



Foreword

**FROM THE RT. REV. JOSEPH DEVINE Ph. D.
BISHOP OF MOTHERWELL**



Dear Father McGarry and Parishioners of St Clare's.

I am delighted to have this opportunity of contributing this letter of congratulations to all of you on the great occasion of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of your parish in 1960. So both you and I share a Golden Jubilee, as I was ordained to the priesthood in 1960.

Having been the Bishop of the Diocese for the past 27 years, there are lots of memories that I have for your parish over those many years. Sadly, two of those memories were of very difficult times for you.

The first was when St Colette's Primary School was torched and burned to the ground, resulting in the children attending their own section of a school which was not a Catholic Primary School.

Of course, the second was of the awful storm in the late 90's when the roof of the church was blown off and you had to make do with Mass on a Sunday in the school hall until the church could be fixed.

You came through those reversals with flying colours, and are the better for enduring such difficulties. I am proud of our Easterhouse parishes, not least as you have had outstanding priests and sisters to serve you over the years, as well as having today an excellent new Primary School and an utterly outstanding Head Teacher and a very dedicated Staff.

In the days to come I wish you every success in preparing the young in your care to the very best of your ability. The young of today are the Church of tomorrow. They deserve the best kind of commitment that we can give them. They are our investment for the future.

Finally, I wish every blessing on every family of St Clare's community. May your patroness of Assisi be ever your help in the days to come.

With every blessing, yours devotedly

+ Joseph Devine, Bishop of Motherwell

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WELCOME

This publication has been produced to mark 50 years of parish life at St Clare's. The current parish priest, Fr Jim McGarry SDB, in his homily at the Golden Jubilee Mass writes of his gratitude for all who have served this parish, but more importantly for the parishioners who have been the "Living Stones for the past 50 years."



People are the heart of the parish and so, at the centre of this publication are parishioners who have made Easterhouse their home over many years. In a publication of this size, it is impossible to record all who've worshipped and contributed to the life of the parish. We do hope however that this booklet brings back many happy memories of life at St Clare's.

St Clare's has always been known as "Welcoming", whether it was a personal word or an act of hospitality that made the difference in making people feel a real part of the community and at home. We are very proud of our parish and of all who give their time and effort to ensure that we continue to flourish.

The Golden Jubilee Committee would like to thank most sincerely all who contributed to this booklet by giving us their family photographs and memories. I would also like to thank Ann-marie Ryan and Margaret Coletta for helping me to compile this booklet and the Jubilee Display in church.

A special thanks to our former Parish Priest, Father Thomas Colm Morris, for his very generous donation. This ensured that this booklet could be published and that many of the other Jubilee events which have taken place were of minimal cost to the parish.

I would also like to thank the members of the Golden Jubilee Committee who, since their formation in February 2009, have been very dedicated and have given so much time to planning all the events that have made our Jubilee Year such a success.

Here's to the next 50 years

Gerry McCann
Golden Jubilee Committee

A Homily for the Jubilee Mass

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17, Phillipians 4: 4-9, Matthew 18: 1-5,10

Looking back on 50 years, two words come to mind - CHANGE and THANKSGIVING. With lots of changes in fifty years, we've learned to cope, but perhaps replacing the word **Change** with the word **Transformation** might help us better see the hand of God at work - the God who is making all things new (Rev 21:5). The beautiful Phoenix sculpture on the road to the station is a symbol of the new that's rising from the ashes of the old Easterhouse.



Our Golden Jubilee celebration should be an act of thanksgiving to God for all He has done. Rightly the prophet Ezekiel calls God a true shepherd, forever watching over us. Today we thank God for all who have shared in his plans for this parish - for our celebration is not about buildings, it's about people. We thank God for the 3 bishops, 23 priests, 10 sisters, but above all for the thousands of parishioners who've been the living stones over 50 years.

Today is also a day to thank God for the inspirational lives of three great saints. Firstly Saint Clare, with a spirituality born of a love of simplicity, poverty and complete trust in God. Secondly, Saint Vincent de Paul: Gerry McCann can tell you about the Conference set up in the parish to give practical help to the poor of the area. An even greater legacy of Vincent has been the 18 years of ministry by the Daughters of Charity – listening, supporting, and encouraging. They showed us how to care for each other. Thirdly, Saint John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, whose feast is celebrated today. The Salesians continue his work and promote a Salesian spirituality that values gentleness and kindness, and is born of a love for young people and a concern for their happiness. Don Bosco's genius was to show us how holiness and happiness go hand in hand. Like Saint Paul, Don Bosco wished that everyone should know the happiness of living a good Christian life. Young people are special – as Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel reading – they challenge us to leave behind old certainties and closed attitudes and be open to the demands of the present moment. If we rise to that challenge, we will find ourselves being transformed.

