



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

The Twentieth Sunday of the Year

August 20th, 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying these latter days of summer 2023. Of course now that our schools have returned to work we know that Autumn is drawing near. I'm sure we all wish our teachers and pupils every blessing for the new school year which stretches out before them. *May it be happy and fruitful for each one.*

I thought you might like to read this reflection by Pope Francis:

Today's Gospel presents to us a unique example of faith in Jesus' encounter with a Canaanite woman, a foreigner to the Jews. The scene unfolds as he is walking towards the cities of Tyre and Sidon, northwest of Galilee; it is here that the woman begs Jesus to heal her daughter, who, the Gospel says, *is severely possessed by a demon*. The Lord, at first, seems not to hear this cry of pain, prompting the disciples to intercede for her. Jesus' seeming indifference does not discourage the mother who persists in her invocation.

The woman's inner strength, which enables her to overcome every obstacle, is to be found in her *maternal love* and in her *faith* that Jesus can grant her request. This makes me think of the strength of women. With their strength they are able to obtain great things. We have known many such women. We could say that it is love that stirs faith, and faith, for its part, is love's reward. Heartrending love for her daughter causes the woman to cry: *Have mercy on me Lord, Son of David*. And her untiring faith in Jesus allows her not to become discouraged even in the face of his initial rejection; thus the woman knelt before him, saying, *Lord, help me*.

In the end, before such persistence, Jesus was in awe, nearly astonished by the faith of a pagan woman. It causes him to acquiesce, saying: *O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish!* And her daughter was healed from that very hour. Jesus points to this humble woman as a model of unwavering faith. Her persistence in beseeching Christ's intervention is incentive for us not to become discouraged, not to despair when we are burdened by life's difficult trials. Pope Francis

I offer here the times of the Liturgy for the coming week:

Monday August 21st: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions from 6.30-6.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday August 22nd: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Wednesday August 23rd: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday August 24th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Saturday, August 26th

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday August 27th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room; the Parish Council is there to serve the church community and indeed to listen carefully to what parishioners are saying; the usual boxes are at the back of our churches should anyone have a suggestion, comment or question, or send an email to PPC1846@hotmail.com

Motherwell Annual Vocations Mass: Bishop Toal warmly invites the priests and people of the Diocese to join him in Motherwell Cathedral to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life on Monday, August 31st at 7pm.

The Beginning Experience: Listen, Accompany, Heal: this is a weekend for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood; the venue is the Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, from 29th September-1st October; for details contact Louise on 07926 571004 or email: louisep398@gmail.com; completed applications must be returned by 16th September 2023.

National Pilgrimage to Carfin on 3rd September: the pilgrimage Mass will take place at Carfin Grotto at 3pm; the Scottish Bishops will be present and ask that we join them in prayer for peace in our troubled world, and especially in Ukraine; Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family in the UK will preach at the Mass, and the choir of the Ukrainian Catholic Church community in Scotland will participate in the Mass along with the Motherwell Diocesan Choir. *All are very welcome to attend this special liturgy.*

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group, resumes this Tuesday at 1pm. New members are always welcome and after the meeting there is a cup of tea together.

Congratulations to Jacob McHale and Maria Linden who were married at St. Mary's on Saturday afternoon; we wish them a long and happy married life together.

Please pray for,

Recently Deceased: Kelly Christie, James Campbell, Bridie Duggan

Special Remembrance: Ellen and Robert Boylan, Moira Boylan, Ellen McCourt, James McMenemy, Kate Burns and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's