



ST BRIGID'S

— NEWMAINS —

1871



2011

ST BRIGID'S

140 YEARS

1871 - 2011



A Parish consists of the people of God in their community. The story of a parish is the story of that community. This story deals with the people themselves, working and making sacrifices in their everyday lives, grasping the knowledge that only God's love can bring meaning to lives which were often brutally hard.

The story will touch upon the priests who led the people. It will tell of the buildings and other objects which were lovingly constructed by the people and it will describe the civil community in which they lived and earned their living "by the sweat of their brow".

It will, above all, show the continuity of the people. It will show that the impulse to live as God's people, which drove the founders, remains alive and thriving a century later. The wish to celebrate the achievements of our forebears is evidence for that but a stronger indication is the willingness to participate in the life of our community today as we reach the end of the first Chapter of the story of St. Brigid's.



Right Rev. Joseph Devine
Bishop of Motherwell



FROM THE RT. REV. JOSEPH DEVINE PH.D.
BISHOP OF MOTHERWELL

8th June 2012

My Dear Parishioners of St Brigid's,

On behalf of the Diocese of Motherwell I wish to convey my warmest congratulations and joy on the occasion of the 140th Anniversary of St Brigid's Newmains.

Your beautiful Church and grounds are a credit to all of you and, of course, your present and former parish priests. But more importantly the deep faith of the people of your parish – so evident to all who visit St Brigid's - is a treasure beyond price.

You are worthy heirs of your devoted ancestors who inspired by their religious faith established your church and school and embedded their truth and goodness deep in your community. Be assured, your parents, grandparents and all your family predecessors of yesteryear will be sharing in your gladness and festival on this great occasion.

Likewise, you as parents, grandparents and children of St Brigid's – of old or more recent origin - must carry the torch of faith forward so that future generations can share in the treasure you, in turn, have bequeathed to them.

I am deeply honoured to be participating in your extraordinary jubilee and I look forward to joining you in your celebrations on 25th June.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ Joseph Devine

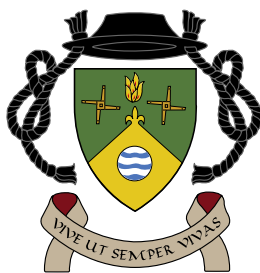
+Joseph Devine
Bishop of Motherwell

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SCOTTISH REGISTERED CHARITY NO. SC011041



Parish Priest - **Rev Hugh Kelly**



ST BRIGID'S CHURCH NEWMAINS

(Scottish Charities Reg. No. 011041)

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Dear Parishioners and Friends

To celebrate a birthday or anniversary is always a happy occasion and for us in St. Brigid's to celebrate one hundred and forty years of our history is such an occasion. It has given us the chance to look back in pride at what has been achieved during those years, but also presents us with the challenge to continue the work and to build on the foundations which have been laid.

In this year 2011 – 2012 we began our celebrations remembering the pioneering families who came here in search of work and stability after the devastating effects of the Irish Famine of the mid nineteenth century.

We have prayed for the priests who came here to serve and encourage the people in the practise of their Faith but also to develop the talents with which God had blessed them.

We have celebrated with our young people the history of our School which has encouraged and shaped generations of our young people from its beginnings in 1872 under Miss Swift to the present day and the leadership of Mrs. Corr. Perhaps the highlight of this part of our celebrations was a School Show which outlined in a delightful way the changing times and face of education from 1871 till the present.

As we look back, so we also continue to look forward. Every party, no matter how good, comes to an end. We are no different. We however end our celebrations with the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our young people are always our pride and our hope. As they receive the grace of the Holy Spirit, so we pray that as generations before them have enriched the Parish of St Brigid's, they in their turn will carry the light of Faith into the years that lie ahead and will ensure this place of Faith and Learning will continue to flourish.

I thank all who have helped with our celebrations throughout the year and I also pay tribute to the late John Dougan who researched so much of the material in this booklet at the time of our Parish Centenary.

May all of us continue to work for the glory of God under the Patronage of St Brigid.

Fr. Hugh P. Kelly PP



Sister Maria Goretti

Our Pastoral Assistant, Sister Maria Goretti who joined St. Brigid's in the Centenary Year was born in Govan. She was educated at St. Constantine's School, Govan and later at Lourdes Secondary.

After completing her education she worked for a time at a city builders-merchants as a receptionist. But she was aware that this was not her final calling in life and in 1966 she entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Merrylee Convent. Her final vows were taken in 1973 in St. Constantine's Church in Govan.

While a member of the order she completed a year-long period of spiritual training and afterwards took full training in nursing and as a nursery-nurse. She was extensively involved in caring work, both for the elderly and with the Society of the Innocents. She also worked as a Pastoral Assistant in St. John Ogilvie's Parish in Blantyre for around five years.

She currently lives in Innocents House, Motherwell.

Hymn to St. Brigid

*Far above enthroned in glory
sweetest Saint of our dear isle.
See thy children kneel before thee,
turn on us a mother's smile.
Sancta Mater hear our pleading,
faith and hope and holy love.
Dear St. Brigid, spouse of Jesus
sent to us from heaven above.*

*Dear St. Brigid, we thy children
far and near o'er land and sea
mid the world and in the cloister
fondly turn with love to thee. Sancta
Mater soothe the mourner shield the
weary tempted soul. Sweet St.
Brigid guide thy children to their
bright and happy home.*



SAINTS AND SCHOLARS

Across the centuries, many saints apart from Nethan have been given particular attention and reverence in this area.

The name of our postal town, Wishaw, most probably derives from a gradual shortening of the name Winstie's Haugh. Those who remember the pitch and toss school which used to meet near Newmains will know that a Haugh is a forest glade. Winstie is an affectionate shortening of the name Winfrid. (Another name for Boniface - patron Saint of Germany - although St. Winifred, a Welsh Saint was also widely known and revered) Winstie's name lives on also in Swinstie Road and Swinstie farm in nearby Cleland.

Winfrid's best known legacy is his dedication of the Fir tree as a Christian symbol, replacing the pagan oak and giving us the basis for the use of Christmas trees.

A Celtic Saint, Aidan of Lindisfarne, was chosen as the patron of the parish Church in the Parish of

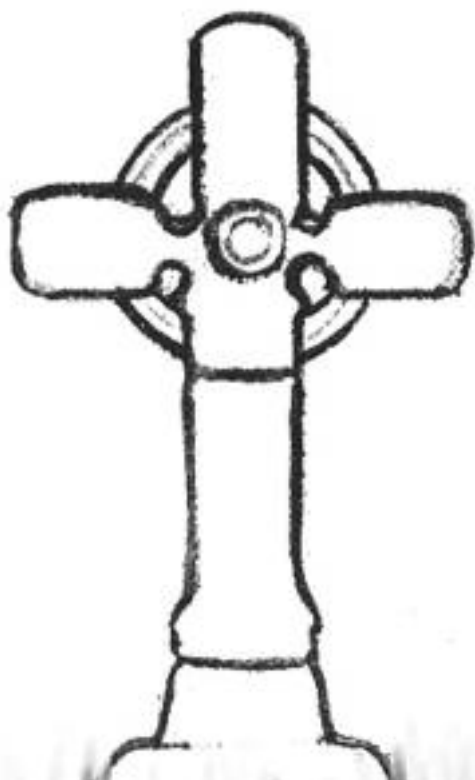


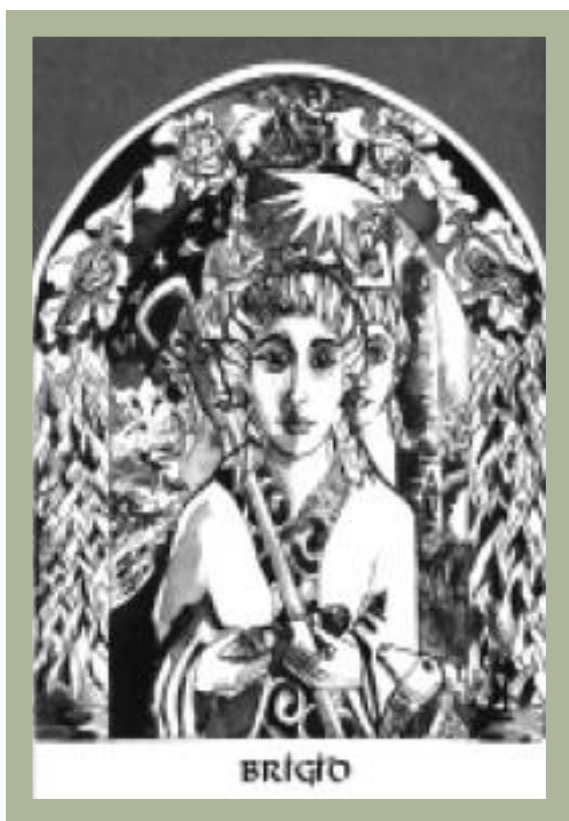
Cambusnethan. Another early chapel was named for Michael, Archangel and victor over the powers of darkness. The Abbot Brendan, voyager and possible visitor to the American continent 1000 years before Christopher Columbus, was well known among them but had to await the 20th Century before his name was included among local patrons.

The Irish who came to Newmains brought with them devotion to the saints of their native land. They revered Colmcille who like them had left Ireland to come to Scotland; Patrick too who may have made the journey in the opposite direction and Brigid, Mary of the Gael, a contemporary of Patrick. Brigid, Patrick and Columcille, this trinity of Celtic giants, share a grave, in Downpatrick, Co.Down.

It was to Brigid that the local Catholics turned when they chose a patron saint for the Catholic Community in Newmains.

Our Patroness is often called "Mary of the Gael". In legend and folklore Celtic tradition is distinguished by the fact that so many of its heroes are women. In the early days of Christianity this tradition continued. Brigid is the most admired of the Celtic Christian heroes after Patrick.





in Kildare a community of women. This was the first religious community in Ireland for women and she is usually called Ireland's first Abbess. The Irish took her memory wherever they went. She died at about 70 years old and was buried in Kildare but was later re-buried with Patrick & Colmcille at Downpatrick where they remain to this day.

After her death, we are told by Gerald of Wales (13th Century), a fire was kept burning in her honour for several centuries. May this Centenary Year fan the flame of Faith in the parish named in her honour here in Newmains.

“vive ut semper vivas”

Brigid was born in Faughert around 1500 years ago and her birth was marked by signs and marvels. Neighbours told of a “Fire that stretched from Heaven to Earth” that seemed to consume the house in which the child lay but which vanished when they approached. They saw this as a sign of the Holy Spirit.

She was sent into the service of a wealthy cattle owner as a herdsman. An act of personal self-sacrifice which saved her master's cattle persuaded him to reunite her with her home. But she was called to a greater family. Her wish was to bring souls to God and soon her life was given over to this purpose. But she did not lose her personally attractive qualities. She was loved and much regarded for her strong and happy personality as well as for her goodness and generosity.

Many of the stories told of Brigid are legend rather than history but it is the goodness and generosity that is their recurring theme. She is said several times to have multiplied food to feed the poor and one story even has her changing bath-water into beer to slake the thirst of some priests who had come to visit the monastery she founded.

Brigid recognized the special gifts that the women of Ireland could bring to the work of God. She founded



EARLY TIMES AND CELTIC ROOTS

Scotland had experienced 1200 years of Communion with the universal church before the reformation. The influence of the Celtic Church had been strong throughout. This part of Lanarkshire had been dedicated to the care of St. Nethan. It was part of the Parish of Cambusnethan.

Cambus indicates the bends and meanders of the Clyde as it passes through its flood plain on the way to the sea. Newmains stands at the head of the slope leading down to that plain. The name of the Parish described its location as well as placing it in the care of Nethan.

Nethan had been an influential figure in keeping the Celtic Church in harmony with the rest of Europe during times when communication between nations and even regions could be fraught with difficulty. He was a king as well as a wise and holy man. Bede, from Tyneside, described him as such. (Bede also recorded an encounter between Columcille and a monster in Loch Ness). Nethan's greatest achievement was to prevent a split over the correct date for the celebration of Easter. (Easter's date is related to the Jewish Passover - the Sunday after the full moon after the 21st March.) He worked to persuade Scotland to obey the decrees of the Synod of Whitby. Because of the influence of Nethan Scotland accepted the teaching of the universal church on this and other matters -and continues to do so.



A TOWN AT THE CROSSROADS

The place which became Newmains after the Industrial revolution has occupied a site astride the great natural routeways of Scotland.

Here the routes between North and South and between East and West meet. The great barrier blocking the North - South route has been, since ancient times the River Forth. Until the 19th Century the engineering skills required to build a bridge spanning the Firth of Forth did not exist. Those who wished to cross the river did so by ferry or travelled to Stirling, the lowest point on the river where a bridge could be built. Any natural route from the South towards Stirling would pass close to Newmains. Likewise Newmains is at the heart of the Central Lowlands which run from West to East across the country.



In their movements between the Holy places of Scotland; from Iona, Lindisfarne and from Casa Alba the monks who brought Christianity to the country must have passed this way. Among them would have been Ninian, Aidan and Columcille.

The Roman armies had earlier marched here. It was only a little to the North that they built the great rampart and ditch of the Antonine wall. In Newmains little trace is left of their passing. A trackway through the fields, just North of the village, was known as the Roman Road although whether there was any real connection with the Romans must remain a matter for conjecture. The road does, however, follow a path which would have been a suitable one for anyone intending to cross the ravine which carries the River Calder.

Elements of King Edward's army as he marched towards Bannockburn would have passed here. Indeed Allan Stewart of Bonkyll (Bonkle) was killed in skirmishing before that battle. He left his name for the village of Allanton. The Chapel built to commemorate him gave its name to Chapel, a district in Morningside. Another member of the Stewart family, John, died at the Battle of Falkirk.

We know then that Newmains has played the part of silent witness to many of the ancient and seminal events in the history of Scotland but the position we occupy was to have even more far reaching effects in the shaping of our community in modern times and in the reestablishing of the Catholic church there. Truly it was the cross-roads of Scotland.

