



**The Catholic Parish of
St. Mary & St. Paul, Hamilton**

120 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HP

Parish Priest Fr Henry O'Brien

Charity Number SC011041

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Sunday Masses: Vigil 5pm, 9am and 10:30am

Confessions: Saturday 4:30 – 4:50pm

Newsletter

Solemnity of Christ the King

November 24th 2024

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well and adjusting to the onset of the cold weather; winter has its own beauty and its own challenges!

This weekend, with the Feast of Christ the King, we reach a solemn moment in our journey through the Church's liturgy. This year we listen to the gospel of John and we find Jesus standing before Pilate, who asks him: "*Are you the King of the Jews?*" I'm sure it was a new experience for Pilate, for a prisoner to reply with a question of his own: "*Do you ask this of your own accord or have others spoken to you about me?*" It is clear that Pilate is intrigued by Jesus and we are left with the feeling that it is Pilate who is on trial. As the dialogue moves forward we hear Pilate say, "*So you are a king then*", And Jesus replies: "*It is you who say it. Yes, I am a King, I was born for this. I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.*"

What a moment for Pilate, what a moment for us listening to this gospel, and what a moment for humanity as a whole. It really is us who are on trial. Will we choose to be on the side of truth and bear witness to the truth, even when that will prove costly? This is the question which the church has faced since apostolic times and it the question of the moment: Will we bear witness to the truth of Jesus and his Gospel of Life?

November Mass for the Faithful Departed: an important part of a parish priest's ministry is the celebration of the Catholic funeral liturgy for his parishioners. It is a privilege and a responsibility to offer the Requiem Mass for the deceased. For families, is a very important moment as they gather to offer thanks for all the blessings of the life of the loved one who has passed. There is no doubt that the first year of bereavement is difficult, for there are so many significant moments when we really miss the physical presence of the one who has passed.

Please join us on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm when we will remember in a special way the thirty-eight parishioners who have died since last November as well as all the faithful departed of our parish, St. Mary's and St. Paul's. Afterwards please come through to the parish hall for some refreshments together.

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday November 25th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions at 6.30pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday November 26th: Evening Mass for the Faithful Departed at 6.30pm

No morning Mass

Wednesday November 27th: Requiem Mass for Mr. Daniel Coffey at 10.30am

Thursday November 28th Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am

Faith in Action for Young People: in line with the Wellspring Project, this new parish initiative hopes to engage teens and young adults in their local community, while exploring faith together. We would need a team of interested adults to support this project. If you have an interest in exploring this further please contact Claire Moinar on 07906 832201

Annual Diocesan Catholic Education Mass takes place on Monday 25th November in Motherwell Cathedral at 7pm. Bishop Toal invites the priests and people of the diocese to join him for this special liturgy and especially those involved in the life of our schools.

Mass for Life in St. Bernard's Church, Coatbridge, on Thursday 27th November at 7pm. This special liturgy takes place on the Eve of the Vote on Assisted Dying in the House of Commons. It is an opportunity for the church to gather in prayer.

Staff and pupils of St. Mary's Primary School warmly invite senior citizens and parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish to the Christmas Nativity on Wednesday 11th December at 1pm; if you would like to attend, please write your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of the church.

Staff and pupils of St. Paul's Primary School warmly invite you to visit their Christmas Fayre on Friday 29th November at 1.30pm.

A Message from Kilbryde Hospice (East Kilbride): as the Christmas holiday season approaches we are excited to share some of the upcoming events and initiatives with you. Please come along to our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 30th November, 11am-3pm; join us for a festive day filled with: stalls brimming with holiday treasures; teas, cakes and delightful treats; a raffle with exciting treats and a visit from Santa at the Grotto.

Selection Box Appeal: as part of their seasonal efforts, Kilbryde Hospice is collecting selection boxes to share with those in need during this special time of year; the Hospice would be grateful for any donations.

Advent Holy Hour for young adults on December 3rd in Motherwell Cathedral at 7.30-8.30pm

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group meets on Tuesdays at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; all are welcome to take part and to enjoy some tea and biscuits afterwards.

The Parish Defibrillator is located in the first confessional and is clearly visible on the wall as you open the door.

Please pray for all who are ill: John Rimmer, Jim Breslin, Jim Strachan

Recently Deceased: Daniel Coffey, David Rankin, John McKale, Jimmy Connor, Elizabeth Dunn

Special Remembrance: Geraldine and John McCarthy, Alex and Anna Darragh and all our deceased relatives and friends.