and sings a song of blessing and praise; his heart rejoiced because God had come to dwell among his people; he felt his presence in the flesh.

Simeon’s canticle is the hymn of the believer, who at the end of his days can exclaim: *‘Hope does not disappoint’*; God never deceives us. Simeon and Anna, in their old age, were capable of a new fruitfulness, and they testify to this in song. Life is worth living in hope, because the Lord keeps his promise.

We have inherited this hymn of hope from our elders; they made us part of this process. In their faces, in their lives, in their daily sacrifices we are able to see how this praise was embodied. We are heirs to the dreams of our elders, heirs of their hope.

We do well to take up the dreams of our elders, so that we can prophesy in our day and once more encounter what originally set hearts afire. Dreams and prophecies together – the remembrance of how our elders, our fathers and mothers, dreamed – and the courage prophetically to carry on those dreams.

Whenever Mary puts Jesus in the midst of his people, they encounter joy. This alone will bring back our joy and hope, this alone will save us from living in a survival mentality. Only this will make our lives fruitful and keep our hearts alive: putting Jesus where he belongs, in the midst of his people.

To put ourselves with Jesus in the midst of his people keeps our hearts alive! For this reason, we sense the challenge of finding and sharing our life together, of mingling and encountering, of embracing and supporting one another, of stepping into this flood tide which, while challenging, can become a genuine experience of fraternity, a caravan of solidarity, a sacred pilgrimage. If we were able to take this route, it would be so good, so soothing, so liberating and hope-filled. To go out of ourselves and to join others is not only good for us, it also turns our lives and hopes into a hymn of praise. But we will only be able to do this if we take up the dreams of our elders and turn them into prophecy.

Pope Francis

On the weekend, March 1-2, representatives from Mary’s Meals will visit the parish and share some information with us about the present work of this Scottish charity.

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday February 3rd: Mass at 10am

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

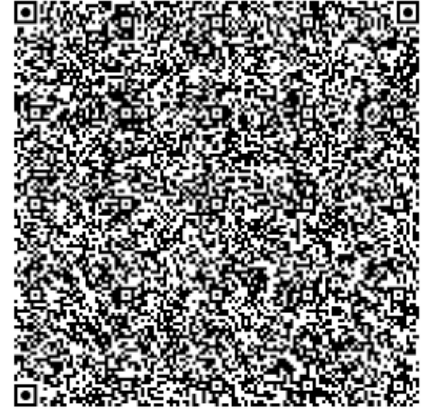
Tuesday February 4th: Mass at St. Paul's Primary

Rosary at St. Mary's, 10am

Wednesday February 5th: Requiem, Jane Newlands, 10am

Reception on Tuesday at 6pm

Thursday February 6th: Requiem, Peter Gilmour at 12 noon



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,*

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.

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 Wednesday 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.*

Vocations to the Priesthood: are you thinking and praying about a possible vocation to the priesthood? The Diocese of Motherwell is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For further information, please contact Fr. Charles O'Farrell by telephone on 01698 423044 or email frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk

Aid to the Church in Need: Scottish Conference, 'Courage to be Catholic' Saturday 29th March, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 9.30-4pm. Hear from inspiring speakers, meet representatives of Catholic organizations from around Scotland and help build the Catholic Community. To register: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR>

Recently Deceased: Jane Newlands, Peter Gilmour, Margaret Campbell, Nan Docherty, Sheena McGrail, Kitty Paccitti, Joe Downey, Rena Kerr, David Denholm.

Special Remembrance: Diane Daly, Laraine Fox, Michalina and Feliks Gulka, Anna and Franciszek Jokolowski, John Hill, Margaret Semple, Margaret Boyle, George and Helen Connor, Margaret Murray McKain, Thomas McKain, Jan and Mary Kozak, Margaret and Michael O'Brien, Owen and Bella Currie and all our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.