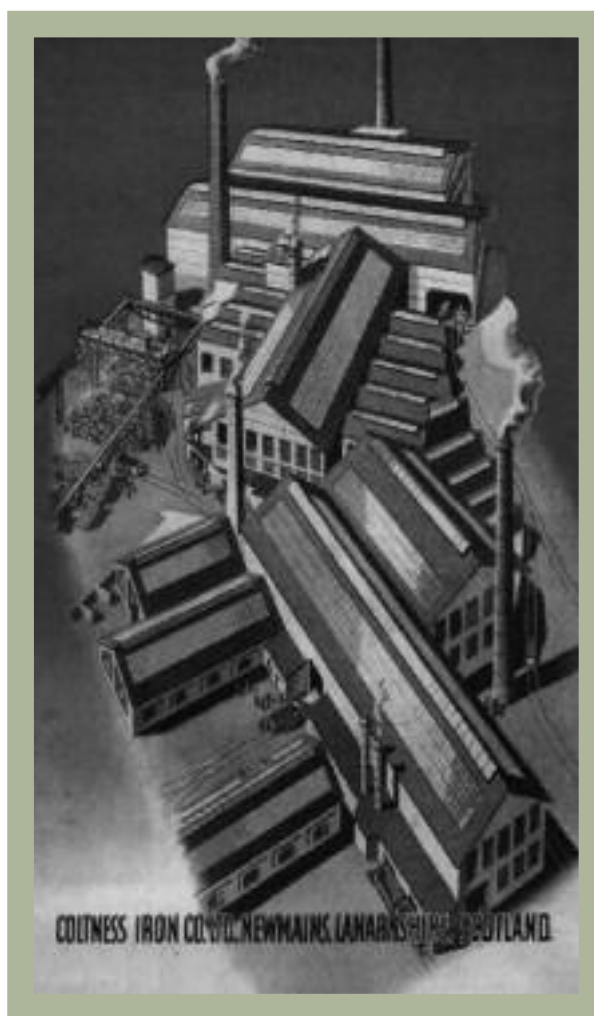
Easy transportation links make a site potentially attractive for heavy industry. Newmains had that. It had easy access to deep-water ports which made import-export of raw materials and finished goods economically. But added to its position it offered a range of attractive, even vital, raw materials whose very existence was a powerful lure for the "Robber Barons" who would control industry.

Coal was found here in abundance, sometimes even breaking through to the surface, (as the strip mining industry of the 20th century shows). The name of Coltness, which means Coal point, shows us that its availability had been known for centuries. So, too, was iron ore available nearby at Fauldhouse in great supply and good quality. But ore was available nearer to hand even than that. Those who remember the "Engine Pond" where West Crindledyke playing fields now are will remember the "Coo Hill". This was a spoil heap for an earlier iron ore mine. These supplies, coupled with the favourable transportation possibilities were more than enough to guarantee that someone would find Newmains an attractive location for manufacturing the iron and steel to provide the skeleton of the empire on which the sun never set. Such a man was Henry Houldsworth.

Henry Houldsworth established the Coltness Iron company and provided a magnet which drew the impoverished and dispossessed of Ireland and Scotland to Newmains while others of their

countrymen headed for America and England or were transported against their will. In the 19th Century they flooded here to work in coal mines and iron works.

The Irish, especially, found themselves the objects of considerable hostility and prejudice. Most of the insults now offered to immigrant groups were offered first of all to the Irish. They, nevertheless, held together and weathered the storm. They had a burning desire to improve their own lot and an even more deep-seated desire to improve the lot of their children. And they could see that education was a key to unlock many of the doors closed against them. Allied to that was a fierce desire to serve God in the way that their ancestors had done, through their own Catholic Church. But they found themselves in lowland Scotland where the Reformation had almost wiped out the Catholic way completely.



NEWMAINS, A HIVE OF INDUSTRY.

The growth of Newmains as a centre for heavy Industry was swift. It rested, above all, on the decision by Henry Houldsworth in 1839 to take advantage of the available raw-materials of an abundant local supply of coal and a nearby source of Iron-ore in Fauldhouse.

Previous to this time any importance that Newmains had was derived from its position and potential transportation links. A one-horse coach, Watts Noddy which made the journey three times a week, had been the main link of the village to Glasgow. Many of the local weavers would walk to Glasgow. However four times a week the Edinburgh-Ayr stage-coach would stop at the coaching Inn, the Beilerophon, which stood where the Pastoral centre now stands.

A route used by cattle drovers passed through the village and the area now known as Toll Park was used as a gathering point for the herds and drovers who were unable to pay the tolls.

The arrival of Houldsworth was to change all that. At first his raw materials were carted but the expense of this encouraged a heavy investment in the railway system which was enjoying huge growth at that time. This railway construction, the coal-mining which was attempting to respond to the increased demand Houldsworth offered and the ironworks produced a powerful surge in the demand for a strong and willing workforce who could respond to the demands of heavy manual labour.

The potato famine in Ireland and in parts of Scotland had, at the same time, caused a massive pool of dispossessed and desperate workers who flooded into the area seeking work. They found it aplenty. They found, though, that this was no promised land. The work was back-breaking and ill-rewarded. The employers often unjustly used the power which the desperation of their workforce gave them.

That desperate workforce experienced appalling conditions. As recently as the 19th Century 12 year old boys were working underground in the mines.

Industrial death was ever-present and industrial disease was simply a risk that had to be taken. The mines in the area were notorious for methane fuelled fires. The workforce was expendable and replacement workers could be found easily and in plentiful supply as they flooded into the area.

Another source of power for employers was the company store system which operated and which was regularly castigated by the local newspapers. Workers were held by a system of debt and prices could be pitched at an artificially high level. Even community leaders were involved. A.G.Simpson a local provost during the 1860's was involved in this operation in Carfin. But there were many.

It appeared, too, that any show of resistance by the workforce would be ruthlessly suppressed. Lord Belhaven evicted 96 families in 1856 following a 12 week strike. He was assisted by police and dragoons. In the 1880's many miners were imprisoned during industrial unrest. Many women were also imprisoned, some with babies.

It was into this cauldron of resentment and unrest that the first Catholics arrived in substantial numbers. Their integration would not be easy. The community was experiencing hard times and did not welcome competition especially competition which seemed to strengthen the hand of the forces which were already ranged against them.



The following article is reprinted from the brochure commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the building of the present Church. It is a personal reminiscence by the late John Reilly a native of Cleland who became an active and faithful member of our Parish.

I REMEMBER

The earliest memory to which I can put a definite date is the miner's strike which occurred in the summer of 1921. It was also the time I came to realize that Cleland, where I lived was not, as some people imagine, the only place on earth. Somewhere there was a place called Newmains, where my cousin, Anne MacDonnell was employed as a maid in the parochial house. The priest's name was Father O'Carroll and he did not have a church. However, steps were being taken to remedy that situation.

The houses which formed what was known in Cleland as "The Square" had been demolished and there was a plan to transport the stones from these dwellings to Newmains and use them in the building of a church. Sure enough a team of eight young men arrived to put the plan into operation. The stones were loaded on a motor lorry, a rare animal in those days. The property of a Cleland man it served as a bus at weekends. On Monday morning the top part was removed and it became a platform lorry. The work went on for eight or nine weeks until the strike ended, and the miners returned to their employment, defeated by want and privation. Sadly, my cousin died the following year and being a small boy I soon forgot the men who had been loading the stones which were taken to this place called Newmains.

Six years later, in August 1927 I came here to live, and found that no progress had been made in the creation of a chapel, the term we generally use. The work had not even begun, the hopes remained unfulfilled, the dream had not come true. The stones can still be seen in various parts of the grounds where they have been laid as kerb stones and as low walls to elevate parts of the garden. The only thing built with them was a garage which used to be attached to the chapel house.

Michael Kearney is the sole survivor of the group that came to Cleland, the others being Jim, Tom & Pat

Duffy, a lad named Christy Lynch and three brothers of Mary & Sarah Diamond.

Early the following year, the Parish Priest, came to the school with a message we were asked to carry home. Work would soon begin on a Parish Hall. He was obviously pleased with his new development, but his "Good news" was not very well received. There was widespread criticism and complaint. "A chapel is more needed than a hall." The desire for a church was paramount in the hearts of his flock. Father Lyons pointed out that funds were in hand for a hail. A church would cost several times more, and the hall would be used to raise funds for the great objective.

An annual event in those days was the parish reunion which always took place sometime in February and was held in the local Co-op Hall in Manse Rd., a fine example of its kind tragically destroyed by fire. The parish would preside and, after a repast, the considerable vocal and musical talents that we had would provide the entertainment. Some of the artistes involved formed what became known as the Regent Concert Party which flourished for a number of years. The last of these affairs to be held in the Co-op Hall occurred on February 17th 1928.

During the spring of that year work on the hall had been steadily progressing and by June all was ready. It was formally opened by Father Lyons on the evening of June 7th with the children providing a kinderspiel called "The Midshipmite", a repeat performance being given the following night. In the ensuing years the prediction of Father Lyons began to come true. It was a slow business but with dances, concerts, social evenings and plays by the dramatic club, the fund for the new church was gradually increasing. Those were the days of high unemployment for many, with social security and the welfare state still a long way ahead. The dawn of 1933 brought news that sufficient money had been gathered to pay for the new church. The Parish priest by that time was Father William Stopani. Born in the Shetland islands, he had come here from St. Augustine's, Coatbridge and on a windy Sunday Feb 26th he ceremonially cut the first sod to mark the start of the work. This act was followed by a procession and benediction. Now, at last, we were under way.



The fact that there was ample space was due to the foresight of father James Humble, Parish Priest towards the close of the last Century. A native of Liverpool he was responsible for the erection of the present Chapel House in 1897, at first he lived in the house near the front gate. A special tribute is due to Father Humble and his flock who, from small and hard-earned wages contributed not only to the church but to the upkeep of the school. Our forebears were stalwarts indeed; no burden was too great to bear for the Rock of Peter. Many people are greatly impressed when, for the first time, they see our spacious grounds, enhanced by those splendid trees, with the house, church, old school and hall, all self-contained as they say nowadays. When Father Humble left Newmains it was to become Rector of the Royal Scots College in Valladolid in Spain.

Throughout the summer of 1933 we watched our new church taking shape. Economics decreed that, like the hall, it would be a brick structure. The day of the large stone edifice with its spire pointing to the sky had gone for ever. As a contribution to the church, Patrick Gallagher, who was a stonemason, made a baptismal font, still in use, and two other fonts which stood, for many years, at the inside entrance doors. A labour of love and skill. Due to the generosity of a Parishioner, a new altar had been installed in what is now the Cathedral in Motherwell. The altar taken out, a fine piece of work in carved oak, was gifted to the parish. A motor lorry was provided by the local Co-op. Society, driven by a Mr. Scott of Newton Drive. Four men went with him. Fortunately it was in sections which helped a great deal! Everything went well and the altar arrived safely and was put in position in good time for the great day which had been set for Sunday Oct 8th'. The four men involved were Michael Kearney, Michael Burns, John Burns and John McGarry.

The opening ceremony was to be performed by the then Archbishop of Glasgow. Donald Mackintosh, a native of Lochaber Long before he was due to arrive, a large crowd had gathered in the grounds, many of them former parishioners. When he arrived, His Grace made a circuit of the grounds blessing the people, and then opened the door with a golden key. Solemn High Mass followed, the celebrant being Father Courtney. The clergy were well represented as they usually are on such occasions. Among the



Father Stopani cuts the first sod on the site of the New Church at St. Brigid's in February 1933. In the background is the "Wee Hall" (now demolished) in which so many of the fundraising events for the church had been held.

notables present was a former headmistress of St. Brigid's, the famous or notorious Miss McCluskey. In the afternoon the Archbishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation. Sponsors for the children were the headmaster Mr. Henvey and Mrs. Larkin who, as a girl, had been present at the opening of the school chapel in 1871.

In 1935 a local man. John O'Rourke joined the teaching staff at St. Brigid's and formed a foot- -ball team. With only twelve boys old enough and big enough to take part, his resources were slender. What happened was nothing short of incredible. Success followed success, we wondered when defeat would overtake them. It never did. Sixty matches they played without a reverse. Large crowds were there to see them play. There was great excitement and even greater joy when in their red jerseys they were carried shoulder high through the streets.

In 1937 Father Stopani died. Since his time we have had a long list of clergymen, both parish priests and curates. Such is the way of the Church. Priests are sent here and there. They come and go, but the high regard we have for our clergy ensures that these changes cause only the merest ripple. Most of our curates are still on duty, but Father Denis Hoban died in South Africa. We remember Father Thomas Kelly who wore round his neck the mark of wounds received in the Great War while serving with the H.L.I.

The altar so carefully brought from Motherwell has gone and with it the altar rails, due to decisions made by the Council convened by John XXIII, the first Pope of that name for more than -six hundred years. It is a point of interest to us that John XXIII was the Pope who in 1320 received from a Scottish Parliament the famous Declaration of Arbroath. The hall of 1928 has been demolished. The old school with its memories of the legendary Miss McGarry and Miss Clark is our parishioners new hall.



Another fund-raising event gets under way in the 'Wee Hall'.

If the Houldsworth family were to be a driving force for industry in the nineteenth century, many of their workers who had fled the scourge of the Irish Famine and came here seeking work in the mushrooming industries of railways, coal-mining and iron making, found a great leader in the person of Fr. John McCay.

With Fr John Black he was instrumental in setting up missions and parishes from Lanark, to Carluke, to Wishaw and then Newmains, Carfin, Overtown and Motherwell establishing the structures of the faith in all this vast area.

REV. JOHN McCAY



Born in 1832 in Glenmornan, Co. Tyrone, John McCay was educated in the Diocesan Seminary in Derry, then at Drumcondra near Dublin and received Minor orders in Dublin. He received a Canonical dispensation to be ordained priest at the tender age of 23 in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Glasgow in 1855.

After a short spell in St. John 's in Glasgow, he was sent as Assistant in Lanark to Fr John Black in 1857. When Fr. Black moved to take charge of the Wishaw Mission, Fr. McCay was moved to St. Athanasius in Carluke where he built the school. He had stations for Confession at Lesmahagow, Auchengray, Bankend, Newmains, Cambusnethan(!) and Biggar where he said Mass on weekdays. He also had Sunday schools at Crofthead and Shotts! He was moved to take charge of the Wishaw Mission in 1860 and within

a year he had built a chapel-school in Young St to accomodate 500 pupils. He then built a chapel school in Carfin in 1862 which was attended from Wishaw and after opening St. Ignatius in 1865, he built the old presbytery in 1870. He followed this with a chapel school in Newmains in 1871 and another in Overtown in 1873.

This latter was dedicated to St. Patrick and could accomodate 200 people. In 1893, the Overtown Catholics decided that they would rather attend St. Ignatius and so the building was only used as a school



for a number of years thereafter. Fr. Mc Cay was entrusted with Motherwell Mission when it was detached from Hamilton and before long he had built a wooden chapel school which soon became too small; a more commodious chapel school was built in 1875 and it then became a separate Mission. Other new Missions created during his tenure at St. Ignatius were Cleland in 1876 and Shieldmuir in 1891. He was raised to the Chapter of Canons of the Cathedral of St. Andrew in 1887. He was aware of the miserable conditions in which many of his parishioners lived and so he built a block of houses to show the authorities what could be done in providing decent homes for working people. Thus was created Loyola Place, the tenement building in Campbell Street, built with Parish Funds. Before leaving Wishaw, he handed this block of houses over to St. Peter's College, Bearsden with the proviso that the income from them was to provide bursaries for students to the priesthood, preference to be given to any from St. Ignatius. Subsequently he was appointed to St. Patrick's Coatbridge in 1893 and preached his last sermon to his Wishaw congregation on Sunday 16th May of that year. The church was crowded to excess with people from all the neighbouring parishes, which had at one time formed part of the Wishaw Mission. He immediately started work on the beautiful St Patrick 's church designed by Pugin of London and the work was completed in three years. His health began to fail in 1900 and he died in 1903 with his body being taken to lie before the high altar in St. Patrick 's Coatbridge. Two days later a special Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Ignatius Church, one of the many he had been instrumental in building. The bell, which he had caused to be hung in the church, rang mournfully for half an hour before the funeral mass for the late pastor.