We've a lot to be happy about. St Clare's Parish should look back on 50 years with pride, and see the riches with which we have been blessed. We pray for those Priests and Parishioners who have gone to their reward, and thank God that the parish is still here, proclaiming the Gospel and trying to live it. Now we must look forward and be open to the promptings of the Spirit and to whatever transformation and re-creation God has planned for us. Our journey of faith continues.

Fr Jim McGarry SDB, Parish Priest

1960's**The beginning.....**

The Foundation of the Parish on 18 Dec 1959. A small beginning, perhaps just a letter from Bishop Scanlan to Fr Edward Doherty, parish priest of Carluke, asking him to found a new parish. A small beginning: no church, no chapel house: Fr Doherty, like everyone else, lived up a close at No 45 Lochend Road. For the next 6 years this would be an Oratory and home for the priests serving St Clare's.

**Fr Edward Doherty**

A small beginning, a priest and his flock, but like the mustard seed – that great sign of the Kingdom – the parish has grown and continues its mission.

As the parish grew it became evident that another priest was needed, and in November 1960 Fr Brian Donnelly was appointed assistant priest.

Masses and other services were held in St Clare's School, St Bridget's Church Baillieston, the Oratory at Lochend Road, the Convent of Mercy

Baillieston, and latterly at St Benedict's Church.

In the early years, men and women of the parish joined separate groups like the Union of Catholic Mothers and the Men's Guild. These groups were active in fundraising, but more importantly they gave parishioners an opportunity to meet up and socialise.

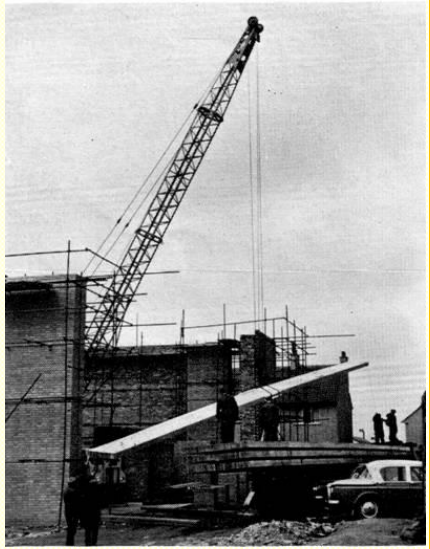
Children were encouraged to join the football teams, the Guides, Brownies and the various clubs that had been set up by the parish and which took place in St Clare's School. The football teams were very successful and over the years won many trophies and awards.

**St Clare's Football Team**

Fr Doherty, Fr Donnelly and George Phimister

1960's**The Building of the Church**

Fr John Moss replaced Fr Doherty as Parish Priest in 1964. Work started on the building of the new church in



August of that year. The foundations were ready for the walls by the middle of October. Throughout the winter work progressed and at the beginning of May 1965 a start was made on the roof. In June 1966 the church was ready for use.

Prior to the church opening, a Building Fund was started, with collectors going round the homes of parishioners every Friday night. Families also donated money for altar cloths, crucifix, candlesticks, altar bell etc. The statue of St Clare was donated from America.



St Clare's Brownies



Libby Rohan 1965

1960's

Official opening by Bishop Francis Thomson

A six-year dream for thousands of Catholics came true with the opening of the Church. For parishioners it was the end of services in the school hall. A guard of honour from the local Girl Guide troop lined the car park as Bishop Thomson made his way to the Church for the ceremony. Father John Moss told a packed church, **"This is a day of joy and I would like to thank everyone who has made it possible"**.

The church had a seating capacity of 672. Parish population was 5,000

**McGlinchey Wedding 1968****Cameron Family Baptism 1969**

1970's

St Vincent De Paul Society



John Sheridan

The conference in St Clare's was recognised as a member of the International Society in 1971. John Sheridan was the President, and led the society to do great works of charity for many years. In 1978 there was a massive change when, to meet the needs of the area at that time, a Furniture Project was setup. Indeed this was the first full-time project in the country, and over the years was replicated by many parishes and other organisations. The society was affectionately known by locals as "The Vinny".

