



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year

October 22nd 2023

Dear parishioners at St. Mary's and St. Paul's,

I want to say sincere thanks for the beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving we celebrated last Sunday morning to honour the river of grace that has flowed from St. Paul's Church, Whitehill, since it opened its doors in 1955. We filled the church to overflowing and we sang and prayed our way through the moving liturgy to mark the closure of our much loved building.

So many families and friends came to say 'Thank You' to St. Paul's for blessings received over the years. How good and strengthening it was to have Bishop Joseph presiding at the Eucharist and praying with us and for us. Even the weather was on our side, enabling us to gather outside after the liturgy to greet one another and indeed to comfort one another. I think the Mass of Thanksgiving will remain long in the memory of all who were present.

The next stage of our journey together as St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish will see us continue as the one parish, but with only one church building, and that will be the venerable old house of prayer that we know and love as St. Mary's Hamilton, the mother church of the whole of South Lanarkshire. This will be our common spiritual home, where we will gather now as a parish community to celebrate the Eucharist together. Let us open wide the doors of St. Mary's and our own hearts in warm welcome to our friends and neighbours from St. Paul's.

It is clear that the 21st century has its own particular challenges for us as Christians, especially the movement away from regular practise of the Christian faith. It is important that we face these challenges as a community. The truth is we need one another very much. We often sing the popular hymn, "Bind us together Lord" and my deepest hope as your parish priest is that the Lord Jesus will bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Together let us make our parish a beautiful place that is welcoming and life-giving.

Father O'Brien

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

Monday October 23rd: Requiem Mass for Mr. Peter Devine at St. Mary's at 10am
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm

Tuesday October 24th: Requiem Mass for Mr. Jim Carr at St. Mary's at 10am
Reception on Monday at 6.15pm

Wednesday October 25th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am. *Rosary at 9.40am*

Thursday October 26th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am *Rosary at 9.40am*

New Mass Times at St. Mary's Church: the **Vigil Mass will move to 5pm** and the **Sunday Masses will be at 9am and 10.30am**. This will last for a trial period to see if in fact we will need two Sunday Morning Masses. *I hope this proves to be the case.*

Saturday, October 28th
Vigil at St. Mary's at 5pm

Sunday, October 29th
Mass at St. Mary's at 9am and 10.30am

An Important Statement from Bishop Toal on 'Project Wellspring': I am pleased to announce we have very recently launched a new renewal project entitled *Wellspring* which seeks to equip the Diocese of Motherwell for growth over the next 10 years. The primary focus of this new project will be to renew and re-energise our missions by setting out a simple Gospel-centred vision and a fresh, new pastoral plan. It will also include a strategy for property and finance management.

We are already engaged in the early stages of planning with the clergy, supported by a small team of unpaid lay professionals who will manage the process with us. The discussion phases will very soon engage parishes and laity so that we can all contribute to the important work of preparing for the future. I expect to engage the entire diocesan community, young and old, as we move into 2024.

I am excited at the prospect of setting a new course as we look ahead with confidence to the next 10 years of mission in our diocese. Please pray that *Wellspring* will indeed be a great gift that renews and strengthens our bonds with the Lord and his Church. Pray too, that it inspires sisters and brothers who have distanced themselves to re-engage with the regular practice of the Catholic Faith. *May Our Lady of Good Aid, our Patroness and Mother, crown our work with her grace.*

A Message from Missio Scotland: This Sunday is World Mission Sunday, please take home a copy of the Mission Month magazine and read about the projects Missio Scotland is supporting in Sri Lanka, such as: nourishing children physically and educationally, providing woman who have suffered greatly in their lives with the chance to earn their a livelihood as well as literally and spiritually building the church there.

Mission Month and World Mission Sunday offer us the chance to support missionaries and the church in proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world, particularly where the church is young or poor, and remind us of the revitalising mission that is at the heart of our faith. The world Mission Sunday collection, taken up worldwide, ensures that this life-saving and life-giving work can continue. Your donations and prayers make a vital difference to the Church's work in mission countries and are an effective way by which you can support the universal Church. Thank you for your generosity. *In these challenging times please feel free to keep your offertory donation for the second collection*

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

Please pray for,

Recently Deceased: Tommy Selfridge, John Flynn, Peter Devine, Jim Carr, William McCole, Jim Donnelly, Stephen McQuillan

Special Remembrance: John and Mary McCaig, Jim and Mary Neary, Hugh Connor, May Kinnie, Olga Levickis, Anna McAdam, Minnie Morgan, John Allen, Ella Muir, Mary Casserley and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.