Loyola Place, Wishaw. 24th. June 1873.

Sir, In reply to your query how much of the School Fees are retained from the Catholic workers of the district find their way to the Catholic Schools under my charge. I would remind you in the first place that I have Four schools in operation at the present moment with an average attendance of over 600 children. Teachers salaries are over £180 per annum., and the extra outlay - including interest payable on the money borrowed (nearly £2000 originally) for the erection of the schools premises is almost as much more. I would add that for seven years after my principal school was established the mine owners

persistently refused to allocate one penny of fees collected indiscriminately from the Catholic and Prodestant workmen. The late Baillie Dean was the only exception. It is true Coltness Iron Company through Mr. James Hunter gave a donation of £10 per annum. - one year ommitted.

At present I am in receipt of about £70 per annum of school fees from the Glasgow Iron Works. Mr. Boyd, Messers Hudship & Co., and Mr. R. Ball. Nearly £50 of this sum is paid by the Glasgow Iron Company.

I believe that £800 and more are retained annually in the name of school fees from the Catholic workmen belonging to my congregation, including those employed in the works of Mr. William Dixon of Carfin who never gave a penny in support of the Flourishing school which has been established there over ten years, for the benifit of the children of his workmen.

In a word I heve erected schools at a cost of nearly £2000; I maintain them at an annual outly of £800. The mine owners exact £300 per annum., from the Catholic workmen, and of that sum £70 only finds its way to me for the support of the Catholic Schools. - I am Sir your obedient servant John McCay, Catholic Priest.

The Wishaw Advertiser" 19th. July 1873

REV. JOHN BLACK



Born in Glasgow on the 24th April 1824, John Black attended St. Mary's College at Blairs in Aberdeen and was ordained in Rome on the 21st May 1848, having furthered his religious education at the Scots College in Rome.

After only a short time as a curate in St. John's in Glasgow, in 1849 he was sent to open a new mission in Lanark, a territory which consisted of Lesmahagow, Carluke, Shotts, Crofthead and Newmains. He persevered on his own to attend the spiritual wants of this area for nearly eight years, until he obtained the assistance of Fr. John Mc Cay, of whom more anon. With such a large area to cover, it was fortunate that he was a man of robust constitution (apparently a twenty mile walk was no serious exertion.)

In 1855, he purchased ground in Carluke for a chapel and Fr. Mc Cay became it's first pastor when he joined Fr. Black in 1857. Carluke then became a separate mission.

The population around Wishaw was now growing rapidly and since Fr. Black had proved so very adept in opening new Missions, he was appointed to open the new Mission in Wishaw in 1859. Without chapel or chapel house. Fr. Black said Mass in a hall above the stables of the hotel at the corner of Main Street and Cleland Road and lived in a tenement. Within a year he was appointed the first pastor of St. Vincent's in Glasgow and was succeeded in Wishaw by Fr. John McCay in 1860. However St. Ignatius had not seen the last of him. He returned to assist Fr. Mc Cay for two years from 1887-9 and died as Parish Priest of Cardowan in 1904.

DEAN VAN HECKE



Father Van Hecke was born at Bruges, in Belgium, on the 31st October, 1854. He studied Humanities at a local Episcopal college before studying Philosophy at Roulers. He came to a new Ecclesiastical college in Partickhill at the invitation of Archbishop Eyre and was ordained by Bishop Mc Lachlan of Galloway. He served first in St. John 's, Glasgow and then in St. Paul 's, Shettleston.

In 1893 he came to Wishaw as Parish Priest and immediately put the church into a better state of repair and reseated the aisles. A kind and gentle man, he always had a word for young and old and lived for the people of Wishaw. He made alterations and renovations to the school buildings which had served their purpose well for 30 years. The Lady Altar was installed the year after his arrival. Simultaneously , he enlarged Newmains chapel school by adding a sanctuary and he also built a presbytery there. The new Mission was completed by 1896 and Fr. James Humble appointed in charge. St. Ignatius ' school was now too small and so he planned and completed new school buildings with accomodation for 500 children. With the growth of the population he realised also that more accomodation was required in the church and so undertook a programme of alterations and improvements, which are detailed elsewhere. The church accomodated 900 people after his efforts. In 1894, a new pipe organ was installed under the supervision of his brother, Professor Van Hecke of the Royal Chapel in Brussels.

Dean Van Hecke also served on the School board and the Parish Council, thus serving the general public of Wishaw as well as his own congregation.. He actively helped his homeless countrymen during the First World War and was decorated for his work in this area by the King of the Belgians. He continued his work in beautifying the church and continued until night fell - "when no man can work." He died suddenly on the morning of Tuesday 20th December 1927 well prepared . His diary found at his bedside recorded that on the night before his death, he made his Examination of Conscience and performed the various priestly exercises to which he had pledged himself.





BUILDINGS

This section deals with the need to use buildings in the service of God, as gathering places to Worship Him, as places where the young could be educated and as places where the community could meet together socially.

BUILDING A CHURCH

As the number of Catholics living in Newmains grew arrangements for their spiritual needs became less satisfactory. Those needs had originally been served from Hamilton. Later the responsibility was taken by the Parish priest at Lanark and as the growth continued Newmains was included within the parish at Carluke.

But the institutional church drew ever closer to Newmains and at last in 1857 our forefathers found themselves included within the boundaries of the mission at Wishaw. So numerous were Catholics becoming that a building might be considered to serve their needs in Newmains. But another 14 years were to pass before that need could be addressed.

HOPES AND DREAMS

The aspirations of the growing Catholic Community in Newmains were indicated by their choice of building.

They saw a choice between two needs, both expensive to fulfill, and especially in the circumstances of the poverty and want they suffered.

They had a burning wish for a church in which they could practice the faith they had brought with them into their new home but they had also a burning wish to ensure that their children would be given the opportunity of education.

They found a way of reconciling these choices by deciding to build one building which would fulfill the function of both church and school.

A FIRST BUILDING

The first building to meet the needs of the Catholic Community in Newmains was constructed in 1871. It comprised a gray sandstone building which stood near the crossroads in the centre of the village. It was designed to serve as a school and also to be the venue for weekly masses.

More than 150 children would attend the school. The congregation may be impoverished but this building demonstrated their lofty aspirations. It showed their desire to retain their Catholic identity and to educate the new generations both in the ways of their faith and in the secular learning which might protect them from the poverty which afflicted their parents, it was also a statement, carved in stone, that although Newmains was, for most of them, an adopted home it was to be a permanent one. They were here to stay.

The school and Mass-centre served them well but still their numbers grew. In 1894 a sanctuary was added to make the building a more dignified setting for the Mass. Already they had been a station of the parish at Wishaw for 23 years. Mass was celebrated weekly but there was still no resident priest.

In the 25th year of the period as station of Wishaw came the announcement for which they had waited so long. Father Humble would come to live among them. At last Newmains could be seen as a community in its own right serving God.

The school was later to double in size and, following the 1922 Education Act the Parish was relieved of some of its massive burden of costs. The building was leased from the Church and maintained by the Local

Education Authority as a Catholic school. It was no longer required as a church after the construction of the new church in 1933 but continued to function as a school until in 1959 with the construction of a new school in Newton Drive it seemed to have outlived its useful function.

But another role awaited. The parish hall, (now replaced by a car-park,) was small and not really

adequate for the needs of the parish. Under the leadership of Mgr John O'Donnell a group of parishioners undertook the massive task of converting the school building into a hall complex.

Two halls with an adjoining kitchen were fashioned and from the derelict building grew a useful, even vital social centre for the parish.

OUR HOUSE



When Fr. Humble arrived in the Parish a major priority was to construct a house which would function not only as a residence for the priests but as parish headquarters, reception area and office. This is the building constructed for that purpose. It was completed in 1897, a year after his arrival.



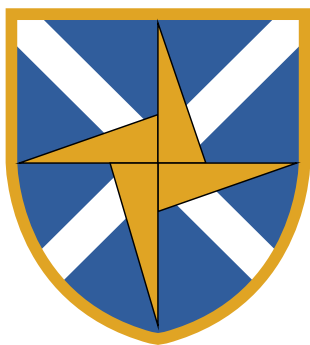
The Church was built in 1933 under the direction of Father Stopani. Its design was by messrs Stellmac and similar churches are to be found elsewhere in Scotland, although few have been favoured with the pleasant, spacious, woodland setting of St. Brigid's.

The floor plan employed two aisles leading forwards from the doors at the rear. This pattern was abandoned during the sixties with a renewal and refurbishment programme executed by Mgr John O'Donnell. At that time new seating was installed. Following the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council the geography of the sanctuary was radically changed and the oaken backdrop which once graced the altar had to be removed. The altar furniture is now constructed of grey/white marble and the arched theme is in harmony with the arch over the sanctuary itself.

Another restoration, involving heating, electrical installations and the lighting as well as carpeting and painting was undertaken for the Centenary Celebrations. The capacity of the church under normal circumstances is now around 400 people. The Sanctuary Arch carries the Latin inscription:-

“vive ut semper vivas”

which is our new motto and means “Live that you might live forever”



ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL

Newmains R.C. School which later came to be known as St. Brigid's School opened its doors for the first time in 1871 with a Roll of 137 pupils and I under the leadership of Miss Mary Swift. The original concept was for an establishment which catered for a complete basic education throughout the years of compulsory education. (5 -13) There were seven Primary stages to be followed by an advanced division.

In those times, more than a century ago, the Catholic population was drawn overwhelmingly from the "working" classes and the opportunity for university education or, indeed, any form of preparation for the professions was rare indeed. Only the most far-sighted and self-sacrificing parents were able to aim for it. And many who would have liked to aim that way were prevented by poverty and want from doing so. The advanced division, therefore, was aimed at providing a rounded basic education rather than at an attempt at University entrance.

Some of the pupils who showed promise could become Pupil Teachers, moving from classroom attendance.

Pupils who did wish to progress beyond Advanced Division had to travel to Motherwell and to Park Street to find a school which offered courses leading to recognized qualifications. These pupils were few in number.

By the end of World War II it had become clear that the school building was not adequate to fulfill the needs of a Catholic Population which was no longer willing to accept the existence of a 'glass ceiling' to hinder the achievements of its children. In 1947 this inadequacy was recognized and the Advanced Division disappeared. It was replaced by a centralized provision

of Junior Secondary Education at St. Joseph's Secondary in Motherwell.

By the early fifties the inadequacy of the building for even primary education was becoming obvious and negotiations began for its replacement. James Dempsey, M.P. played a major role in these. At last, in 1953, the Lanarkshire Education authority conceded that a new primary school would be built and in December of that year went further by agreeing to construct a Secondary department at the same time. The latter was never to come to pass. Plans were, however, put in hand for the building of a new Catholic School.

In 1957 a fire which had broken out among the electrical installations at the Westwood Road entrance was spotted in time by a parishioner (Lizzie Welsh) and the destruction of the building was averted although only narrowly. This was to be almost the last act in the drama of the old St. Brigid's School and shortly afterwards construction began on a new school sited in Toll park, a short distance away.

The new school opened at Easter 1959 under the guidance of Mr. Alfred Keenan who was, himself, to die suddenly in the summer of that year. The new school year began with the appointment of Mr. Bobby Sherry installed as Head Teacher.

The provision of Catholic Education in the post war years was complex. All pupils attended St. Brigid's primary until 12 years of age when transfer to the Secondary took place. Following the "Quali", or 11-plus as it became known south of the Border, there were a variety of options.

Girls who satisfied the entrance requirements could attend Elmwood Convent School in Bothwell. Boys could likewise attend Our Lady's High in Motherwell. A few pupils chose to attend the CoEd Catholic Senior Secondary at Whifflet in Coatbridge.

The others, either by choice or by not satisfying the entrance requirements of these could attend St. Joseph's Junior Secondary.

Thankfully all this was simplified with the provision of All-through Comprehensive education at St. Aidan's in Wishaw from the late sixties.





St. Brigid's Primary School



Mrs Catherine Corr Head Teacher 2012

As St Brigid's Primary School celebrates 140 years, I'm extremely honoured to be head teacher. It's been four years since I joined the school and a year since becoming head teacher - a short time in St Brigid's long history, but more than enough to understand the important role our school plays in our community.

Like many of our pupils, whose parents and grandparents were at St Brigid's, my mother was also a pupil. And the affinity and connection that we have to our past has created a school built on solid foundations and values that we are all extremely proud of.

Looking to the future, it is my goal to allow every child at St Brigid's Primary, irrespective of ability or background, the opportunity to

reach their full potential in all aspects of their education. This at times can be challenging, but we're very fortunate that we have the full support of Father Kelly, our parish and our local community who help us achieve what we set out to do.

After 140 years St Brigid's Primary School is still going strong and, I believe with experience and age, we're just going to get better.

Catherine Corr
Head Teacher



St. Brigid's Primary School Staff 2012



Class 1, 1916





Confirmandi 2012



Mrs Elizabeth Cope

Mrs Cope started life as a Primary 1 pupil in the old school in 1956. She then returned as a Student Teacher in 1968 before beginning her teaching career in St. Brigid's in 1971. Apart from a year away at Forth Primary, Mrs Cope has dedicated her teaching career at St. Brigid's Primary for 40 years.



First Communion Class 1933





This pencil drawing of the Parish Hall was done by Robert Young in July 1997.

The building was the first one to serve the Catholics of Newmains, being built as a combined church and school in 1871 and later extended and refurbished as the community grew in size. It originally accommodated 300 people for Sunday mass and by 1894 had a school population of 137 pupils. It was extended first in 1895 (an extension opened by Bishop John Maguire, auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Charles Eyre)

Later it was further extended and refurbished by Father Bird.

It ceased to function as a church in 1933 and as a school was replaced in 1959.

It continues to be the social centre of the Parish and in fact many of the events which marked the centenary of the parish were organized in it by the Parish Social Group.

Letter from late headteacher for Centenary of Parish

The staff in St. Brigid's School recognize the responsibility that working in this vitally important part of the parish community brings. (We take some pride in the fact that the school was a "mature" twenty-five years old when the Parish was born.) We also are proud of the contributions to parish life made by the teachers in the school throughout its history. They have instructed the children in the Faith, have prepared the children for the Sacraments and by their direct involvement in Parish affairs have offered a role-model for the children in their personal lives. These examples offer a challenge and an example to those of us working in the school at present.

