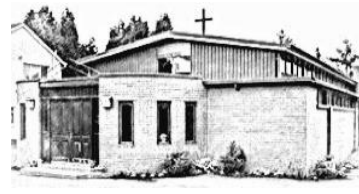




St. Mary's R. C. Church
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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest
Charity Number - SC011041
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Newsletter

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year

September 17th 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well and enjoying the beginning of the beautiful season of Autumn. It will not be long until we hear the crunching of leaves underneath our feet.

On June 20th of this year, those who were able met together at St. Paul's to share how we are feeling about the prospect of our little church building closing its doors. Of course it is moving to share in this way because we listen to an outpouring of genuine concern for others: for the teachers and children at school next door, for the elderly and frail who still make great efforts to take their place at the eucharist, for those who laboured to build up the parish of St. Paul's in years past. It's no exaggeration to say it was often a moving expression of love and concern. In a very real sense, it is the church community at its very best, caring for one another.

At the end of the meeting I said I would get further reports carried out, especially of the church roof, boiler house and boiler, church windows and church house boiler. In light of these findings, and in light of the challenges facing the diocese in the near future regarding staffing and falling numbers at the liturgy, there is no doubt that we have moved to a new stage of our journey as the parish of St. Mary's and St. Paul's. What we do know for sure is that we can face the future together, for we have already travelled far since we came together in 2012.

I will be away for some days this coming week and so I suggest that we meet together at St. Paul's on Wednesday, September 27th at 6.30pm. I have invited Bishop Toal and Mr. Guy Logan, the Estates Manager of the Diocese, to join us. I hope, if you are free, you will meet with us there.

I have said to you before that a parish priest is never less alone than when alone, for he carries his people in his heart. So be assured that, in these days away for me, you will be very much in my thoughts and prayers. I know that you will be remembering me in your own good prayers,

Father O'Brien

Please welcome the Spiritan Fathers from Carfin who will be with us this weekend and for the weekday liturgy.

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

Monday September 18th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40

Tuesday September 19th: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday September 20th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Thursday September 21st: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Saturday, September 23rd

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday, September 24th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Wrap-Up Lanarkshire Appeal: once again the Rotary Club of Hamilton are inviting us to support 28 local charities which care for people who are homeless, seeking refuge from domestic violence, reliant on food-banks or refugees seeking asylum. Please donate a spare winter coat, jacket or anorak by bringing it here to the church during September. *It was the late Mr. Harry Doyle who arranged this in the past and so let us do this in memory of Harry, who is greatly missed here at St. Mary's*

The Parish Walking Group meets every Tuesday at 11am at the Museum on Muir Street. Those gathered walk for around 1 hour and then enjoy some refreshments together in the Museum café. *New walkers are always welcome.*

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: John Jones, Margaret Kane, Grazi Ventioei, Donald Alan McQuarry, Flora Ann McLean, Isobel Parker, Catherine Casey (London), George Currie, James Campbell, Andrea McGarry (Australia), Jimmy Carr (Carfin), Jim Scrimgeour, Mary Duffy

Special Remembrance: Eddie Power, Barbara Burke, Catherine Phairs, John and Kathleen Lynas, Jim Gracie, deceased members of the Dalton and McKenna Families, Brian Scrimgeour, Sandy Kennedy, Margaret Stewart, Elsie Daly, Matthew Munro, Marie Stirrat, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Mary and Michael O'Brien, James and Helen Lennon and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.