



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

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP



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

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX

**Parish Priest - Fr Henry O'Brien**

**Charity Number - SC011041**

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**Newsletter**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 14th 2024**

*My dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,*

I hope you and your families are well and enjoying together the unfolding of Spring, as Nature wakes up from Winter's long sleep; Nature itself seems to be touched by the spirit of the Resurrection. Already we have reached the Third Sunday of Easter and I offer some words from Pope Benedict for your reflection:

“The Resurrection of Jesus is central to Christianity. It is a fundamental truth to be asserted vigorously in every epoch, since to deny it, as has been, and continues to be attempted, or to transform it into a purely spiritual event, is to thwart our very faith. St. Paul states: *‘If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain’* (1Cor 15:14). In the days that followed the Lord's Resurrection, the Apostles stayed together, comforted by Mary's presence, and after the Ascension they persevered with her in prayerful expectation of Pentecost. Our Lady was a Mother and Teacher to them, a role that she continues to play for Christians of all times.”

Pope Benedict XVI

**On Monday evenings at 7pm we have our Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help;** it is a prayerful half-hour in the company of Mary, praying for the Church, the world, the families of our parish and indeed our own needs too. The service concludes with a simple Benediction and the opportunity to receive Christ in Holy Communion. Do you have a special intention which you are praying for? Why not join us and place your intention prayerfully before Our Lady of Perpetual Help?

**Good Wishes to Deacon Joseph Dowds and Mrs. Susan Dowds:** our dear friend Joseph will celebrate his Silver Jubilee of Ordination as Deacon this Tuesday Evening, April 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Joseph's Church, Blantyre at 7pm. Of course, in all these years, he has been supported by his wife Susan as he carried out his ministry as Deacon with such generosity of spirit and with such kindness and compassion to us all. We renew our sincere gratitude for the good years he spent here at St. Mary's and St. Paul's. *All are welcome to the Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Joseph's and Fr. O'Brien will be there to represent our parish and to say a heartfelt, Thank You.*

**I offer here the Schedule for the daily liturgy:**

**Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>: Vigil Mass at 5pm**

**Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 9am and 10.30am**

**Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions at 6.30pm; Novena at 7pm*

**Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am;*

**Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>: Requiem Mass for Mrs. Catherine Grant at 10am**

*Reception on Wednesday evening at 6pm*

**Diocese of Motherwell Young Adults Group:** please come along to our next event on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April in Motherwell Cathedral at 7.30pm. We will spend some time in prayer and then gather afterwards to socialise. These evenings are proving popular and fruitful; please mention these occasions to the young adults in your families.

**A Message from CREDO:** this is a prayer and faith-sharing meeting that is open to all. We meet on Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; we pray and read the Scriptures of the day and discuss what they mean to us, our own lives and our personal relationship with God; a passage from Bible Alive for that day summarises the readings. Participants are welcome to sit and simply listen; no one is asked to speak unless they wish to do so. The meeting lasts until 2.30pm when we then enjoy some tea and biscuits together.

**Catholic Men's Society (CMS)** meet this Monday in the parish Meeting Room after the 10am Mass. *Please come along if you would like to take part.*

**Parish Conversation about the Wellspring Pastoral Project:** thank you to all who came along to the hall in Holy Week to share your thoughts about this important initiative in our Diocese. ***The feedback from this gathering is now available on the parish website.***

**Donations to St. Mary and St. Paul's Parish, Hamilton:** sincere thanks to all who make a donation to the upkeep and mission of our parish. As you know the parish is a registered charity and depends on donations to continue its ministry, which extends way beyond those who come along to church on a Sunday. At the beginning of the new financial year it is a good moment to ask you to consider signing up to Gift Aid your donations, which means the government, if you are a taxpayer, donates 25 pence for every £1 that you donate. Would you consider making your donation by Standing Order? Please ask for a Gift Aid Form; it makes a huge difference to the upkeep of our parish.

**Recently Deceased:** Catherine Grant, Richard Brannan, Ann Quigley, Marjory Begley (France), Philip Wilson, Moya McDermott, Martin McGinnes, Anne Marie Egan, Sheila Beg, Douglas Russell, Clare Gallagher, William Brady, Caroline Welsh, Mary McClernon, Denis McCann

**Special Remembrance:** Mary Ann Dorricott, John Seagrave, John Whyte, James, Christopher and Charles Whyte, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Jim Carr, John and Julia O'Neil, Hugh and Mary Carr, Henry and Isabella Morgan and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.