We try to reach out into that Parish community by inviting lay people to become prayer-partners at important stages in the lives of the children and by joining regularly with parishioners at Mass in the Church. We have seen the enthusiasm with which members of the Parish have joined with us in the great occasions of school and Parish life. We have also been grateful for the participation of the priests of the Parish. These features we regard as signs of a productive partnership between Church, Home and School.

May that partnership persist for another hundred years.

Isobel Gault.
Head Teacher



Centenary school staff



COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF LANARK

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL OPENING
OF
ST. BRIGID'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWMAINS

BY
COUNCILLOR JOSEPH K. RUSSELL

ON

MONDAY, 27th April, 1959
at 11 a.m

Above is shown a reproduction of the front page of the programme for the official opening of the new school.

The speakers on this occasion included Mr. Alfred Keenan, the Head Master and Mr. John O'Rourke an old friend, teacher and parishioner of St. Brigid's

The opening was by another faithful friend and servant of Newmains of many years standing, Councillor Joseph Russell.

Children are the centre of any civilised community and so it was for the founders of St. Brigid's. Their school was quickly established and this neat and tidy group, under the care of their teacher Miss McGarry in 1916, conceals the poverty which surrounded many of their families. This serene and peaceful picture was taken while the horrors of a World War were taking place in the mud of Europe.

The little that their parents had was focused on the well being of the children.



Relay Team with adults: Back Row: Mr Bradley, John Smith, Fr O'Donnell, Jake Bradley, Mr John O'Rourke

Front Row: Rose Burns, Agnes Sneddon, Mary Burns, S Doolan, Mary Dale.

Over the years the children attending the school have enjoyed considerable success in many fields of human endeavour. This photograph shows a team which won the Lanarkshire relay Championship.



School netball teams from the immediate pre-war years:

Back Row: Agnes Sneddon, Ellen McLenaghan, Miss Rose Farnon, Cathie Brawley, Cathy Clark, May Brown. Front Row: Cathie Marley, Molly Thomas, Sarah McVerry.



Relay Team with adults:

Back Row: Mr Bradley, John Smith, Fr O'Donnell, Jake Bradley, Mr John O'Rourke. Front Row: Rose Burns, Agnes Sneddon, Mary Burns, S Doolan, Mary Dale.



Mary Flynn, Hannah McAleavy, Mary O'Donnel, Miss Rose Farnon, Mary Burns, Margaret Conroy, Denise Doyle, Julia Smith, Cathie Sherry.



Miss Ryan, Mr McLuskey, Miss McGarry, Father Humble, Miss Campbell.

As if to celebrate the Centenary two major successes, perhaps the most striking in the entire history of the Parish, were achieved by pupils of St. Brigid's School in Athletics this year.

On both occasions National Championships were won.



The National road-relay Championship took place in Grangemouth in October. It featured hundreds of the finest young Athletes in Scotland from as far afield as the Northern Isles and the Borders as well as from the entire Central belt.

Anne Marie McGinnes, Donna Marie Hamilton and Samantha McWhinnie were clear winners in the race which stretched over three miles starting and finishing in Grangemouth Arena.

Mark Lennon took part in the Scottish Cross-country Championship at Kirkcaldy in the Spring. Having won events at local and even County level it was expected that he might do well, he did even better than that by beating a field of 350 runners to become Scottish Champion.

St. Brigid's Athletics Teams were coached towards these achievements by their teacher Mrs. Agnes Dougan and by Mr. George Kyle.



OUR PEOPLE

It is not possible to chronicle every parishioner across the century. But to represent and give a flavour of St. Brigid's some few of them have been chosen to represent the whole. The actual choice of individuals depended upon reminiscences of parishioners still living. If someone in your family is not here and should be remembered in this way please submit details and a photograph and a page will be produced which can be added to your copy of the brochure.



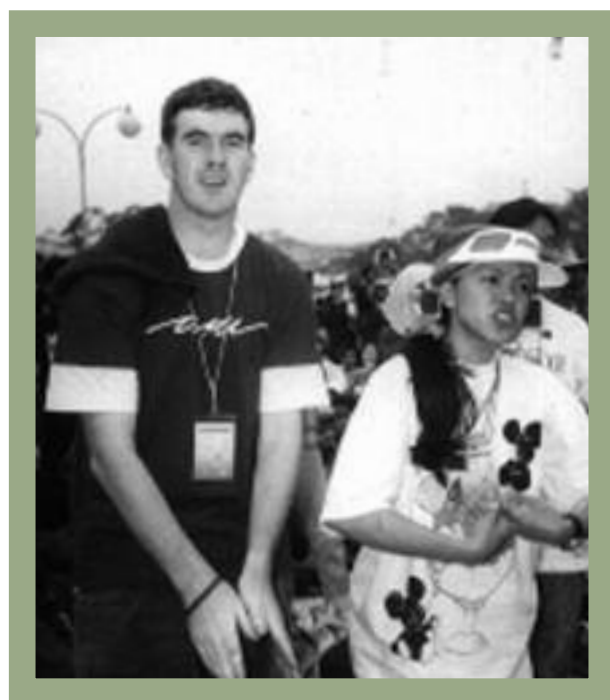
Patrick was born in 1971 and attended St. Brigid's School until, in 1982, he began his secondary schooling at St. Aidan's. Already the call towards becoming a priest and serving God among the world's poor people was becoming clear to him and after only a year he entered the Junior Seminary of the Xaverian Missionaries in Coatbridge where he remained until 1988 and where he completed his Secondary education.

During the next two years Patrick studied Sociology and Philosophy at Chesters College and Glasgow University while living in the Xaverian House in

PATRICK DUFFY

This year spanning 1996-97 is truly a vintage one for St. Brigid's and its people. Not only do we celebrate our centenary as a parish but also the contribution of one of our Parishioners to the missionary activity of the church.

The Duffy family are a well-known, well-regarded family in our parish and have been well represented for many years and several generations in our congregations. Patrick is the second of three children of Pat and Eileen Duffy and the brother of Bernadette and Jacqueline.



Glasgow. The next stage of his education was to take him to Italy where he studied Italian and underwent the one year Novitiate of his order.

Patrick was ordained in 1998 and continues to serve the Xaverian Fathers in their work in Scotland. He is at present school Chaplain at Holy Cross High School, Hamilton.

*because Christ Jesus has made me
his own
Phil 3:12-14*

Sr Elaine Penrice

*Final Profession
Daughters of St Paul
29th June 2008*

Holy Family Church, Langley

and Stephen. She moved to St. Brigid's Parish at the age of 6 weeks following her baptism in St. Patrick's, Shieldmuir.

She was a popular and successful pupil at St. Brigid's School and later at St. Aidan's High where she first made contact with the Daughters of St. Paul, a religious order whose role she found attractive and stimulating.

The Order was founded by an Italian Theologian Fr James Alberione at the beginning of the 20th century. His new order was dedicated to continuing the mission of St. Paul in spreading the Word of God to all peoples. As the Century and the technology has developed so too have the means of carrying out this task. The Daughters of St. Paul work in Radio, TV., Audio-Visual productions, Music, Computers and the Internet as well as the Print Media. All these are called into use so that everything the modern world offers can give glory to God.

Elaine gained a place at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in 1990. Sadly illness interrupted her studies for two years, but after surgery and medical treatment she was able to resume her career and gained an honours degree in Illustration and Printing from Dundee University.

While in Dundee she continued to maintain the contacts, first established during her schooldays, with the Daughters of St. Paul. She was also active in the life of the Cathedral parish and University Chaplaincy as a Minister of the Eucharist and Sacristan. She was a member of the University of Dundee Catholic Society set up and maintained by students to support and educate students in their faith. She became 'Vice-President of the Society. During her final year Elaine became Director of Publicity. Elaine is described i.e. "a brilliant liturgical artist" by the Chaplain to the University. Her illustrations of the Stations of the Cross are displayed in the new chapel.

Elaine made her final profession with the daughters of St. Paul at the Daughters of St. Paul in Langley on 29th June 2008. She is at present serving in the order in London.

ELAINE PENRICE

Elaine was born in 1972 and is the eldest daughter of David and Ann Penrice and older sister of Clare



JOHN BROWN

John Brown lived his entire life in Newmains. He also, throughout his life, cared deeply for his Parish. But he was a man of many interests.

He was a professional footballer with Airdrie during the war years. At the end of the war, when the professional game began to reorganize, he was already in his mid-twenties. Later he became an avid golfer.

John was convivial and enjoyed the company of his family and friends. He was a rare mixture; the lifelong abstainer from alcohol (and member of the Pioneer Association) who was tolerant and even enjoyed the company of the less abstemious. He had a pleasant tenor voice and contributed to many occasions in the Parish hall with a song or two.

He enjoyed an interest in horse-racing although he would have acknowledged a stronger interest in greyhounds and an even deeper fondness for football and for Celtic especially.

John Brown had been active for many years in parish affairs. He was a faithful member of St. .V. de P. and a pass-keeper. He was promoter of a parish lottery, the "Cosy-Pools" for a time. He became one of the first lay Ministers of the Eucharist in St. Brigid's.

John Brown was born in 1921. His University career, like his football career, was interrupted by the war and he was sent to work in the Laboratory of the Munitions factory of Royal Ordnance at Bishopton. He became a teacher in 1948 and finished his career as Head Teacher at St. Columcille's in Rutherglen This followed spells as Head in St. Joseph's, Tollcross and St. David's, Plains.

John died 1984 and is survived by his wife, Liz, his three daughters and two sons, and several grandchildren.





BRIDGET McGARRY

Miss McGarry may well have been the most widely known parishioner in the history of our Parish. Her life was largely given to the service of others in her own family, in the school where she moved from being pupil teacher to a brief spell as Headmistress following the death of James Henvey and in the wider Parish Community where her kindnesses were concealed with the same thoroughness which made her successful in the classroom.

She was in tune with the spirit of her age. To spare the rod and thereby spoil the child was, for her, an act of betrayal which she would not countenance. She preferred, however, to substitute her knuckles for a rod and many of her former pupils bear testimony, to this day, of the effectiveness of the contact between her knuckles and a human head in motivating pupils to learn. But she would not spare herself in serving them. She was even more demanding of herself than

she was of her pupils, and sternness did not conceal her care for them. A lasting legacy of her life in St. Brigid's was a song "Gliding" which generations of children, now become pensioners, know.

(The song is reproduced in this publication)

Bridget McGarry never married. This was due to a promise she made to care for the children of her dead sister, Maranne. She did this well too. Both boys were seen through their education as was another nephew, Henry, the son of her dead brother. In addition to this, around 1928, she travelled regularly by bus to Kilmarnock after her hard days work in school while nursing her brother, Jimmy, through his final illness.

Her determination to overcome odds and succeed is also well illustrated by a situation during her studies. She required to achieve a standard in Piano technique to complete her qualification. Her family, on the other hand, was not able to provide a piano. Bridget solved the dilemma in a quite remarkable way. She took chalk and drew the piano keys on a chest (kist) in her house and practised on that. She achieved the standard, out-performing better-off students who did have the piano in their own homes.

Seeing much poverty around her was difficult to bear. She arranged regularly with a local grocer to deliver a basket of groceries to some needy family with the instruction that he was to say only that "someone" had sent it. This emerged only after her death.

Bridget's Grand-nephew, James, is a priest of the Salesian Fathers serving, for the present, the parish of St. Clare's in Easterhouse.

Bridget McGarry was born in Newmains in 1882 and lived throughout her life in the Parish. She died in 1969 at 86 years old leaving a legacy of memories and precisely four shillings in cash after funeral expenses were paid. The four shillings was used for candles.



PETER CLARK

Those of us who remember Peter will remember him as a comforter in times of trouble. Peter Clark devoted himself to the service of the poor in the St. Vincent de Paul Society for many years. When bereavement came Peter was first to offer bereaved families the comfort and consolation of prayer. Few were the families who did not turn to Peter to lead the recitation of the Rosary in their own homes. He was a man of great generosity of spirit and gentleness of manner.

Peter, who was born in 1901 was a miner. He is pictured here with (Big) Jim Ryan, another stalwart but one who is fortunately still with us although he now lives in Wishaw.

Peter Clark died in 1977. He left no direct descendants but nephews and nieces continue his service to St. Brigid's and a multitude of his friends remember him with affection and gratitude.



PATRICK GALLACHER

For as long as the stones that he cut and dressed remain in our church Patrick Gallacher (above right) will be a symbol of the debt that we owe to our forebears in the early days of the parish. He put his skills in stoneworking to the service of God and his fellow-parishioners.

Patrick was involved in the attempt by Father O'Carroll to gather materials to build a fitting house for the worship of God in Newmains. Although that attempt did not succeed he later worked at the building of the church that we now use.

He is pictured with one of the Holy water stoups that he fashioned and which were part of the set that included the Baptismal font now restored to an honoured place in our church.

Patrick Gallagher was born in Motherwell in 1881, later moving to Newmains. He married Bridget Kearney in 1908 and his work as a stonemason supported his wife and the four children born to them. Both of his daughters, Alice Cook and Margaret Macdermid, remain in the parish as do his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Patrick died in 1951.

SISTER MAGDALENE

The image of an elderly Nun, wearing the habit of her order, but with the added features of a crash helmet and goggles which she wore while riding her motorbike is one which remains vivid for many residents of Newmains.

This was Sister Magdalene. Practical as ever she had made the decision that the motorcycle offered cost-effective and flexible transportation.

But Sister Magdalene had more surprises in store. A trained scientist who had taught science in a Glasgow secondary school she entered the Helpers of the Holy Souls Order in 1936.

It was in the order that she found what was to be her highest calling. Her vocation was directed towards helping those dealing with the end of life, whether their own or that of a loved-one. Sister Magdalene prayed for the dead; she comforted the dying; she comforted the families of the dying; and in a final act of love and humility she washed and prepared for burial the remains of the dead. Families all over Lanarkshire found God brought to their homes by a gentle nun with the gift of offering the comfort of unconditional love.

She had, too, a great love for children. When the rule of her Order permitted Sister Magdalene took up a post as a teacher in primary Schools, first in St. Ignatius, Wishaw and, for a period of six years in St. Brigid's. She retired in 1977 aged 67 years. Having spent 28 years in the convent in Newmains, Sister Magdalene moved to Govan in 1982 and to Hamilton in 1987 all the while continuing her offer of friendship and support where they were needed.

But more than any other activity her life was given to prayer.

Sister Magdalene was born in Coatbridge in 1910. She graduated B.Sc. from Glasgow University and entered the Helpers of the Holy Souls in 1936. She served with them in France, England and Edinburgh as well as Lanarkshire.

She remained in the order for more than 53 years until her death in 1990.



