



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 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 16th 2020

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

I hope this message finds you well as we continue to adjust to the many different aspects of life in 'the new normal'. Although it has many challenges, this week we have had the joy of our schools returning for the new academic year. It is a moment that we have prayed for and looked forward to for many months, not least the parents and grandparents of the children and young people!

Let us pray now for the health and wellbeing of the staff and pupils at our three fine schools, Holy Cross High School, St. Mary's Primary and St. Paul's Primary. I had a brief visit to St. Mary's and St. Paul's on Tuesday to greet the staff and it was heartening to see their enthusiasm at returning to work that means so much to them. As a parish, let us try to support the schools in whatever way we can. May this prove to be the best of years!

This weekend we celebrate the great Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In some ways it is the paramount feast of Our Lady, since it commemorates her passing, body and soul, into glory in Heaven, where she stands beside her Son 'in garments of gold.' Widely believed in the church for many centuries, the dogma was defined by Pope Pius XII before a huge crowd in St. Peter's Square on 1st November 1950. The promulgation was received with great joy by the Catholic Church throughout the world.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary honours the blessedness that was her destiny, the glorification of the immaculate soul and virginal body that completely conformed her to the risen Christ. This is a celebration that offers to the church and to all humanity an exemplar as well as a very consoling message, for it teaches us the fulfilment of our deepest hopes. This feast allows us to glimpse the glorification that awaits those whom Christ has made his brothers and sisters by taking on their flesh and blood. Where Mary is now, we one day hope to be.

Over the centuries the church has come to know and love the Virgin Mother of Jesus and to trust in her powerful intercession. At various crucial moments in humanity's history, we have learned of her great love of the Rosary and so the church has come to treasure this special prayer, turning to pray it with renewed reverence in times of crisis. We are experiencing a crucial moment of our own through the great human suffering caused by the coronavirus pandemic and its effects. The sufferings we are witnessing throughout the world, especially in places where there is little health care and minimal support, fill our hearts with anguish and compassion for our brothers and sisters.

We too can find renewed strength and courage in praying the Rosary each day and meditating with Mary on the mysteries of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. I know of people who pray the rosary when alone in the car, or walking in the park or sitting in the garden; others who pray the rosary in a quiet corner of their home or in a private moment in church or with their family. As we contemplate Mary, assumed body and soul into heaven, we can find great consolation in knowing that she is

readily accessible to us all in prayer and we know that a prayer she greatly values is the Rosary. It is at our fingertips if we wish to use it!

Please know that you and your families will be in my heart in a special way as I celebrate the liturgy of the Assumption,
Father O'Brien

A Message from the Catholic Men's Society: the CMS continue to meet via Zoom on Monday mornings at 11am to discuss matters of faith and practice in the modern world. Any men of the parish who wish to join in this conversation would be most welcome. Please contact Peter Lavery at laverypeter93@yahoo.com

St. Mary's has seating for thirty-six people (the balcony is not to be used)

St. Paul's has seating for thirty people.

Please think about choosing St. Paul's for your visit as it may well be quieter there, especially on Sunday morning.

The Diocese has recommended that we have a booking system for places at the liturgy; this is for safety reasons and also to ensure that people are not disappointed if they arrive at church and discover they cannot enter. For each service the parish **must** retain details of all those attending to ensure that contact tracing can be carried out if necessary.

Please consult the parish website, stmarysandstpaulshamilton.org, to book a place through Eventbrite or by phoning the church house. Details of our services will be given on the parish website, but please be aware that timings for Mass on the Sunday are different to our normal programme:

Sunday services at St. Mary's: Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm and Sunday Morning at 10.30am
Sunday Services at St. Paul's: Saturday Vigil at 4pm and Sunday Morning at 9.15am.

The weekday Masses this week will be at St. Mary's:

Monday at 10am;

Tuesday at 10am is the Requiem for Mr. Walter Stewart, requiescat in pace

Wednesday at 10am

Please book through Eventbrite as this makes things easier for the stewards meeting you at the church door.

The guidelines from the Government advise that on entering the building you will be asked to wear a face-covering (this can be a scarf rather than a face-mask) and use the sanitizing gel for your hands. You will then be shown to a seat. As you leave the building you will be asked to use the gel once more. I am sure that we will very quickly adjust to this 'new normal' for the moment.

Thank you to those parishioners who have assisted in the re-opening of our churches by acting as stewards or helping with the cleaning of the benches. I know others would like to help and through time we will need you all as it looks as though we are in this for the long haul!

I am aware that the restrictions which are still in place mean that for the foreseeable future we will be much fewer in number for Sunday Mass. The Scottish Bishops have asked the clergy to remind parishioners that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. This leads me to suggest that you consider attending one of the weekday Masses, especially if you are retired or still furloughed from your employment. This would also leave places free on the Sunday for those who are working.

Recently Deceased: Walter Stewart, Kenneth Smith, John Lynch, Catherine McKee, Mary McLaughlin, Helen Lowe, William (Bill) Kane, Vicky Glancy, Frances Murphy, Christopher Airlie, Sarah McBain, Mark Murray, Jack McCormick, Rita Lyons

Special Remembrance: Elizabeth Welsh, Bill Malone, Kevin Doran, and our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's through the years, *reqiescant in pace.*