



St. Mary's R. C. Church

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP
Tel: 01698 423552



St. Paul's R. C. Church

Backmuir Road, Hamilton, ML3 0PX
Tel: 01698 423552

Fr Henry O'Brien – Parish Priest

Charity Number - SC011041

www.stmarysandstpaulsparishhamilton.org

Newsletter

Twenty-First Sunday of Year

August 23rd 2020

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

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits despite the many challenges we face at this time. Even though I am sincerely grateful that some of us can gather around the altar of the Lord on Sunday, I miss very much the gathering of our full community for the Eucharist. Please know that you are very much in my thoughts and prayers at the liturgy.

In this Sunday's gospel we listen to the beautiful moment, at Caesarea Philippi, when Simon makes his profession of faith in Jesus: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"*. Jesus responds by re-naming him: *"Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man, because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it."*

Recently, while looking for something else, I came across some words from Pope St. John Paul II, one of the truly great successors of Peter, and I thought you might like to hear them, especially in these days that can feel so uncertain. The following paragraphs are from his homily at Bellahouston Park on a beautiful day in May, 1982:

"We are gathered here on this Scottish hillside to celebrate Mass. Are we not like those first followers who sat at the feet of Jesus on the hillside near Capernaum? With words simple and clear, Jesus outlined the requirements for admission to his heavenly kingdom: to be generous, simple, gentle and above all sincere. To avoid being arrogant, censorious or self-seeking. To aim for the Kingdom requires a radical change in outlook, in behaviour, in relation with others.

Be loyal to the memory of those valiant forerunners in the Faith. Be diligent in handing on intact the spiritual heritage committed to you. Be faithful to your daily prayers, to the Mass, to the Sacrament of Penance, defend the sacredness of life and the holiness of matrimony. Understand your holy Catholic faith and live by its teaching. Face up to the difficult challenges of modern life with Christian fortitude and patience.

You are heirs to a sacred heritage. Your forefathers have handed on to you the only inheritance they really prized, our holy catholic faith! From their place in heaven their heartfelt appeal to you would be this: Set your hearts on his Kingdom."

Pope John Paul II, now St. John Paul II, will be praying for us from his place in heaven. May his words, spoken all those years ago, strengthen us to embrace the values of the Kingdom: to be generous, simple, gentle and sincere. As long as this pandemic lasts let us go on encouraging one another. We all need it!

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 is the Requiem for Mrs. Elizabeth Mudie, requiescat in pace

Tuesday at 10am

Wednesday at 10am is the Requiem for Mr. John Cosgrove, requiescat in pace

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: Elizabeth Mudie, John Cosgrove, Catherine Burns, Jane Dalton, 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: Ellen McCourt, Janet Higgins, Winnie Maxwell, Karen Wilson, Mark Hughes, John Kane, Edward Power, Paul McGowan, 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, *requiescant in pace*.