JAMES HENVEY

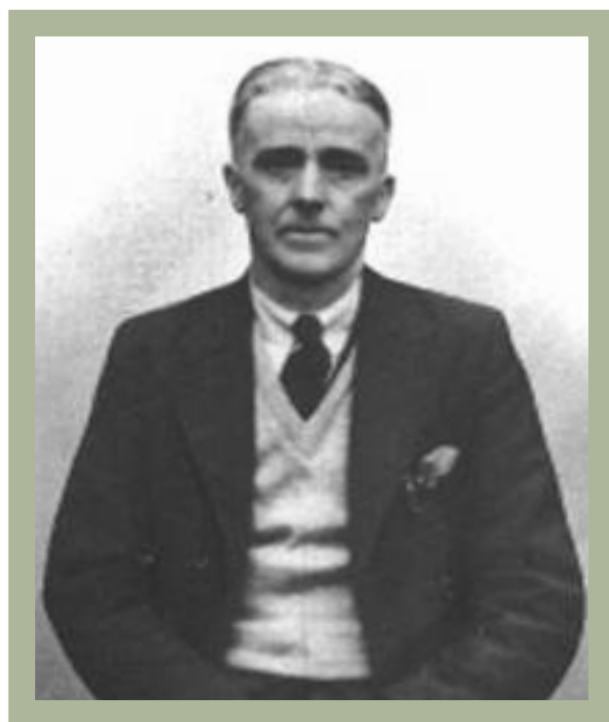
James Henvey was a man who left an indelible imprint on St. Brigid's. This was all the more curious because he had never lived in the Parish.

Born in Glenboig and one of 19 children, he was educated in St. Mungo's School in Glasgow. He served in the Royal Navy during the first great war with H.M.S. Amethyst, H.M.S. Defiance and H.M.S. Victory.

After the war he became first of all a teacher in St. Brigid's school and was later appointed Head Teacher. While Head Teacher he was sponsor for all boys (Bridget McGarry for girls) on the first occasion that the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred in the new church in 1937.

James composed a hymn, still used in the parish, to St. Theresa. His daughter Theresa spent her entire teaching career in St. Brigid's becoming Assistant Head and a well-known and much loved figure in her own right. Together they gave over 60 years of service to St. Brigid's. Theresa, although retired prematurely, still contributes regularly to the life of the school.

James Henvey, born on 27th of Dec. 1890 died on May 25th 1937 while still serving as Head-teacher.



Pictured above is a family group showing Bobby Young with two of his grandchildren.

BOBBY YOUNG

Bobby was a willing and tireless worker in our parish and a well-known figure in his native village. His contemporaries knew him as a practical joker on the grand scale and as an abundantly witty man. During his working life in the Coltness Ironworks he contributed to the folklore of the village with many innocent but hilarious pranks, in the days also when betting was an illegal but ever-present industry Bobby "lifted lines" for his contemporaries and there would have been many occasions when his good humour and good reputation protected him from the overzealous application of the law.

Bobby Young was born in 1890 and married Joan McLeod from Arisaig. Only one of the three children of their marriage remains active in the Parish, Willie became a well-known figure in his own right but died during this Centenary year and Bobby died quite recently in Wishaw. Meg remains a member of the parish.

Bobby (Sir) himself died in 1968 at the age of 77

His grandchildren and great-grandchildren remain part of our congregation every Sunday.

DENIS AND MARY JACKSON

Mary Jackson was married to Denis for 32 years but remained known in her native village as Mary Moulds. Such is the way in a village community.

Mary's family were well known in the parish. Her first husband was killed when his ship was torpedoed while escorting a convoy in 1941. She was no stranger to tragedy. Her brother, Paddy, a policeman, had been killed in a traffic accident while engaged in points duty. Mary worked with the Co-operative and later in Law Hospital. The Catering skills she learned there were put to the service of her Parish. Only a few weeks before her death she worked at a function in the Parish Hall. Mary was a leading figure in the activities of the Women's Guild.

But not only St. Brigid's was to benefit from her energy and enthusiasm. She worked in the Convent of the Helpers of the Holy Souls on Bonkle Road. She was deeply involved with the Associates there.

Denis Jackson, her second husband, had been born in Berryhill and had already worked with the St. V. de P. Society in St. Ignatius Parish. He had been in the Royal Artillery during WWII and was by training a carpenter. In Newmains he joined the St. V. de P. society, becoming its President. He worked endlessly during the conversion of the old school to Parish Hall. He was a quiet, unassuming and transparently good man. His free time and skills were given without fuss and without seeking prominence. He was for many years treasurer for Meals-on-Wheels, and was a founder member of the Community Council. He represented his parish on

the Christian Aid Committee for a considerable time and willingly worked for the relief of poverty in the third world.

Denis was a member of a family who had distinguished themselves in the service of the church. His brother, Pat, had been like Denis a lifelong member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and a stalwart of the boys guild movement. Pat Jackson was honoured by the Pope for his life's work. The signature on the document conferring this honour is that of Pope John Paul I whose papacy lasted only 30 days.

Denis and Mary Jackson were born in 1913. They married in 1953. Mary died on 19th April 1985 while Denis died on 1 June 1991.





WILLIAM YOUNG

Willie died during the Centenary year. The suddenness of his death was stunning and the community knew that great change had taken place in its midst.

Willie Young was part of the landscape of St. Brigid's. Mass-goers had come to expect to see him. He was a Minister of the Eucharist and a reader; he was a pass-keeper and Lifelong member of the S. V. de P.; he drove the sick to mass and had done so for more than 20 years; he would lead prayers in the church when required.

Most of the men of the Parish "of a certain age" remembered him as a devoted official of the boys guild. They remembered him for his good-nature and unfailing courtesy. (One of them, Councillor McKendrick, remembered him in a practical way by arranging for a street to be named after him.) They

remembered the time he had given to them and to their interests.

Willie led the saying of the Rosary at many funerals in recent years. He had been a long term member of the CMS in the Parish.

All of these functions were important, perhaps even vital in the life of the Parish but they are not the only reasons for remembering him.

During World War II Willie Young served with the R.A.F. on the Island of Malta where he experienced the intensive bombing campaign that the island sustained. He met and married his wife, Mary, there. After the end of the war he returned and set up home in Newmains.

Willie had no harsh words to say. In public and in private he was amiable and good-humoured. A smile was never far away whether he was discussing football, race-horses or more serious (?) matters. He was ever ready to talk and, more unusually, ever ready to listen.

As the son of a "Bookie" he had a long-term interest in horse-racing and enjoyed a "flutter". He had a lifelong interest in the well-being of a football club in the East End of Glasgow and enjoyed the company of a wide circle of friends but was never happier than when with his family.

Willie Young was born in 1920. He became a teacher and ended his teaching career with spells as Head teacher in St. Patrick's, Shotts and finally in St. Serf's Primary in Airdrie from which he retired in 1985 and where he continues to be remembered with affection. Even after his retirement he represented the Church as a member of St. Brigid's School Board.

Perhaps, in a lifetime of achievement, the achievement which he most valued was the presentation of the Award - Bene Merenti which he received from the Bishop in 1994 in recognition of his lifelong contribution to the life of the church.



KATY AND JEANIE CLARK

These sisters gave much of their lives to the service of the Parish of St. Brigid's.

They were the daughters of Thomas and Catherine Clark. Thomas had been a miner and on leaving the pits due to signs of a respiratory illness found work in the Ammonia works at Coltness Iron Co.

Jeannie and Katy, as they were known locally, were born in 1889 and 1896 respectively, the latter being just a short time before the arrival of Father Humble.

They were educated at our school and Jeannie went on to become a Pupil-Teacher, later studying at Dowanhill College for full professional qualifications. After short spells elsewhere she was appointed to Newmains RC under the leadership of the legendary Miss McCluskie.

Jean was dedicated to the all-round development of the community she served.. She trained Altarboys for the church. She was a catechist to those who wished

to be instructed in the faith. She played the organ and worked with the choir. She also worked on school dramatic productions, one of these being "Dan the Newsboy" which was presented at the Pavilion (later the Plaza Cinema) in Wishaw during the 1920's.

Katy, who kept house after the premature death of their parents, was equally active. Her gifts were practical and artistic. She was an accomplished seamstress and maker of vestments. She made the green velvet Altarcloth, bearing the words "Sanctus Sanctus Sanctus" which became familiar to visitors to the church before the re-shaping of the sanctuary.

The sisters moved from their home in Ruby Cres. to Wishaw late in life. Jean's teaching career reached into the 1950's as she continued, during an extended shortage of teachers, to respond to the calls for help made to her.

Katy died in 1974 at 78 years old. Jean lived to the age of 94 and died, much mourned, in 1983.





The young Sarah Diamond

SARAH (DIAMOND) RYAN

Parish communities in urban Scotland from time to time produce the kind of lay person whose entire life is focused on the church. Sarah Diamond was that type.

Living, as she did, through a period when the role of the lay-person in the church was less strongly highlighted she was content to put her time and her talents at the disposal of her parish and to do whatever she was asked to do.

Sarah was an accomplished seamstress and made vestments. She maintained those vestments. She made surplices for generations of small boys who aspired to be altar servers. She was a highly efficient sacristan and could even turn her hand to elaborate floral arrangements for those occasions in the liturgical calendar which required decoration of the altar.

Later in her life, she became non-resident housekeeper in the Parochial House and proved just as efficient in that role too.

Sarah, after her Husband Hugh Ryan died, lived with her sister Mary. Nevertheless she was part of one of the large, extended family networks which are characteristic of village life. Although few of her direct family remain in the parish many parishioners will be aware of a family connection.

JOHN BURNS

John Burns was universally known as “Colonel” (as his father had been before him) and had been part of our parish for his entire life. No one, least of all himself knew the origin of the name but there were no military connotations. He was born in 1017.

John, formerly a moulder in the Coltness Iron Works, became a miner in Kingshill Number 3 Pit. He was a popular figure in the parish and a loving and attentive parent to his own large family.

Like many others he took with him from the mines a legacy of ill-health which he bore with good humour and considerable courage. He used his enforced leisure time for the good of the community in St. Brigid's by becoming Hall Keeper. He spent his final years in that role and carried it out attentively. For several years John Burns seemed ever-present in the Hall.

John Burns died in the summer of 1987 aged 70 years. Many grieved at the passing of a man who was always ready with a cheerful word. He left behind him his wife and family and a steadily growing number of grandchildren, already active in the Parish.



OUR PRIESTS

We have been led by many fine priests. By men who had truly given up their lives to God. Not all of them are described here. Some left an imprint upon the parish more strongly and are remembered with greater clarity but all played their part. Let the few represent the many.

FATHER ROBERT HEALEY

Father Robert Healey's stay in St. Brigid's was a short but memorable one. When he came to the parish after a period of ill-health he was already known to some parishioners from a previous stay in St. Patrick's, Shotts.

It was soon clear that we had been given a priest of rare gifts. He was a man of great personal piety and his teaching from the pulpit was relevant, well - focused and clear.

He was also a sociable man. He joined in the various activities in the hall and enjoyed the company of those he found there. He was, in particular, a keen bowler.

He quickly earned the respect and affection of the parish.

He was attentive to the needs of the school and spent time there with the children. Indeed he showed great interest in children and young people generally and was especially willing to support the work of the Pro-life group. He accompanied them on several visits to Innocents House in Bothwell. The picture at the top of the page shows him during one such visit. Father Healey's final mass in the Parish will provide a lasting memory to those who were present. He was clearly in great distress and equally anxious to complete the celebration. His sermon was, especially with the benefit of hindsight, particularly appropriate. He spoke of the Risen Christ. The mass was completed but at great cost to Father Healey in pain.

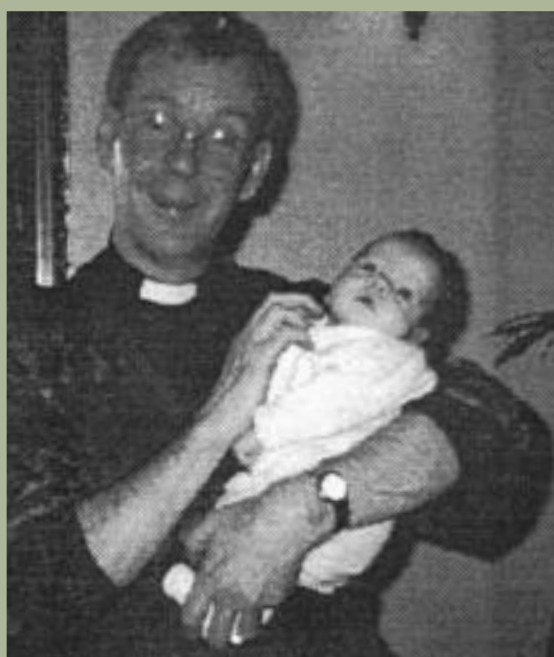
He was shortly afterwards taken into medical care and died the following day in Law Hospital. Few events have made such a deep impression upon St. Brigid's parish.

We will always remember him as a man who placed upon himself demands that could hardly have been fulfilled. His sense of vocation was powerful. His image of the priest he wanted to be was ultimately unattainable.

Father Bob, we are confident, retains an interest in St. Brigid's and will celebrate the centenary with us.

Father Robert Healey was born in Hamilton in 1951 and after his education in Holy Cross High and Strathclyde University trained for the priesthood in Valladolid, Spain. He was ordained in 1978 in Cadzow and spent some time in various parishes with another six years spent as Professor at Blairs College.

He came to St. Brigid's in 1993 and died on 13th March 1994.



RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR JOHN O'DONNELL

'Monsignor O'Donnell left his mark both spiritually and materially upon St. Brigid's. He was Parish Priest here between 1957 and 1967. When the new school in Newton Drive opened leaving a derelict building at Westwood Rd. it fell to him to deal with the situation.

With characteristic energy he re-invented the old school as new social centre and gathered a group of parishioners to make a conversion. He fashioned, from the hulk of the derelict building, a complex of two halls which would be more adequate to the needs of the parish.

The previous year he had welcomed the silver jubilee of the church by a complete refurbishment with new seats and a complete redesign of the interior.

He was chancellor of the Diocese but, even at local level, placed the parish on a firmer financial footing. He also introduced the Scouting movement to the Parish.

Monsignor John O'Donnell was born in Dumbarton in 1918. After Education at St. Patrick's High School and St. Peter's College he was ordained in 1944. After leaving St. Brigid's he became Parish priest in St. Ignatius, Wishaw where he remained until his retirement in 1984. He died on 3 March 1989.



REV FATHER HUMBLE

Father James Humble, who was a Liverpool man by birth, faced a daunting task when his Bishop appointed him as the founding father of the new parish of St. Brigid's, Newmains in 1897.

He found a congregation beset by poverty and want. He would already have experienced the plight of the industrial workers in his previous charge at Maryhill in Glasgow.

Squalor, ill-nourishment and industrial diseases must have made it difficult to introduce a spiritual dimension. But the people hungered for their church intensely.

Father Humble was a vigorous and energetic man who soon set to work in his new charge. He moved into the house which stands on Westwood Road at the gates of our present Church and by 1897 had completed the building of the house which now stands in the church grounds.

