



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

**The Third Sunday of the Year**

**January 22nd 2023**

*My dear parishioners,*

This weekend we begin listening to Matthew's account of Jesus' public ministry. Matthew recognises that Jesus' location, known in his time as Galilee, but to Isaiah as Zebulun and Naphtali, fulfils the ancient prophecy that, *'the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone'*. What wonderful hope Isaiah offered in this beautiful image of light dispelling darkness. Are we not experiencing the joy of this as the evening light begins to lengthen? We celebrated the birth of Christ at Christmas; the Light of the World has come to shine on us. How wonderful is that!

Jesus is the fulfilment of the ancient prophecy and he begins his public ministry by announcing the Good News that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand and by inviting his hearers to sincere repentance. This is not a word that we use much today, but its meaning is truly life-giving; repentance lets us know that we can change our minds about how we live and we can change our hearts about how we love, especially if we have grown cold or indifferent. What joy! We are not set in stone. Jesus believes in us and so he begins to call people to follow him. Jesus saw something beautiful in Peter and Andrew, James and John, perhaps something they themselves could not see. The truth is, Jesus sees something beautiful in each one of us and that's why he invites us to follow him. It's in the following that we come to see what Jesus loves in us. What a beautiful moment to renew our following of Jesus.

*Father O'Brien*

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

**Saturday January 21st**  
**Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm**  
**Vigil Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm**

**Sunday January 22nd 2023**  
**Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am**  
**Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am**

*Please join us in the hall after the 10.30am Mass this Sunday for a coffee morning; proceeds to Mary's Meals, this Scottish charity which is so loved by us.*

**Monday January 23rd:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

*Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm; Confessions from 6.30-6.45pm*

**Tuesday: January 24th:** Mass at St Paul's at 10am; *St. Paul's Primary will be with us*  
*We will anticipate tomorrow's feast of the Conversion of St. Paul; please join us if you are free.*

**Wednesday January 25th:** Requiem Mass for Mrs Anne McGuire at 12.30pm

**Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

**Saturday January 28th:**

Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm

Mass at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

**Sunday January 29th:**

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

**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.

*New members are most welcome.*

**The Parish Walking Group** goes from strength to strength; new members are always welcome; simply come along 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.

**Motherwell Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 14th-21st July 2023:** the diocese will once again make a spiritual pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Lourdes, where St. Bernadette Soubirous experienced her mystical encounters with Our Lady; the cost will be around £1,000 and this includes travel and full-board. A diocesan pilgrimage is a beautiful way to visit Lourdes, especially if you have never visited before.

**Youth Group Needed to Assist the Pilgrimage:** Bishop Toal hopes that some of our young people (aged between 18-25 years) will accompany the pilgrimage to provide much needed physical assistance, especially with wheel-chairs to and from the grotto and assistance with the Liturgy; there will be a meeting for those interested with Fr. Mark O'Donnell, parish priest of St. Aloysius, Chapelhall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm; contact [frodonnell@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frodonnell@rcdom.org.uk).

**Please remember in your prayers:**

**Recently Deceased:** Desmond Henaghen, Anne McGuire, Anne McMahon, Roseanne McCormick, Billy Gray, Fr. Joseph Clements, Fi Marron, Paul McGlone, Arlene Jenkinson, Michael Barkey, Celeste Barclay, Rachael Church, Michael Lyons, Joseph O'Donnell, Margaret Duddy, Michael Donnelly, Michael McGarrity,

**Special Remembrance:**

John McInnes, Campbell Esper, Ann Day Quay, Dan Daly, Diane Daly, William and Mary Burns, Alex and Anna Darragh, Margaret Scanlan, James O'Donnell, Jean McAvoy, Rose Terrett, Joseph O'Neill, John and Julia O'Neill, Brian and Margaret Bonnar, Catherine Devanney, Lynne Devanney, Daniel Devanney, Fr. Joseph Brannigan, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*