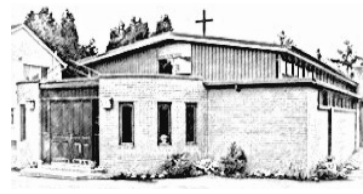




**St. Mary's R. C. Church**

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

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**Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest**

**Charity Number - SC011041**

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**Newsletter**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> 2022**

*My dear parishioners,*

I hope this finds you well. It is uplifting to see so many people taking their place once again at the Sunday liturgy; as I have said to you so often, no one can ever take your place at the Eucharist; it is reserved only for you. In today's gospel we listen to the account of the Transfiguration; we hear the command from the cloud, the Father's voice, '*listen to him.*' Our Lenten pilgrimage is about listening deeply to Jesus, the Beloved One; in so doing we too become the beloved of the Father. In this listening we are transfigured by the word of God; we learn to think and act with Jesus, our Saviour. This year, our Lenten journey takes place as our brothers and sisters in Ukraine suffer the brutal realities of an unjust war. Every day now all that is happening to them and their country is laid bare before us thanks to journalism at its very best. There is no hiding the truth, even if some are trying very hard to do that; when the truth becomes a stranger truly terrible things happen.

Bishop Toal has asked every parish to take up a special collection this Sunday to support those who are suffering in Ukraine; SCIAF is a partner with CARITAS International and will work with them to bring relief to those most in need. I know from speaking with people at the daily liturgy that you want to share something as a response to what we are witnessing; as I have said so often, a little from us all goes a long way.

Today also marks the ninth anniversary of the election of Pope Francis. What a courageous and challenging Pope he has turned out to be as he proclaims the Good News of the Gospel to the church and the world; let us renew our communion with him as the Bishop of Rome, the one who calls the church to unity.

Let us make this a special Lent at St. Mary's and St. Paul's, offering our prayer, fasting and almsgiving to help build the culture of peace and justice in our fragile world.

*Father O'Brien*

**I offer here the schedule for the liturgy:**

**Saturday, March 12th**

**Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm**

**Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm**

**Sunday, March 13th**

**Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am**

**Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am**

Monday, March 14th Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 9.40am.

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> **Mass at St. Mary's at 9.30am**

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Mass at St. Mary's at 10am  
Stations of the Cross at 9.40am

**Saturday, March 19th**  
**Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm**  
**Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm**

**Sunday, March 20th**  
**Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am**  
**Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am**

**First Confession:** please remember in your prayers the pupils from St. Mary's and St. Paul's Primary Schools who will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week for the first time.

**Thank you** to those who signed up to make the synodal journey; our second meeting will be on Wednesday; Please gather at 6.45pm in the parish hall; the meeting will be from 7-8.30pm.

**Pioneer Association Lenten retreat:** all are welcome to this evening retreat in St. Augustine's Church Coatbridge on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm; Fr. Dominic Towey will conduct the retreat.

**Catholic Men's Society Annual Day of Recollection:** all men in the diocese are invited to take part in this retreat day on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in St. James' Coatbridge, led by Fr. Paul Denney. The cost is £15 which includes a meal in a local eating place. Anyone who would like this opportunity to add an uplifting experience to this year's Lenten journey can contact Peter Lavery Snr in person or e-mail, [laverypeter93@yahoo.com](mailto:laverypeter93@yahoo.com).

**CREDO**, the parish prayer group, will meet this Tuesday in the parish meeting room, beginning at 1pm and concluding with some tea at 2.30pm. The group welcomes prayer requests from parishioners and a box is available at the back of the church for you to place such requests. *Please do not include donations in these requests.*

**Mgr. Tom O'Hare RIP:** this week we received the sad news of the death of Mgr. O'Hare; he served at St. Mary's as an assistant priest and as parish priest for many years at Our Lady and St. Anne's; let us give thanks for his long life of service to God's people, *requiescat in pace*.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

**All who are ill and have asked us to pray for them:**

**Recently Deceased:** Mgr. Tom O'Hare, Michael McCann, Sadie McKinlay, Mary McGrory, Margaret Devine, Jimmy Tyrrell, Mark Jenkinson, Pat Ward (Newarthill), Tommy Bergin

**Special Remembrance,** John Boyce, Elizabeth Fulton, Annie and John Donnachie, Jaime Donnelly, Marie Lynas, Brigid Lynas, Winnie Maxwell, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.