



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

May 26th 2024

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

I hope this finds you and your families well. The great spiritual journey of Lent, Holy Week, Eastertide and Pentecost has brought us to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, a feast which invites us to reverence the absolute mystery of Divine Love, the One we call God. I offer these words from Pope Benedict for your reflection:

“On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, the liturgy invites us to praise God not merely for the wonders he has worked, but for who he is; for the beauty and goodness of his divine being from which his action stems. We are invited to contemplate, so to speak, the *Heart of God*, his deepest reality which is his being One in the Trinity, a supreme and profound communion of love and life. The whole of Sacred Scripture speaks to us of him. Indeed it is he who speaks to us of himself in the Scriptures and reveals himself as Creator of the Universe and Lord of History. In the Book of Exodus God proclaims his own name. He does so in the presence of Moses with whom he spoke face to face, as with a friend. And what is Gods name? It never fails to move us: *“The Lord, the Lord, God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”* Pope Benedict XVI

During these sacred months we have also made a very moving journey along at St. Paul's, firstly with the closure and then the beautiful Liturgy of Thanksgiving, presided over by Bishop Toal, for all the graces and blessings received through our little church in Whitehill, dedicated to the apostle Paul. As your parish priest I said to you at the time that it really mattered to me that we made this journey together and that we closed our building with respect and dignity. I am grateful to you for your support in what has been a difficult journey for us all. In these past days the demolition of our buildings has been completed and I know this was distressing for those who live around or near to the church, even for those who are not members of the Catholic Church. It has been moving to listen to them say just how much it meant to them to have the church in their midst.

I want you to know that all of our sacred items were donated to other churches or to our schools; the beautiful Stations of the Cross now hang on the walls of St. Dominic's Church, Craigend, and our Monstrance is used there for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; the altar, the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the statue of Our Lady and the liturgical chairs are now in the Oratory at Holy Cross High School; the lectern is used at St. Paul's Primary when we have Mass in the School, the lovely credence table is used for our altar; one of the other statues of Our Lady is at St. Mary's Primary school and the sacred vessels are used here at St. Mary's.

I am grateful to the men who have worked in the grounds for the great care and respect they have shown in removing the cross from the roof of the church and the wrought iron work giving the name of our parish, St. Paul's Church, before they began the work of demolition. I hope you will agree that we have managed to do something very difficult with sincere respect and dignity.

Of course our journey as St. Mary's and St. Paul's Hamilton continues, for as I have said to you so often, *we are the church*, and so it has been heartening for me as your parish priest, to see our faithful parishioners from St. Paul's taking their place here at St. Mary's for the eucharist; in doing this, you are the living members of the church in Whitehill. We have also celebrated First Holy Communion with some of the pupils from St. Paul's Primary here at St. Mary's; it was a beautiful day and a further sign that we are making this journey together. Where there is a will there is a way! *May St. Mary and St. Paul continue to bless us and show us the way,*
Father O'Brien

I offer here the Schedule for the Daily Liturgy:

Monday May 27th: Mass at 10am;

No confessions or Novena due to Bank Holiday

Tuesday May 28th: Requiem Mass for Peter McKeown at 10.30am

Wednesday May 29th: Requiem Mass for Michael (Hal) McParlane at 10am

Reception on Tuesday evening at 6pm

Thursday May 30th: Mass at 10am

Rosary at 9.40pm

Saturday May 25th: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sunday May 26th: Mass at 9am and 10.30am

Congratulations to Jack Kirwan and Georgia Barr who celebrated their wedding on Friday; we wish them a long, happy and fruitful marriage.

St. Paul's Primary School, Summer Fayre, Friday May 31st, 1.30 – 3pm; you are warmly invited to visit the school and enjoy the Fayre; donations for the raffle and tombola would be welcome.

Defibrillator/CPR Training will take place in the parish hall on Saturday 8th June at 10.30am; instruction will be given on how to use the parish defibrillator as well as some basic CPR training and potentially how to save a life. Everyone is welcome, including young people from our parish. Training will be provided by Mr. Pat O'Meara, a parishioner from St. Leonard's in East Kilbride, who has spent over 40 years with the ambulance service; tea and coffee will be served after the training, which should last around 45 minutes. *Please consider coming along to the training.*

Readers for our Sunday 9am Mass: we are looking to increase the Reader's Rota at our early Mass. Is this ministry something you would consider? Please contact Caroline Cannon on 07939347119 or speak with Fr. O'Brien after the morning Mass. Some training can be given if needed. *It's always good to have new voices proclaiming the Holy Scriptures.*

Next weekend the Spiritan Fathers from Carfin will be with us to enable Fr. O'Brien to attend the Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Michael Downie at Sancta Maria Abbey, Nunraw; *please remember Michael and the monastic community in your prayers.*

Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to remember them at Mass:

Jim Breslin

Recently Deceased: Peter McKeown, Michael McParlane, Rose McCann, Mary Friar, Frances Glackin, Janice Small, John Chambers, Anne Millar,

Special Remembrance: Mark Hughes, John Kane, Thomas and Elizabeth Kane, James and Elizabeth Fulton, John Fulton, Rick Anderson, Moira Douglas, William McKane, Bishop Joseph Devine and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.