



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

Newsletter

Thirty Second Sunday of the Year

Nov 8th 2020

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

You remain very much in my thoughts and prayers as we journey through the daily challenges of the pandemic. As your parish priest I am asked by the church to offer Mass every Sunday for the people entrusted to my pastoral care, which includes all those living within the parish boundary. In fact, St. Mary's and St. Paul's is the only parish where I have served as a parish priest and this special moment in the week has come to mean a great deal to me over the years.

A priest has privileged access to people at important moments in life and so on a Sunday I am aware of every parishioner, from those who are still hidden in their mother's womb, those at school, college and university, those preparing for sacraments, including marriage, those who have received difficult news about their health, those who have suffered the breakup of an important relationship, those who have lost their job, those who have been bereaved and those who have died.

You will know from being present at the liturgy that I often ask you to share in this Mass *'for the people of the parish'*, for in some very real ways we share this pastoral concern for one another and we do this in all sorts of ways, in family life, in our neighbourhood, in our schools and in our parish. For those who have been unable to be with us on a Sunday because of the pandemic I want to remind you that this takes place every Sunday and ask you to pray that we can keep on encouraging one another, looking out for each other and caring for each other.

As you know the numbers allowed at the liturgy are very restricted and of course this is for our own safety. It is important that we abide by the rules laid down by the Scottish Government so that our churches remain open. No one would want to return to the experience of the Lockdown, where our churches were completely closed to the public. Having said that, I am aware from speaking with some of you that you are finding it frustrating trying to get a booking for Mass and finding the places already filled. All I can say to you is that, as your parish priest, I share that frustration and feel a deep concern that you are unable to take your place at the Eucharist and receive the mystery of Christ in the great sacrament of Holy Communion.

I would encourage you to treasure this sense of longing for the Eucharist and to offer that very longing to Christ in prayer, asking him to bring this long Eucharistic fast to an end. Until that happy day, I urge you to continue making the effort to take part in Mass through the internet, and at the moment of Holy Communion to make a spiritual communion with the risen Lord.

Finally, in this month of November I ask you pray in a special way for those who have died and for those who have been bereaved during 2020. It is now forty-four people and forty-four families who have lost someone they have loved. The virus has come like a thief in the night to take from us what is very precious.

My dear parishioners, in these difficult times, let us treasure one another and our shared life together, this life that is so precious and yet so vulnerable, and let us treasure our parish of St.

Mary's and St. Paul's, which remains your spiritual home even if you are unable to be present in person. Believe me when I say, you are not forgotten!
Father O'Brien

A Message from Bishop Toal:

November is the month when, by tradition, we pray for the eternal rest of our deceased relatives and friends. This year, in all our churches, we remember especially those who have died during the pandemic. We also pray for those who have lost someone they loved, for those who were unable to say goodbye, and for those who are suffering the pain of grief. We pray for confidence in the loving mercy of God, for faith in the Resurrection to new life and for the hope of being reunited in God's kingdom.

November Lists: you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased relatives and friends and bring them in an envelope to be placed before the altar during this special month of remembrance for our faithful departed. Many of you include a donation (which you do not need to do); for many years we gathered these donations together and sent them to Fr. Martin Kelly to help with his ministry in Peru. Since his retirement we have sent them to a small Catholic Charity called IRT (International Refugee Trust) which seeks to support some of the most disadvantaged people in our world. So we will do the same again this year; as we remember our dear departed relatives and friends with thanksgiving, let us give others a chance at life.

This weekend we continue our parish celebration of First Holy Communion. I look forward very much to welcoming our young parishioners and their families for this special occasion. Please remember our First Communicants and their families in your prayers,

First Holy Communion Cards and Gifts are available in the stall at St. Mary's Church and in the stall at St. Paul's Church.

Christmas Cards will be available in the parish meeting room at St. Mary's from next 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 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 10.am; Requiem for Mrs. Catherine McArthur
Tuesday at 9.15am; Requiem for Mr. Gino Palazzo
Wednesday at 10am; Requiem for Mr. Kevin Shallow
Thursday at 10am; Requiem for Mr. Michael McCafferty
Monday, 16th Nov at 10am; Requiem for Mr. Guiseppe Clemente

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: Michael McCafferty, Guiseppe Clemente, Catherine McArthur, Kevin Shallow, Eugenio Palazzo, Arthur Pollock, Catherine McCready,

Special Remembrance: Margaret Burke, Maureen and Bertie Dawson, Frank Lyons, Frank Cullen, Patrick Hughes, James McGunnigal, Selina McGeever, Maureen Gillespie, Anne O'Donnell, 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.*

Remembrance Sunday: we join with so many others this weekend in praying for all who have lost their lives through warfare, *requiescant in pace.*