



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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6th 2020

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

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent and the following paragraphs from Pope Benedict are offered here for your reflection:

“In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes towards the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion his birth at Bethlehem, they kneel before the crib. The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past. In the fullness of time, the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary “Born of a woman, born under the law”, as the Apostle Paul writes (Gal 4:4). We might say that Advent is the season in which Christians must rekindle in their hearts the hope that they will be able with God’s help to renew the world.

A message full of hope resounds in the liturgy of Advent, inviting us to raise our gaze to the ultimate horizon but at the same time to recognise the signs of the God-with-us in the present. On this Second Sunday of Advent the Word of God acquires the moving tones of the prophet Isaiah, who announced to the Israelites, tried by decades of bitter exile in Babylon, liberation at last: “Comfort, comfort my people”. This is what the Lord wishes to do in Advent: to speak to the heart of his people and through it to the whole of humanity, to proclaim salvation.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

Let us hope and pray that, with the arrival of vaccines, our own liberation from the global pandemic will take place. Until that happy day, let us continue to support one another through acts of kindness and words of encouragement.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: this beautiful feast is a mystery of our Catholic Faith. It is one of several points where Our Lady was treated in a privileged way by God, emphasising her unique place in God’s plan of salvation. As a doctrine of the church it was only promulgated in 1854, but had been a strong popular belief for centuries. Our own Blessed John Duns Scotus (1266-1308) was one of the greatest champions of this dogma.

Christmas Cards are available in the parish meeting room at St. Mary’s this weekend; we will need to observe the usual protocols regarding wearing masks, sanitizing of hands and social distancing. Clare Jones will be present to guide you.

Booking for Weekday Masses needs to be done on a weekly basis to allow for Requiems; booking for the coming week will be possible on Saturday evenings around 8pm. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

St. Mary's has seating for twenty people

St. Paul's has seating for twenty people.

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

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 10.am (Requiem for Mr. Kevin Bryant)

Tuesday at 10am

Wednesday at 10am;

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

Please note that Government guidelines state that only 20 people are permitted to attend Requiems. This means that funerals should be looked upon as private family gatherings; thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Recently Deceased: Kevin Bryant, Vincenzo Crolla, David Marshal, James Cahill, Malcolm Lowe, Charles Marchetti, Bernard Carr

Special Remembrance: John Fitzpatrick Jnr., Jim Cox, Neil McMurray, Essie and David McDonald, Martin Cullen 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*.