



**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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15th 2024

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well as we draw closer to the great feast of Christmas. On this Third Sunday of Advent, I offer these words from Pope Francis for your reflection:

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, which is characterised by St. Paul's invitation, "*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice...the Lord is at hand.*" It is not a superficial or purely emotional cheerfulness that the apostle exhorts, nor is it the cheerfulness of worldliness or of consumerism. No, it is not that, but rather it entails a more authentic joy, the taste of which we are called to rediscover; the taste of true joy. It is a joy that touches our innermost being, as we await Jesus, who has already come to bring salvation to the world, the promised Messiah, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary.

We are called to let ourselves be drawn by the feeling of exultation; it is heartfelt joy, the joy within which leads us forth and gives us courage. The Lord comes, he comes into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience, and of perseverance because upon his return our joy will be overflowing. Christmas is near, the signs of his approach are evident along our streets and in our homes; here too in St. Peter's Square, the nativity scene has been set up with the tree beside it. These outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord, who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us, he invites us to recognise his footsteps among the brothers and sisters who pass beside us, especially the weakest and those most in need. Today we are called to share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope to the poor, the sick, and to people who are lonely and unhappy."
Pope Francis

Sacrament of Reconciliation: please note the following opportunities to make a sacramental confession as part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas:

Monday evening, 6.15-6.45pm

Wednesday, after the 10am Mass

Next Saturday morning, 11am-12 noon (the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed)

Next Saturday evening, 4.15-4.45pm

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday December 16th: Requiem Mass for Mrs. Helen Mallagh at 10am

Confessions at 6.15pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday December 17th: Mass at 10am;

Rosary at 9.40am

Wednesday December 18th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40am; Confessions after Mass

Thursday December 19th: Mass at 10am

St. Mary's Primary will be with us to mark the end of term

Christmas Liturgy at St. Mary's and St. Paul's

December 24th Christmas Eve

Mass at 4pm and 8pm

December 25th Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Mass at 9am and 10.30am

A Message from Bishop Toal: the Holy Year opens in our diocese with a pilgrimage to the Cathedral, walking behind the Cross prepared by Holy Cross High School; we are a pilgrim people who follow the Cross of Christ, which remains the anchor of Salvation; please gather at Carfin Grotto at 1pm on Sunday 29th December for a short gathering that opens the Holy Year in our Diocese. Bishop Toal and a small group of young people will then make the first part of the pilgrimage towards the Cathedral.

All people from across the diocese are invited to gather at St. Bride's Hall Motherwell at 2.30pm for the short walk behind the Cross to the Cathedral, where there will be veneration of the Cross, renewal of our baptismal promises and the celebration of Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family.

The Parish Council thanks everyone who made last week's coffee morning so successful.

Santa's Sausage Sunday proved to be very popular! Thank you to everyone who gave generously of their time to serve in the hall and to everyone who came to enjoy a roll with sausage!

The proceeds, which came to £500, will be donated to Kilbryde Hospice. Thank you!

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group will meet this week; the group will meet as normal next Tuesday 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: Jim Breslin, Jim Strachan

Recently Deceased: Helen Mallagh, Robert McArthur, John Rimmer, Andrew Montgomery, Thomas McNally (Brighton), Maureen McGhee, James Kaney

Special Remembrance: Margaret Duffin, Catherine Seagrave, Mark Hughes, Thomas, Elizabeth and John Kane, Edward McGeary, Pat McFadden, Maureen Buttigieg, Elizabeth and Joe McCafferty, Frank and Mary McAteer, Margaret and Brian Bonnar, James Keeney, Margo Egan, Catherine Reilly and all our own deceased relatives and friends and all the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.