This project continued for 30 years.



Fr T C Morris

Changes in the Church

Father Thomas Colm Morris parish priest of St Clare's (1972 – 1976) created the side chapel outside of the sacristy; this was used for daily Mass with the intention that it would be warmer than the main church, especially in winter.



Fr T C Morris 2009



Father Richard J Rodgers

Fr Richard J Rodgers

was responsible for setting up the parish choir. An accomplished organist, he encouraged young and old to become involved in the music liturgy. As a Master of Ceremonies for Bishop Thomson he also trained the Altar Servers to a very high standard. Bishop Thomson often commented that they were the best in the Diocese.

1970's**School Chaplain**

The parish had a full-time school chaplain, Fr Brian Donnelly, who worked in St Leonard's Secondary School. Fr Donnelly was also involved in the setting up of many youth clubs within the parish.



Fr O'Hare, Maurice & Eileen Milligan



Frank & Roseanna Griffin



Philip Cox's Communion



Patrick & Isobel Bunton

1970's**The Parish Tea Room**

Started by Con Allison and Michael Reilly, assisted by Jo McCann and Elaine Carmichael, the idea was to give parishioners an opportunity to meet other parishioners, and to sit and chat after Mass on a Sunday. For many, especially those who live alone, this was the only chance in the week to catch up on what was happening in the community. The tea room opened after each mass on a Sunday, 10.30, 12.00 and 6pm. Cakes and scones were all freshly baked and donated by George Nilsen. The first tables used were made from old breadboards which had folding legs attached to them. Later we moved upmarket when the BBC donated second-hand table and chairs from their canteen.

**Maureen Macluskey is married
to Robert Hart, March 1973
Best Man: Denis Toner
Bridesmaid: Elizabeth Coulter**



1980's

Father Thomas Corless

Fr Thomas Corless will be remembered for going round every household within the parish. Catholic or non-Catholic, he knocked on every door. A man of great humility, he had a special understanding of those in need, and would often give the jacket off his back to someone who was cold. He also distributed handmade rosaries, which he made from seeds imported from Sierra Leone. His black beret was famous.



Fr Thomas Corless, Gerald & Maureen Burke



St Clare's First Communion Group 1985

1980's**Mass to Celebrate Parish Silver Jubilee**

Priests who had served in the parish attended the Mass celebrating 25 years of the foundation of the parish.



Timoney Family Communion



Ryan Family Baptism

1980's**The Daughters of Charity arrive in St Clare's****Sr Margaret**

It didn't take long for the Sisters to settle in; they brought stability at a time when there was uncertainty at what was going to happen to the parish, with the numerous clergy changes. Sister Margaret Bannerton had a special way of encouraging parishioners to become involved and to use their many talents. Saying no was not an option! This encouragement continued with the Sisters who replaced Sister Margaret. They brought a great deal to the parish. There was the work we could all see, but more importantly the work done behind the scenes, helping those in need, the sick and elderly, the bereaved, families with problems. Each sister brought her own gifts and talents.

Father Robert Curley**Fr Bob Curley & John Johnstone**

Fr Bob Curley was a former curate of St Benedict's Parish who was delighted to return to Easterhouse as parish priest of St Clare's. Parishioners remember him as a very down to earth man who immediately put people at ease. Many lapsed Catholics returned to Mass during his 3 years in the parish. He was a former member of the TA Parachute Regiment. Fr Curley was responsible for the setting up of the Friday Night Men's Club, which at its peak had 35 men attending each week.

He also offered the use of the Committee Room to the local AA Group. This group provided a great service to the community for many years.

1990's**Credit Union**

Many parishioners and others in the community joined Sr Margaret in the setting up of a local Credit Union. This was invaluable to the area, and helped people to manage their finances in a very positive way.