He stayed for seven years before moving on to Scots College in Valladolid, Spain, where he became Rector eventually and where he remained until his death in 1948. His portrait continues to hang there in the College, a lasting tribute to his work.

Father Humble was educated at Blairs and in Scots College.

DOCTOR CAHILL

'The Doc', as he was widely known, wore his Homburg hat at a rakish angle. With his black coat often flying wide he had the air of a gunslinger of the old west - and something of the gunslinger's attitude. He made severe demands upon the parishioners but these demands were as nothing to the demands he made upon himself. He was a perfectionist. No-one who ever mounted the pulpit in St. Brigid's outdid him in the matter of plain speaking. But the unrelenting and often apparently harsh fervour of his public face when he would rage at his flock for their faults was counterpointed by a generosity of spirit in a closer, more personal, setting which won over many of those who had resented, and even feared, his anger. Some parishioners remember him for harshness; far more remember him with affection. None who were alive during his tenure have forgotten him. And none doubt that he wanted to bring them to God!

Doctor Cahill, as we knew him, went on to become a Canon of the Diocese. He was born in Rutherglen in 1905 and after education in St. Aloysius, Glasgow and Blairs College he completed his education and training for the priesthood in Scots College, Rome. He achieved a Doctorate in Divinity. He died in 1990 and parishioners from Newmains were among those who attended his funeral in Hamilton.

REV. WILLIAM O'CARROLL

As has been detailed elsewhere in this publication Father O'Carroll will be remembered above all for his heroic struggle to build a suitable church for the worship of God in our parish. The Baptismal font in the church keeps that memory alive.

Father O'Carroll was a man whose only personal ambition was to bring the souls in his charge closer to God. He was a good natured and tolerant man and is remembered not only with admiration but with affection by those who knew him.

William O'Carroll was born in Thurles, County Tipperary where he was educated by the Christian Brothers. He studied for the priesthood in Scotland and was ordained in 1902 in St. Andrew's cathedral in Glasgow. He became our parish priest in 1916. His physical strength could not match his desire to serve God and he died prematurely in 1922.





These are the ruins of Dura Kirk, above Allanton where Mass was said for itinerant Irish labourers working on railway construction gangs during a period when no permanent Catholic Church was available to them in the area.

1890-1900



Toll House, First Parish House.

THREE LITTLE MAIDS

In 1898, only two years after the parish came into being the play "The Mikado" by Gilbert & Sullivan was performed by young people of the Parish. The play had been premiered only thirteen years before in London.

These "Three Little Maids" are:- Susan Ryan: Julia Keenan and Lizzie McFadyen. In charge of production was teacher Mrs. Davies.



1900-1910

A curious child looks directly at the camera from his playground, the back courts of Newmains. Behind him towers the Coltness Works where he will probably seek future employment.



1910-20

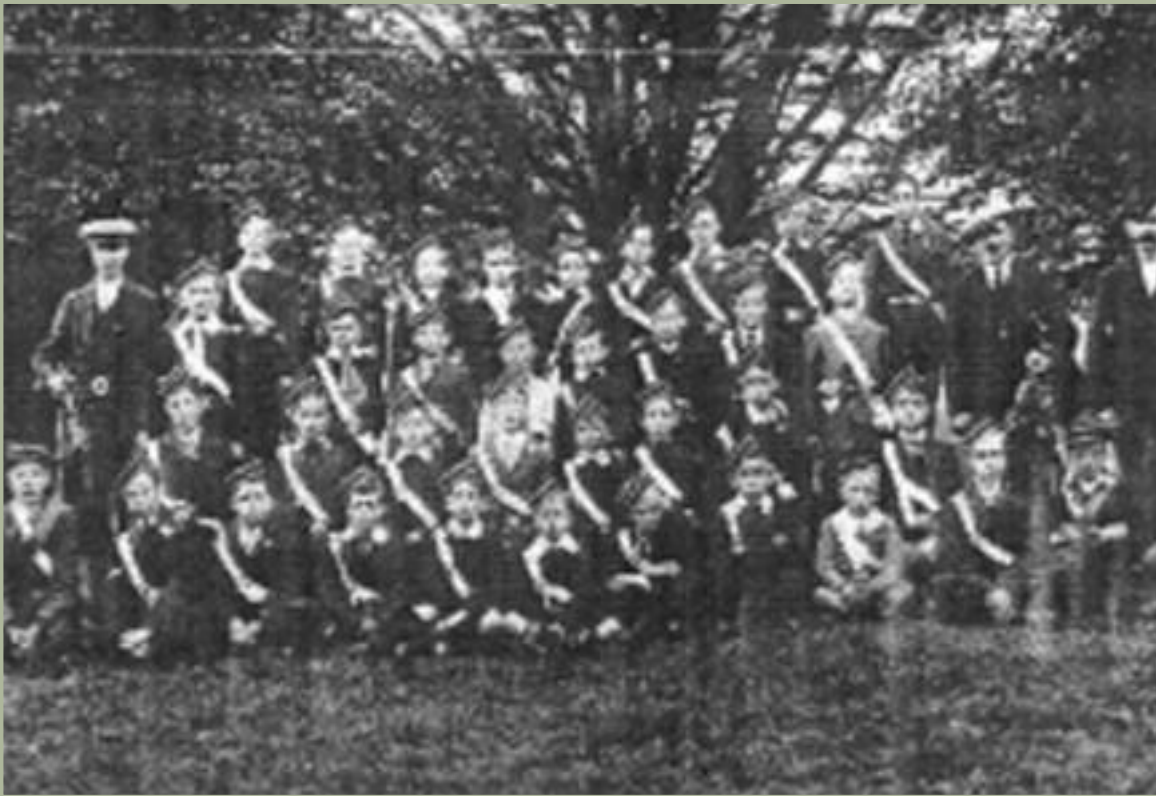
WAR AND PEACE



Some of our parishioners would have been in this happy procession marching in anticipation to the 6th Gala-Day in 1914. It was to be a memorable day for these children as Gala-days had been for children before them and would be for generations of children after them.

Storm clouds were already forming, however, that summer.

Only 6 weeks later the "War to end wars" as it was promised to be began on August 4th.



The Boys Guild has a long and varied history in the Parish. This group, wearing the now unfamiliar uniform, were photographed beginning a day-trip to Lanark during the years immediately prior to the World War of 1914-1918.

The Bagpipers are the brothers Nevins. As well as our oldest Parishioner, Stephen Friar (4th Row Second from left) are representatives of other family names well known in the Parish – Diamond, Brannigan, Fitzpatrick, Thomas, Foy and Egan.



1920-29

WAR AND PEACE



Newmains has a tradition of amateur theatre which extends to the earliest days of the community above is the assembled cast of

“The Green Bushes”

a St. Patrick's Night production for 1924.

*Many of the names are familiar around the village but most, although not all, are now gone.
The cast included. -*

*Dan McGuire; Hugh Mollachan: John Brannigan: Phillip Brown, Peter Kirley, Pat Thomas:
Jim Foy; Pat J Brannigan: Peter Lynch, John Diamond, Michael Kearney; Sarah Diamond;
Kate Lynch; Cathy Friar, Mary Kirley: Mary Mollachan, Annie McNernay; Mary Thomas.*



Miss McCluskie with a gardening class in the 1920's

The year is in the late 20's and this youthful group of parishioners are gathered in the Toll Park, site of countless struggles in football and cricket. Behind them is Park Drive and they sit on the site of the new St Brigid's School which would be built here in about thirty years.



1930-40

This is the Baptismal font made by Patrick Gallacher and now restored to an honoured position in the church.

It bears an inscription which dedicates to the memory of Father O'Carroll.



Plans which were already generations old came to fruition with the building of the church in 1933. In style it is Neo-Gothic and it was set in spacious grounds.

For the first time St. Brigid's had a building which was devoted exclusively to the worship of God while the original building which had served the community well for almost sixty years would now serve exclusively as a school.



The Funeral Procession takes the last remains Father Stopani away from Newmains.

Father Stopani presided over the construction of our church. He was born in Lerwick in 1883 and after training for the priesthood in Blairs and Valladolid he was ordained in 1911.

He served the people of St. Augustines, Coatbridge for 19 years, from 1911 - 1930.

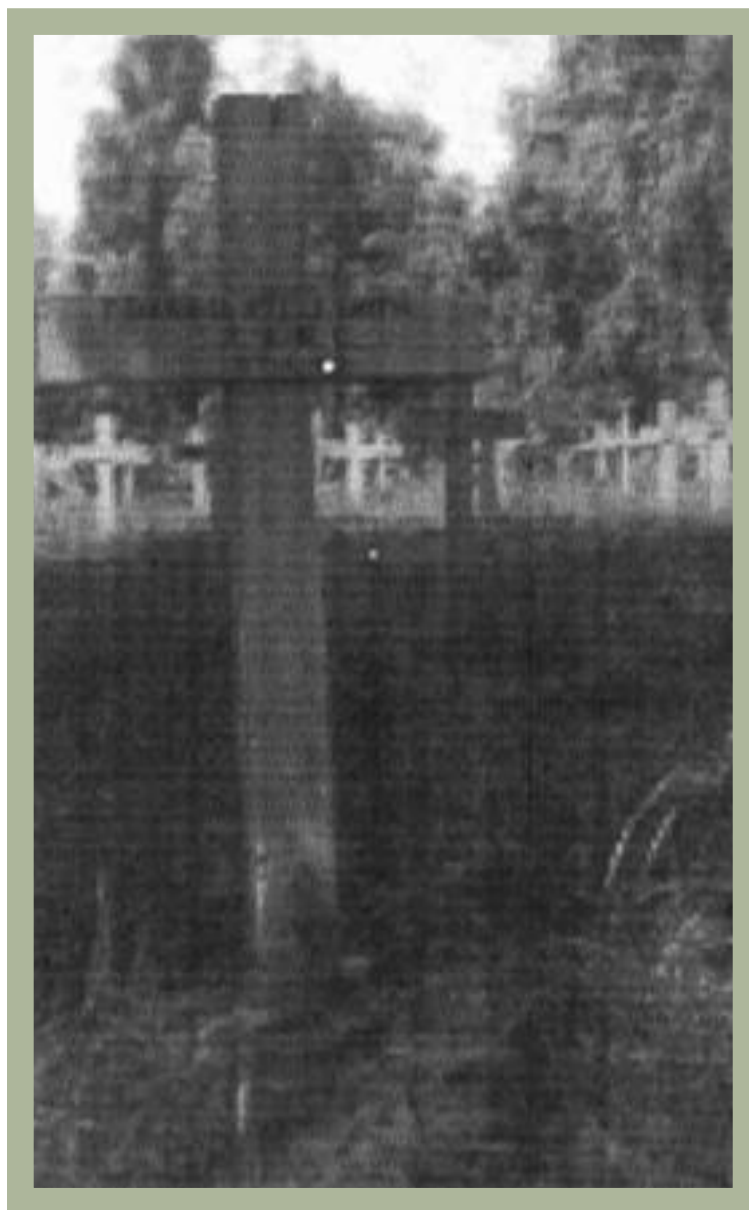
He was Parish Priest in St. Brigid's for the remainder of his life.

He died in 1937.





*Men of the Parish died in various wars during the century.
The centenary celebration will remind us to pray for them.*



*This is the grave, in Baghdad, of Jim Smith. Jim was a member
of the Royal Army Medical Corps. He died in 1943.*

*Jim's brother, Lindsay, lives on in the parish and has been one of its most
faithful servants throughout his life.*

*"...here in this graveyard its still No Man's Land .
The countless white crosses stand mute in the sand.."
(Eric Bogle)*



During the post war years a fine Church Choir was developed in St. Brigid's. This picture was taken in the early 'fifties at one of the many performances they gave. They are shown in the company of Father Michael Maher and the Parish Priest Father Thomas Kelly.

Their number includes:

Back Row. ; T. Murphy; E.Kearney; M.Kearney; J.Curran; T.Clark; D.Muir;

Middle Row. T.Cullen; P.Donnelly; 7; T.McQuillan; J.Cullen; P.Calderhead; M. Thomas; J.Sneddon;

*Front Row. P. O'Donnell; H McGuire; A.McGuire; J. McConville (Conductor).
?McGuinness; J.Ryan; A.McGuinness*

1950-60



The Silver Jubilee of the building of our church was celebrated in 1958. In the front row, beside the centre aisle, kneels the distinguished guest for the occasion. Frank Pakenham, who later became Lord Longford.

The Altar shown behind Father McKellaig has the oaken backdrop which became so familiar during the first 30 years of the use of the Church.

It was given to the Parish by Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral after it is said, one of their parishioner's won a considerable sum of money in the Irish hospital sweepstake, and provided a replacement.

After the introduction of the Pauline Mass with the priest facing the people it was felt that there was insufficient room in the sanctuary to retain it.

THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE



Many of our people have come from other places during the century.

This group prepares for the departure of a child to live with family in a new land.

Clementina Rea

THE ITALIANS

In the year 1896, as the Parish of St. Brigid's, Newmains came into being a young, unmarried Italian man, from the village of Filingnano in the region surrounding Cassino, arrived in the village.

The region was to contribute much to world culture. Another of its sons, a young singer named Alfredo Cocozza, changed his name to Mario Lanza and conquered Concert Halls and Hollywood in equal measure. (some of his relatives are to be found not far from Newmains.). Coia the Architect of renown, was another and Danny di Vito another conqueror of the world of film and TV.

Vincenzo Mancini's fame was to be more local. He followed a well established pattern and turned the Italian flair for food and especially for Ice Cream to his advantage. He set up in business in "The Terminus Cafe", the building now occupied by the Bank, which was then close to the tram stop. And he fed the sweet tooth of thousands of Scots.

Other Italian families had already. They've been in the area in Morningside, then a thriving village community in its own right. Four main families provided the foundation on which our small Italian community was built. They were the families Matassa, Nardone, Jaconelli and, of course Mancini.

Vincenzo Mancini was to return temporarily to Italy, where he met his wife. But like the Irish the Italians were here to stay. They had found a new and permanent home and while they retained a fondness for the "old country" they played their part in the new.

The Italians, moreover, were more readily accepted by the population at large. Perhaps they were fewer in number; perhaps they were perceived as not being involved in the perennial controversies of Irish politics: for whatever reason they were less readily engaged in inter-communal strife. But even they were not to be totally free from the fear and prejudice sometimes engendered by outsiders.

During World War II, when Italy was at war with the Allies, the Italian community were treated as aliens, and sometimes as dangerous aliens. They were removed from coastal locations and relocated inland. Thousands were interned. Some of the Newmains Italian Community were interned, even some who had been born in the UK and who presented no threat whatever. Charles Forte, multimillionaire and hotelier was interned. But at last normality was restored and they could return to their ice-cream parlours and Cafes.

They have contributed to the life and development of our parish and play their part in the community. A fine symbol of their integration is the fact that one of the descendants of Vincenzo Mancini from Filingnano now lives in the house occupied by our first Parish Priest, Father Humble on his arrival.



