



## 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**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year**

**September 22nd 2024**

*My dear parishioners,*

I hope this finds you and your families well as we begin the journey through the beautiful season of autumn. Nature's changing colours, so vivid and varied, remind us that change, while difficult, can also be beautiful. St. John Henry Newman was fond of saying: *to grow is to change and to have changed often is to have grown much!*

I want to thank the Spiritan Fathers from Carfin and also Fr. Johnny, chaplain to the Syro-Malabar Community here in Motherwell Diocese for their pastoral care of St. Mary's and St. Paul's while I was on holiday. I am very grateful to them for making that possible for me. I thank you also for making them warmly welcome, for they have said that was indeed the case.

As I mentioned to you I travelled to Bavaria to visit Fr. Joseph, the previous chaplain to the Syro-Malabar Community and also my good neighbour at St. Cuthbert's for almost ten years, before being asked by his Congregation to move to Germany. He lives now in a lovely small town called Pfreimd, about two hours by train, north of Munich. It was good to see him happy in his new surroundings. From there I travelled on to Rome, where I made a little personal pilgrimage and of course I remembered you and your families in my prayers. A pilgrimage to Rome usually involves a visit to the four great Basilicas, St. Peter's, St. John Lateran's, St. Mary Major's and St. Paul's Outside the Walls. Each of these beautiful churches has a Blessed Sacrament Chapel, where pilgrims are invited to pause and pray before Jesus present in the Tabernacle or indeed exposed in the Monstrance. It was good to be one of those pilgrims and to have those moments of prayer to offer thanks for you all and to pray Christ's blessing upon you and your families. My final visit was to St. Paul's Outside the Walls; in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel there is the Tabernacle of course, and then on either side, a beautiful icon of St. Mary and a very old carved wooden statue of St. Paul. It felt like a very appropriate place for me, as the parish priest of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Hamilton to bring my pilgrimage to its close.

*Father O'Brien*

**Coffee Morning this Sunday after the 9am Mass and the 10.30am Mass:** Fairtrade Fortnight has moved to September this year to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fairtrade Mark-Logo. As we are a Fairtrade parish we are celebrating the occasion by having a Coffee Morning; proceeds will be donated to Hamilton Foodbank.

**I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:**

**Monday September 23rd: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am; our Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will resume next Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm*

**Tuesday September 24th: Requiem Mass for Mrs. Theresa Wilson at 9.30am;**

**Wednesday September 25th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

**Thursday September 26th: Mass at 10am**

*Rosary at 9.40am*

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*Congratulations to Christian Incedon and Marie McGowan who were married at St. Mary's on Saturday afternoon; we wish them a long and happy life together.*

**The Parish Pastoral Council** meets this Wednesday in the parish meeting room at 7pm; your thoughts, comments and ideas are important to us; please speak with one of the council members or write down what you would like to share and place your note in the box at the back of the church.

**A Welcome Mass for our new pupils in Primary One** at St. Mary's Primary School and at St. Paul's Primary School will take place on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> at our 10.30am Mass; afterwards everyone is invited to a Coffee Morning in the parish hall.

**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 Beginning Experience:** once again this good organisation are holding a weekend away for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood; the weekend will take place from 4-6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. For details contact: **Louise** on **07926571004** or email [louisep398@gmail.com](mailto:louisep398@gmail.com); if you know someone for whom this weekend might be of interest then please draw it to their attention; parishioners who have taken part in one of these special weekends have spoken very positively of the experience.

**Please pray for all who are ill:** David Rankin, John Rimmer, Jim Breslin

**Recently Deceased:** Theresa Wilson, June Marcello, Thomas Gallagher (Strathaven)

**Special Remembrance:** Brian Carolan Snr. and Jnr, Eddie Power, John Jones, Marie Stirrit, Elsie Daly, Dick Green, Elizabeth and Joe McCafferty, Mary and Frank McAtear, deceased members of the McCafferty and McAtear families, deceased members of the Dalton and McKenna families, Margaret Stewart, Fr. Jim Foley, Patrick and Joan Lennon, James and Helen Lennon, Mary and Michael O'Brien and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.