**Credit Union Committee 1991****Colette Findlay****Ross Walsh****Claire Ryan****Eddie, Sadie, Theresa, Mary****Babs & Arthur****Mary, Tam & Margaret**

1990's

The Salesians arrive in St Clare's

Beginning of the Joint Pastoral Project



**Fr Bob Gardner, Sr Kay Young, Fr Kieran Anderson,
Fr Jim McGarry, Sr Elizabeth Callaghan, Fr Bernard Parkes,
Sr Helen Carey, Sr Marie Byrne**

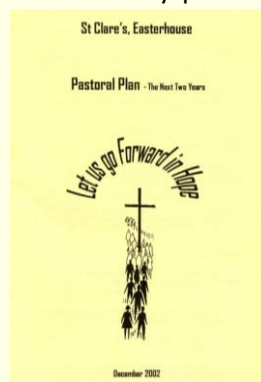
The Salesians came to St Benedict's at the invitation of Bishop Devine in 1987. Later in 1996, Bishop Devine asked the Salesians to widen their work. He agreed to the setting up of a team to include Salesians, Salesian Sisters and the Daughters of Charity, a team which would be entrusted with

the care of two parishes: St Benedict's and St Clare's.

In this way the Joint Pastoral Project was born, and over the years a Team of priests and sisters worked with the people of both parishes to build up the parish communities, and help parishioners take a more active part in the leadership and life of each parish. The parishes work together as much as possible, sharing resources and materials and planning events together. Each parish has an active Parish Pastoral Team, a Pastoral Plan and many parish groups and organisations.

"Let us go Forward in Hope"

- We will ask as many people as possible to pray in the parish and for the parish.
- We will identify the training needs of parishioners and provide short courses of instruction to meet these needs.
- We will create a parish directory



1990's

The Boxing Day Storm 1998

After the great celebration of Christmas, parishioners were shocked and very upset when they came up for Sunday Mass to discover the church had been seriously damaged by the storm. Pieces of the roof were scattered all over Drumlanrig Avenue with a section



protruding from the roof of one of the newly built houses across the road. Thankfully no one was hurt (this may not have been the case as Fr Jim, Fr Kieran and Gerry & Jo McCann had gone into the church during the storm to move the Blessed Sacrament and other items to a place of safety)



Fr Kieran, Fr Jim, Sr Marie, Fr Gallagher

Lochfield Hall opened to allow us to have Sunday Mass. For the next year St Clare's School became our temporary centre for Sunday Mass, and St Benedict's kindly offered us the use of their church for all other services.

Sunday 19th December 1999 saw us returning to the newly refurbished church. Bishop Devine celebrated Mass. It was a joyous day. We had come home!



2000's**The Millennium**

The parish welcomed in the new millennium with a Midnight Mass on Hogmanay taking us into New Year's Day.

A Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes was organised by Sr Elizabeth and Angela McManus in October 2000.



Fr Brian & Ryan Ferguson



Jean Thomson receives Award from Fr Jim

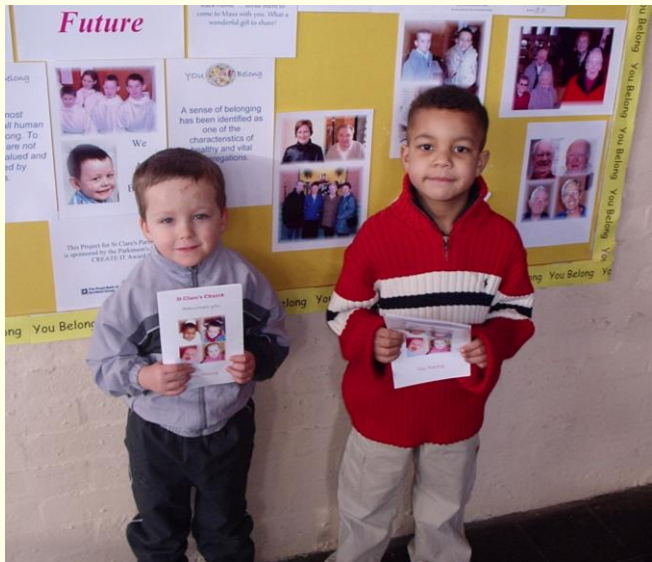
2000's

The You Belong Project



Gerry McCann carried out the Project, sponsored by the Millennium Awards Scheme. Other parishes in the Diocese used the format. We continue to use this leaflet and signup card for newcomers to the parish.

In 2004 the parish launched the You Belong Project. The aim of this was to welcome people back to the parish. A Parish Directory was also produced.



