



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

**Fr Henry O'Brien St. Paul's R. C.**

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## Newsletter

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10th 2024

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

**Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, and Bishop President of SCIAF, has sent the following letter to be shared this weekend, to mark SCIAF Sunday.**

I write on this fourth Sunday of Lent on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland, to thank you for your generous support of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. Your prayers, donations and gifts of time through volunteering continue to encourage the Bishops, and of course make possible the life-transforming work of SCIAF. With your support, SCIAF continues to stand in solidarity with the people we serve, and especially today on this SCIAF Sunday. It is a huge honour to be SCIAF's Bishop President and to play a role in the direction we move in after nearly 60 years of helping to support the poorest communities around the world.

We are part of the global Catholic Church and believe it to be our duty and our privilege to respond to the cry of the poor. Working with our Church partners all over the world, we help people to help themselves out of poverty and we campaign for a world where everyone, everywhere, has the basics they need to survive and thrive. We, the Church, are one body with many parts, all working together to put our faith into action. *Serving the poor is absolutely at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic.*

This year's WEE BOX Lenten appeal brings our attention to the country of Rwanda, a beautiful country known as, *the land of a thousand hills*, but also a country with suffering and trauma, much of this following on from the horrors of the genocide 30 years ago – a time where it is estimated that one million people were killed. SCIAF has been supporting projects in Rwanda for many years and has a close relationship with the Catholic Church there. We recently spoke to Cardinal Kambanda, Archbishop of Kigali, who wants to share the following thoughts with you:

'It's now 30 years since the genocide, a very difficult period in the history of Rwanda when so many people were killed. The war, the exile, the genocide left so many injured people, physically, psychologically and spiritually. It left a lot of division. We have neighbours, some of them perpetrators, while others are survivors of the genocide, who live side by side. It has been a long period of reconciliation, but we thank God that the process has gone well so far. But the genocide has also left internal injuries and wounds that require healing from the trauma that both young and old experienced. We are dealing with many challenges. SCIAF has been a partner for many years. They accompany us. Current education projects are supporting the prevention of violence and preparing Rwanda for a peaceful future. This prepares children to be peacemakers and to build peaceful families of tomorrow. Our history however continues to impact violent acts, especially those directed towards women and girls, despite efforts to promote harmony and peace. We are very grateful to SCIAF for all these years, for what we do together in Jesus' name and we thank all the people who support SCIAF.

**God bless you and your families during this Holy Season of Lent.'**

**Brian McGee, Bishop President of SCIAF**

**Monday March 11th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am Confessions at 6.30-7.50pm; Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm*

**Tuesday March 12th: Mass in St. Mary's at 10am**

*Stations of the Cross at 9.40am*

**Wednesday March 13th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Thursday March 14th Requiem Mass for Mrs Annie Wilson at 10am**

*Stations of the Cross at 9.40am*

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**Parish Conversation about the Wellspring Pastoral Project:** please join us in the parish hall on **Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** to share your thoughts about this important initiative in our Diocese. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you intend to come along; this will enable us to plan for the evening. *Thank you.*

**CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group** meets this Tuesday in the parish meeting room at 1 o'clock; new members are always welcome and some tea and biscuits are shared together at the end of the meeting.

**Lenten reflection Group on Wednesday Evenings in the parish meeting room at 7pm, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>;** Mr. Ronnie Boyd has offered to lead the group and if you would like to take part please contact him on 07803941573 or [ronnieboyd@icloud.com](mailto:ronnieboyd@icloud.com)

**St Patrick's Night Celebration in the Parish Hall on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm;** please join us for this social gathering; tickets cost £15 and this includes a dinner and some musical entertainment; tickets are available at the back of the church or from the sacristy.

**Coffee Mornings at St. Mary and St. Paul's:** thank you to everyone who supported our recent coffee morning and to those who provided home-baking and helped in the kitchen; we donated £200 to the Hamilton Foodbank. Our next Coffee Morning will be **Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>** after both Sunday morning Masses. There will be a small selection of Fairtrade Foods and Cards for sale including Fairtrade Easter Eggs.

**A Message from St. Andrew's Hospice: Make a Will Month – March 2024:** make or update your Will and support St. Andrew's Hospice during the month of March. Several Lanarkshire Legal Firms have agreed to write a basic Will or update an existing Will and waive their legal fee, in return for a donation to St. Andrew's Hospice. For further information please contact Lorna McCafferty, Trusts, Legacy and Individual Giving Manager at St. Andrew's Hospice on 01236 772087 or email [lorna.mccafferty@standrews.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:lorna.mccafferty@standrews.scot.nhs.uk)

**Bank Mandates:** the Diocese of Motherwell recently transferred all parish bank accounts to the Bank of Scotland. All those who support the parish through a Standing Order paid into Virgin Money, please check, when you receive your March/April statements, that your contribution has been automatically transferred to the new parish account with Bank of Scotland. *Thank you.*

**Recently Deceased:** Annie Wilson, Annie O'Connell, Judith Wardle, John Darby, Ronnie Vaneker, Joseph Moran, Frank Allen, Helen Strachan, Anne Marie Rodden

**Special Remembrance:** Winnie Maxwell, Marilyn Shearer, Annie and John Donnachie, Kay Clancy, John and Elizabeth Fulton, James Fulton, Brigid and Marie Lynas, Nessie Lynas, Catherine Coyle, Helen Strachan, Mary and John Dalton, Eilidh McHugh, Thomas McKain and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.