*The visit of the
King in 1914.
The Terminus
Cafe is in the
Central
background.*

1960-70



Back Row: Mr. W Young; Father Peter Gorman; Hugh Kennedy; Martin Connelly; Robert Smellie; Eddie McKerr; Andy McQuade; James Moulds; John McKerr; Mr Hughie King;

Front Row: Ian Curran; Michael Donnelly; Willie McKendrick; Bob McKendrick; Gerry Burns; Willie McQuade; Willie Young

The Boys Guild was a feature of adolescent life in the Parish for many years. This group enjoyed success under the guidance of Hughie King during the middle sixties just as earlier groups had done with the assistance of Phil Duffy and others.

With the group is the late Father Peter Gorman who continues to live in the affections of many parishioners.

The song printed below was taught to generations of children by Miss McGarry and her contemporaries. If the parish of St. Brigid's has an anthem, this is it.

Gliding

*Gliding through the meadow, dancing o'er the
green Runs the merry brooklet with its silver
sheen Day and night unceasing, swift its waters
flow Speeding quickly onwards humming as
they go*

Chorus

*Gliding swiftly through the meadow,
dancing gaily o'er the pebbles
In the sunshine or the shadow
Hear the murmur of the brook's sweet song.*

*As it journeys onward, pass by rocks beset
Speeding quickly onwards, bounding onward
yet. As its course grows shorter, waters quickly
glide Till they reach the ocean mingling with
the tide.*

Chorus

*Gliding swiftly through the meadow,
dancing gaily o'er the pebbles
In the sunshine or the shadow
Hear the murmur of the brook's sweet song.*



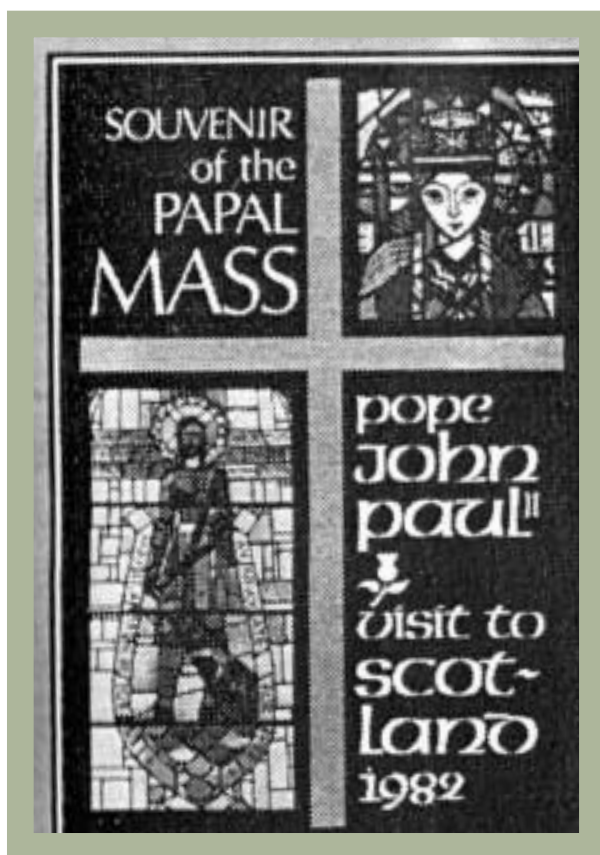


PAPAL VISIT 1982

On Tuesday 1st June 1982 12 bus loads of Parishioners left Newmains to join in the joyful carnival atmosphere at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Scotland.

They became part of the massive crowd that awaited him, that stood patiently for hours in corrals and that enjoyed the glorious sunshine which bathed the park on that memorable day.

It was a day the founders of the Parish could not have foreseen and a day that those present will never forget. It was also a day that was shared with us by many members of other local churches who accompanied our parish contingent.



This is the Brochure produced for the Papal visit in 1982



Some of the group in the 'Newmains Corral" enjoy the festive atmosphere and the glorious June sunshine.





Calvary



Peace garden fountain

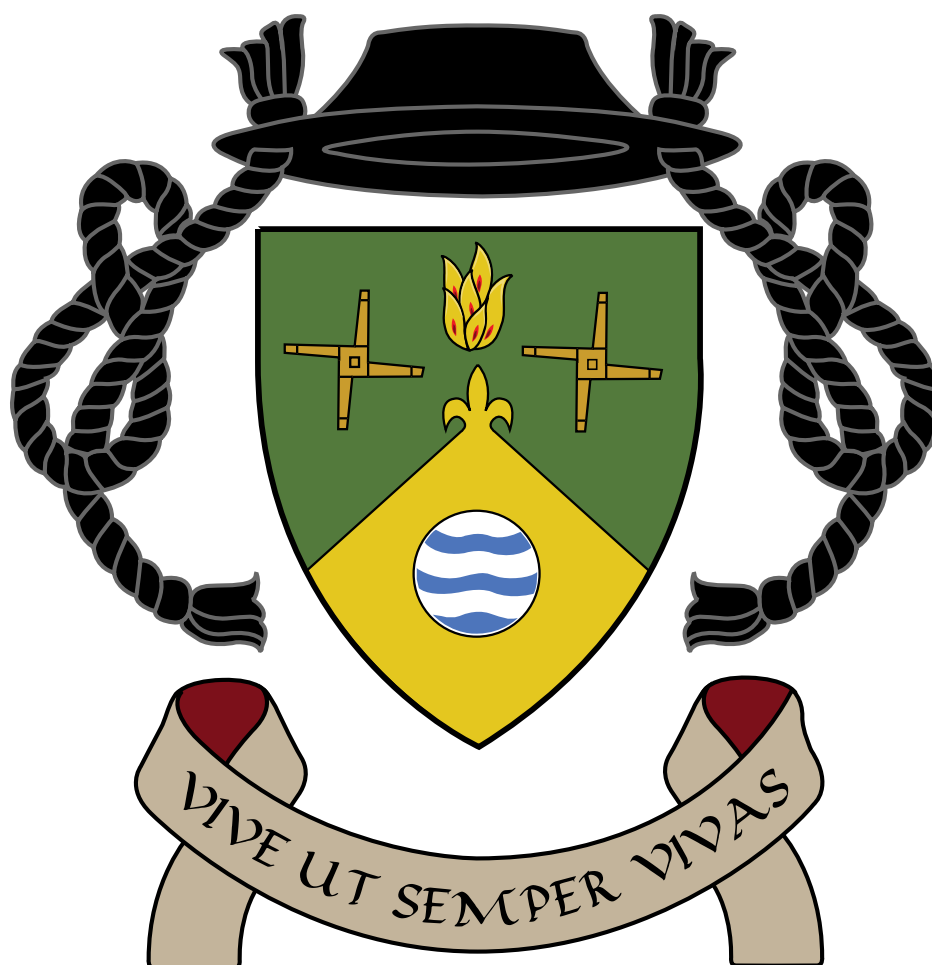


Peace Garden



School Crest in Peace Garden





THE COAT-OF ARMS

A further distinction is added to our history this year as we become the first Catholic Parish in Scotland to receive the award of Armorial Bearings from the Lord Lyon-King-at-Arms.

The design of the bearings is intended to identify the bearer uniquely and unmistakably. In the case of St. Brigid's Parish it reflects our history, our future and our ideals as a community of God.

The shield is green which reflects the fact that many of the earliest parishioners had their family origins in Ireland. On that green background there is a golden Chevron (an upside down "V"). This reminds us of the legend that at the time of the birth of St. Brigid a great light shone uniting earth and heaven. Light was brought to her birthplace.

At the point of the chevron is a Fleur-de-Lys, a symbol of the Virgin Mary whom Brigid sought to imitate and

after whom she was called "Mary of the Gael".

Two straw crosses, of a type still found in rural Ireland and known as St. Brigid's Cross, are at the upper part of the field flanking tongues of flame. The flames represent the flame of Faith, still strong here after one hundred years, the flame kept lit by the followers of St. Brigid in her honour and the flames of the furnaces which brought our ancestors to Newmains.

At the centre of the chevron is a symbol representing a well. Like its counterpart on the Arms of the Diocese and on the arms of North Lanarkshire, our civil authority, this reminds us of an original well, dedicated to Our Lady which gave its name to Motherwell.

The motto "Vive ut semper vivas" means:-

Live that you might live forever.



CLARE McCRORY

The artist responsible for producing our Coat of Arms is Clare McCrory.

Clare, daughter of John and Florence McCrory is a member of our Parish Community. She was born in Holytown and attended school at St. Patrick's Primary in New Stevenson. When her family moved she transferred to St. Aidan's Primary School where her mother was Assistant Head Teacher. In due course she completed her secondary education at St. Aidan's High School.

After leaving school Clare worked for a time in the Local Authority Parks Dept. in a clerical capacity. In her spare time, however she pursued an interest in calligraphy. Eventually she decided to seek an outlet for these developing abilities and interests. In

1984 she gained entry to the Art School in Reigate, Sussex, the only UK centre offering instruction in Calligraphy and the highly specialized art-form of Heraldry. She studied there for two years.

On leaving her college she worked as a freelance artist. Most recently she has become attached to the Court of the Lord Lyon, again in a freelance capacity.

In working on the project of the award of Armorial bearings to St. Brigid's Clare followed a design brief prepared by the Lyon Court, after discussions with members of the Centenary Committee. Clare, herself, participated in these discussions and guided the Committee through the process.



Parish priests of St. Brigid's

Diocese of Glasgow:-

1896 -1903 Rev. James Humble

1903 - 1916 Rev. James Bird

1916 - 1921 Rev William O'Carroll

1921 - 1924 Rev. Hugh McDonald

1924 - 1929 Rev. John A. Lyons

1929 - 1930 Rev. Joseph Courtney

1930 - 1937 Rev. William Stopani

1937 - 1940 Rev. John F. O'Donnell

1940- 1941 Rev. John McIntyre

1941 -1945 Rev. William McGhee

1947 Parish becomes part of the new Diocese of Motherwell

1945 - 1952 Rev. Thomas Kelly

1952 - 1957 Rev. Hugh Cahill D.D.

1957- 1967 Rev. John O'Donnell

1967 - 1976 Rev. Angus McKellaig

1976 - 1985 Rev. Thomas C. Morris

1985 - 1996 Rev. John W. Boyle 1996 -Rev.
Joseph Brannigan

Assistant priests of St. Brigid's

Diocese of Glasgow:-

1935 - 1936 Rev. Daniel Logue

1936 - 1937 Rev. Joseph O'Hagan

1947 Parish becomes part of the new Diocese of Motherwell

1949 Rev. William Bradley

1950 Rev. Thomas Hickey

1950 Rev. Pietro Noaro SX

1950 - 1953 Rev. Michael B. Maher

1953 - 1954 Rev. Denis Hoban

1954 - 1965 Rev. John B. Healy

1965 - 1968 Rev. Peter Gorman

1968 - 1969 Rev. John Ward

1969 - 1973 Rev. Humphrey O'Mahony

1973 - 1983 Rev. Edward Glackin

1976 - 1976 Rev. Damien Murphy

1985 - 1988 Rev. John Kelly

1988 - 1992 Rev. John Doherty

1992 - 1993 Rev. John McMurray

1993 - 1994 Rev. Robert Healy

1994 - 1995 Rev. Colin Hughes

1995 - 1996 Rev. James Thomson

1996 - 1996 Rev. James Duddy

Pastoral Assistant

1997 Sister Maria Goretti

*Some of our parishioners have offered
their lives to God in the priesthood and
religious life.*

These are some examples.

Rev Joseph Healy

Father Healy was born in Newmains in 1904. His mother was a member of the Thomas family which had and continues to have extensive links and branches in Newmains. Joseph's parents moved to Lochgelly in Fife and later to the USA. At the age of 14 he went to Blairs College where he remained until 1923.

He continued his training for the priesthood in Scots College, Rome. He was a talented sportsman with a special interest in football. During his studies he represented his college at the game where his opponents were often the professionals of AS Roma the local club which took an interest in the college.

During his spell in Rome he became Master of Ceremonies to the Papal Establishment, being a personal assistant to Pope Pius XI at the Canonization of St. Teresa. He was a distinguished scholar. He took a Doctorate (in Divinity) from the Pontifical University and later completed his Masters degree. Strangely this record of achievement was to prove something of a handicap to him. Later, when invited by his Bishop to undertake further studies he had to work hard to persuade the Diocesan authorities that his vocation was a pastoral one and that his one wish was to serve God's people as their Parish priest.

His ordination was originally directed towards the Diocese of New York and he served there for a short

time as assistant priest in Long Island. He returned home, however, and the remainder of his life was spent in the service of the Diocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh.

His final appointment came when he was Canonically installed as Parish Priest in East Calder. There he stayed for 42 years.

In that community he was highly regarded by his flock. He believed in doing good by stealth. When problems arose for them he attempted to solve them and did so with the maximum of discretion.

Nevertheless, his wisdom and learning served Scottish Catholics beyond the bounds of East Calder. He was a close and trusted friend of Lord and Lady Wheatley and before that of Lord Wheatley's father, John Wheatley, an influential opinion former in the early days of the Labour Party in Scotland.

One parishioner observes that his funeral will serve as his finest tribute. It was attended by a packed congregation, many of whom had good reason to be grateful for Father Healy for assistances he had given to them in their time of need. The poor and the powerless came; but so too did the powerful and well known. To Father Joseph Healy all of God's children were equal and they responded equally to him.

He died in 1979, following his vocation and vision for the church to the end of his life.



MARY KELLY

Mary Kelly was born in Morningside, near Newmains, in 1934. She was educated at St. Brigid's P School and at Elmwood Convent School, Bothwell.

After school she worked for Newmains and Cambusnethan Co-operative Society and gave her spare time generously to the children of the Parish. When Monsignor O'Donnell introduced the scouting movement Mary became Akela in the Wolf Cubs, as they were then known.

She entered the Helpers of the Holy Souls in 1960, taking the name Sister Elizabeth Mary. She made her first vows in 1963.

Sister Elizabeth Mary has been engaged in Social work in London, St. Anne's, Lancashire and Edinburgh. She is, at present working in Huyton, Liverpool. Her brother, John, remains a very active member of our Parish.



MARY FRIAR

Mary Friar was born Musselburgh in 1907 but, at one year old, came with her family to Newmains. She attended Newmains R.C. School.

On leaving school she helped her sisters first with dressmaking (Margaret) and later with baking (Catherine). She entered the Carmelite convent at 29 years of age on the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, living for most of her life in their house in Langside where she became an extern, being one of those few sisters who kept contact with the outside world on behalf of the community.

Sister Agnes of Jesus was a member of the order for well over half a Century. She died in their house at Dysart, Kirkcaldy on 11 May 1995 at the age of 88 years.

Many relatives survive her, one of whom (see opposite) became a member of the Helpers of the Holy Souls.



Sister Elizabeth Mary with her brother John and Sister in Law Mary.

TERESA O'ROURKE

Teresa O'Rourke was born in Newmains in 1901, a member of a family once well-known in the village but now widely dispersed. She attended the local school.

Her brother, John O'Rourke, later became a teacher there.

She joined the Little Sisters of the Poor, After making her initial Profession in France being first of all in their Glasgow House and later in Dublin. As a member of that Order, one dedicated to poverty and prayer, she was given the name Sister Pascaline of St. Bruno.

Tuberculosis was, earlier in this century, a major and common threat to health. Sister Pascaline contracted TB and, in an effort to give her the benefits of a better atmosphere, her order sent her to Perpignan in France.

Sadly, this was to no avail and she died in 1932 Her aunt, Brigid McGarry had been at her bedside until shortly before her death. She is buried in a vault in Perpignan.



MARY JOSEPHINE McALEAVY

Mary Josephine was one of seven children born to Thomas and Catherine McAleavy. She was born in 1929 and educated locally.

In 1950 at the age of 21 she entered the Helpers of the Holy Souls as a novice in their house in South Shields. Nine years later she made final vows in the Convent on Bonkle Road in the presence of Bishop Scanlon.

Now known as Sister Ninian she went to the Helpers of the Holy Souls Convent at St. Anne's-on-Sea.

She became a qualified social worker and her work for God and his Church was carried out in some of the most needy communities in the UK. She worked in the poorest areas of London, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Sister Ninian died in London, surrounded by her community and her family, in 1988.

AGNES FARRELL

Agnes Farrell who was born in 1914, attended St. Brigid's School and Elmwood Convent.

Agnes was an accomplished Highland dancer and a winner of the Daily Record medal for dancing. Indeed, at the age of 18 she was in Germany performing as a dancer when her mother died. Soon after, her interest in dancing took second place to the call to give her life to God.

She became a novice in the Helpers of the Holy Souls in South Shields in 1939. In 1940 an illness caused deafness and it was thought that she would be unable to cope with the demands made upon her. She was sent home. But the call to religious life was powerful and she persisted with her request to be accepted. And accepted she was. She made her first vows three years later in 1942.

She was a community worker for a time in France as well as in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Later she worked in a factory to generate income for her convent. Later still she was pastoral assistant to Father Fudge in Central London and, in addition, became a catechist there. Sister Agnes Farrell died in 1994. Her extended family remain in Newmains.



MARY WELSH

Mary Welsh was born in 1891 in Newmains and began her education in the school.

She trained as a teacher at Dowanhill College and qualified in 1913, completing her probationary period in the summer of 1915. This having been achieved she began to consider the direction her life was to take and three years later she joined the Sisters of Notre Dame, the order which had trained her as a teacher.

Her final vows were taken in 1927 and she continued with her teaching work while a member of the order. She served in Northampton and Norwich before becoming head Teacher in St. Helen's, where she remained until her retiral in 1956. She is remembered by her colleagues as a devoted and talented educator and a good and faithful friend and colleague.

Her retiral was to the Convent in Dumbarton where she remained until her death in 1981.



*Sister Agnes with her sister;
also a parishioner of Newmains*

THOMAS McARDLE

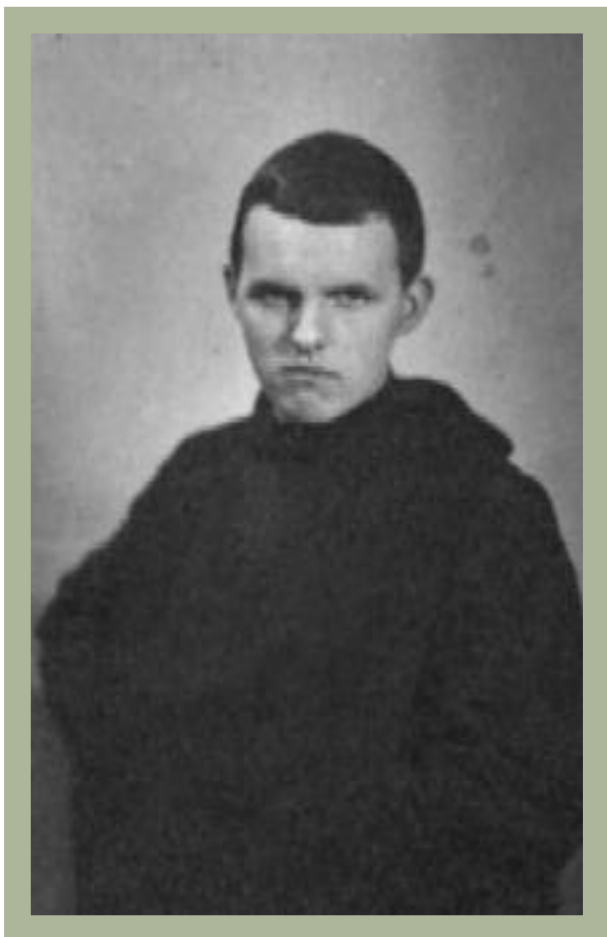
Thomas McArdle was born in 1934, one of the large family of Dan and Isabel McCardle.

While a pupil at St. Brigid's School he was affectionately regarded by his teachers and his peers for his mischievous sense of fun.

He elected to join the Redemptorist Order as a Brother and did so in 1960, making his final Profession of Vows in 1964. As a member of the Redemptorists he took the name Brother Majella. His work with the Order was in their house at Kinnoull in Perthshire where he undertook a variety of duties but became something of a specialist cook.

Brother Majella had a fine and unusual tenor voice which was heard and admired on several occasions in Newmains, in our church and hall.

At a relatively early age his health deteriorated and in 1990, at the age of 56 years, he died.



PATRICK LEONARD

Patrick spent some ten years with the French Benedictine Order before a serious illness required his return home.

He was born in 1916 in St. Brigid's, went to St. Brigid's School and at the age of 17 years entered the order. He was a member of the community at St. Michaels Abbey, Farnborough during his stay except for one year spent at Solem in France. His physical condition at last made the rigours of the community life impossible for him and he returned home in 1943.

For the remainder of his life he adhered, as far as was possible, to the vocation he had accepted. Although physically separated from his community he honoured their ideals and followed their rule.

Pat died in 1975 after living for many years in the home of his sister Catherine and her husband Pat Muldoon. Catherine remains a parishioner.



FATHER ALEX EASTON

Father Alex is a White Father currently working in Uganda. He was born in 1932 to John Easton, a coal-miner from Shotts and his wife Elizabeth. He was an only child. He was educated at St. Brigid's School but his family moved to Glenboig while he was still a schoolboy.

At the age of 12 Alex Easton went to the Junior seminary organized by the White Fathers at St. Boswells. After remaining two years there he progressed to Bishop's Waltham College near Southampton.

Having successfully completed this first phase of his studies he was brought back to Scotland to study theology and philosophy at Monteviot near Jedburgh where he was ordained in 1956.

That same year he went to the White Fathers mission in Uganda where he has remained ever since except for one or two visits home. His most recent was last year when he celebrated the 40th Anniversary of his ordination

A colleague in the White Fathers has described him thus: Father "Alex is quiet man, undemanding, who just wants to get on with the work he was ordained to do."



FATHER GERALD McENHILL

Father McEnhill was born in Newmains in 1926 and educated at our own school and later at Our Lady's High School in Motherwell. He was one of three children born to Mr and Mrs. Jack McEnhill. His brother, Jack, now dead, became a Physicist in the Nuclear industry; his sister Josephine lives in Edinburgh. In 1947, at the age of 21, he entered the Society of Jesus being educated at Heythrop College. He was ordained in the Convent of the Helpers of the Holy Souls in Newmains in 1957 and took his final vows in the Order in 1960.

Father McEnhill grew up in Stewart Crescent surrounded by contemporaries who remain prominent in the life of the Parish, Willie and Agnes Burns, Jim Hinds and others now dispersed or deceased.

140TH CELEBRATIONS



St Patrick's Shotts Brass Band at the Parish Centre



Parishioners applauding the brass band





Motherwell Diocesan Choir



Motherwell Diocesan Choir



Parish Centre catering group



Parish Chior 2012





Anniversary Committee



RCIA Group



St Brigid's Newmains 1871-2011



1871
Mission School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1878
Foundation of the Old Chapel
Rev. John J. McKeay

1893
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1896
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1897
Foundation of the Old Chapel
Rev. John J. McKeay

1904
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1914
Foundation of the Old Chapel
Rev. John J. McKeay

1918
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1922
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1928
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1933
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1939
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1945
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1948
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1955
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1958
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1959
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1962
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1982
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1983
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1996
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

2000
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

2008
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

2009
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

2010
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

2011
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1948
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

1955
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

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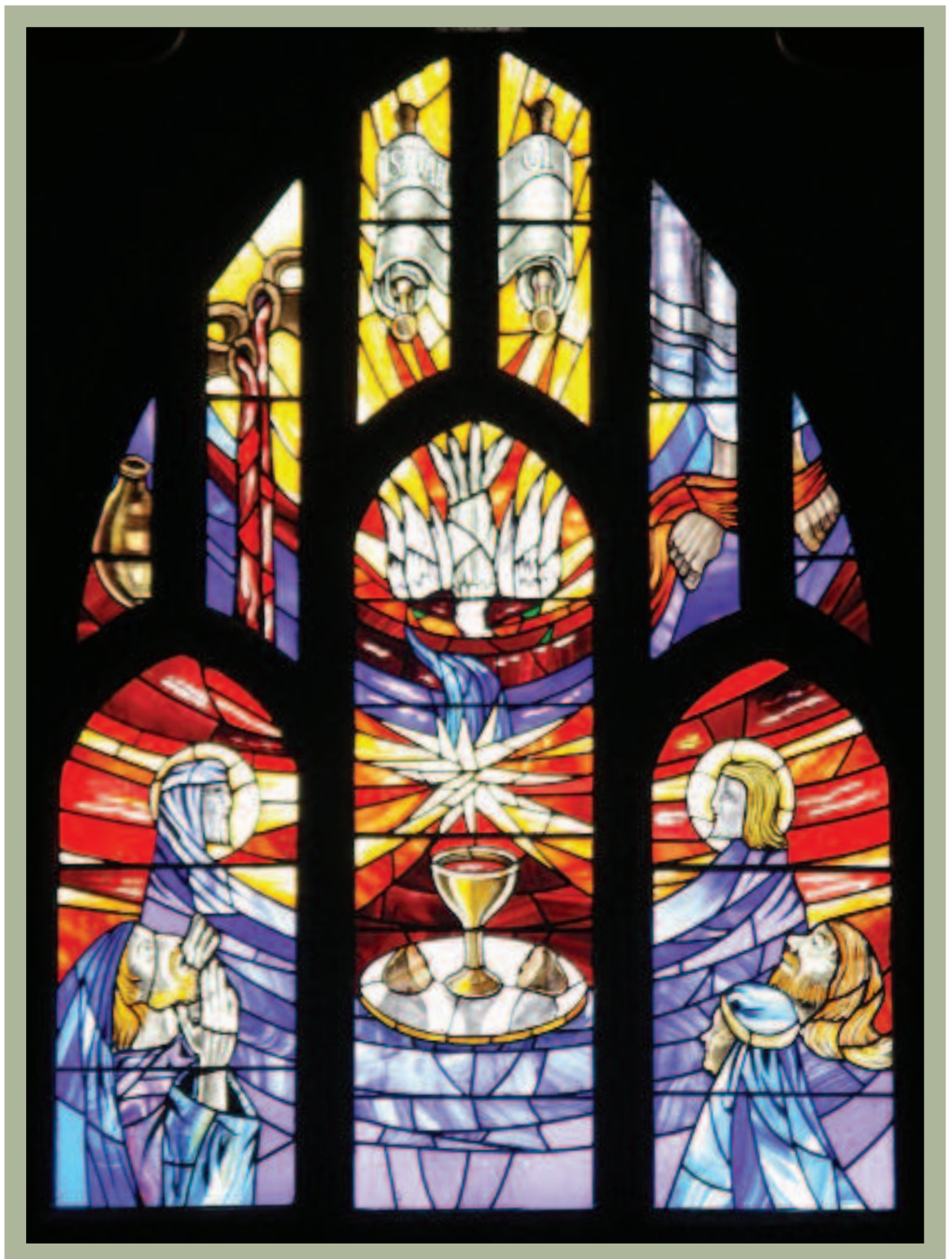
2011
St. Brigid's School & Mass Station
Rev. John J. McKeay

St Brigid's Parish Priests, Assistant Priests & Pastoral Assistants

Mission School & Mass Station	Fr. John Black 1871-1890	Fr. William Stanger 1890-1897	Assistant Priests	Fr. Richard Clarke 1973-1983
	Fr. Robert O'Connell 1897-1899	Fr. John J. O'Donnell 1897-1899	Fr. Daniel Lough 1984-1997	Fr. Donnan Murphy 1978-1979
	Fr. Louis W. Kelleher 1899-1899	Fr. John McKeay 1899-1904	Fr. Joseph O'Hagan 1996-1997	Fr. John Kelly 1987-1988
Priests in Charge	Fr. John McKeay 1871-1890	Fr. William McKeay 1904-1909	Fr. William Bradley 1994-1999	Fr. John Delaney 1988-1992
	Fr. John McKeay 1890-1899	Fr. Thomas Kelly 1909-1910	Fr. Thomas Dickey 1999-2000	Fr. John McKeay 1992-1993
	Fr. John McKeay 1899-1904	Fr. Hugh O'Donnell 1910-1917	Fr. Philip Nunn 2000-2009	Fr. Robert Dickey 1999-2000
Assistant Priests	Fr. John McKeay 1899-1904	Fr. John O'Donnell 1917-1918	Fr. Michael H. Maher 1999-2007	Fr. Colin Hughes 1994-1999
Fr. George McKeay 1917-1917	Fr. John McKeay 1904-1910	Fr. August MacKillop 1917-1918	Fr. Denis Hagan 1997-1999	Fr. James Thornton 1995-1995
Fr. James Gilmore 1917-1917	Fr. William O'Connell 1910-1921	Fr. Thomas C. Moran 1918-1920	Fr. John D. Dwyer 1999-2000	Fr. James Dwyer 1998-1998
Fr. Thomas Moran 1917-1917	Fr. Hugh MacKillop 1921-1924	Fr. John W. Boyle 1920-1926	Fr. John D. Dwyer 1999-2000	
Fr. Patrick J. O'Connell 1917-1917	Fr. John Lough 1924-1929	Fr. Joseph Kennedy 1926-1926		
Fr. John McKeay 1917-1917	Fr. Joseph Courtney 1929-1931	Fr. Hugh P. Kelly 2009-Present		
			Pastoral Assistant	St. Mary's Guard 1987-Present
			Fr. Harpur O'Mahony 1969-1973	









1871



2011