Caoimhin and Jordan



Fr Francis Preston (Salesian Provincial), Fr Michael O'Meara, Margaret Kelly, Mary Kelly & Jo McCann

2000's**Educating Liberia**

In 2007 the parish agreed to sponsor 3 young African children in Liberia by providing funds annually to pay for their Education. Individual parishioners also sponsor children. 20 children attending school in Monrovia are now being supported by the parish.



St Andrew's Secondary Appeal for Liberia

2000's St Clare's Summer Playscheme

Setup in July 2000 our Summer Playscheme has offered outings and activities to hundreds of local children.



Fr Jim with some of St Clare's Playscheme

Goodbye to the Daughters of Charity

After 21 years of ministry in the parish, the Daughters of Charity left St Clare's in June 2009. A presentation was made in the school to thank them for all that they had done for us. Every sister who had served in the parish was presented with a friendship Quach.



Emma, Sr Maureen, Catherine, Bartosz, Sr Ann and Amber

Parish Memories ~ Quotes

In 1960, when I moved here to Easterhouse at the age of 9, there was no church. We had to use the school assembly hall which was very different from the beautiful church I was married in. That was 1971 and I still love coming on a Sunday morning to see the same old faces, and I hope to renew my wedding vows in 2011 which will be my, sorry, **our** 40th Anniversary.

Growing up in the parish, I remember when the passkeepers had to squeeze as many people as possible into the pews. It was so busy people would sometimes faint with the heat. In those days there were 4 priests and, when it was time to go to confession, parishioners would wait outside the confessional of the priest who would be most lenient in giving a penance. This usually worked out ok, but often the priests everyone was trying to avoid would come out and tell people to sit outside their confessional!

Easterhouse, and especially St Clare's, will always have a special place in my heart. There is warmth in the parish that you won't find anywhere else.

After the death of my parents, I sat about the house with nothing much to do. I was encouraged to become involved in parish work. It was the best thing I ever did, and I have loved every minute of it.

I look forward to catching up with everyone on a Sunday. I can find out the "Local News" about what is happening in the area.

The thing I like best about the parish is the fact that, even though I hadn't been to Mass for a long time, I was welcomed back as if I hadn't been away. That was important to me.

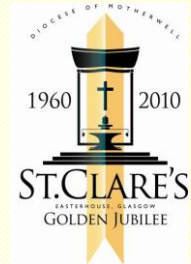
I remember being brought over to Mass with my school class every First Friday of the month and on Holydays of Obligation. Although my parents didn't attend regularly, when they saw me making an effort to go on a Sunday by myself they started going too. I was delighted!

The Jubilee Year Jubilee Committee

A Committee was formed to plan various events for the Jubilee. The committee met on a regular basis ensuring that the celebrations would run as smoothly as possible. The committee are delighted that all their aims have been achieved.

Jubilee Logo

A logo was kindly designed and donated by parishioner Mark McPhelim. The logo which depicts the altar has been used on every parish publication over the past year.



Jubilee Tree

The Jubilee tree was planted on the front lawn and blessed by Fr Jim after Mass on Sunday October.



Parish Website

A new Parish website was launched: www.stclare.rcmotherwell.org.uk

Church Refurbishment

The interior of the church was repainted and the marble steps at the front doors of the church were refurbished. A new parish Notice Board was also erected at the entrance.

The Jubilee Year

Banners

New banners depicting the Jubilee Logo were hung on the sanctuary walls. The children in Liberia also got involved and sent us two beautiful hand-painted banners which they had designed themselves.



Jubilee Display

A Photo and Text Display was created at the back of the church. The display spanned the 5 decades of the parish. Children from St Benedict's Primary School came up to the church and were given guided tours by parishioners.

Jubilee Mass

Bishop Devine was the main Celebrant at the Jubilee Mass, which took place on 31st January 2010. A packed church included former parishioners who had made a special effort to attend. Afterwards, teas at Oakwood School gave everyone the opportunity to share memories.



The Jubilee Year ~ Civic Reception

Glasgow City Council honoured the Parish with a Civic Reception in the City Chambers on 5th February 2010. 130 parishioners attended.



The Jubilee Year

Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance

100 parishioners attended the dance, which was held in the Knights of St Columba's Club, Moodiesburn. A good night was had by all.



Family Trip to Ayr

80 adults and children had a day at the seaside. Everyone had a wonderful time. It was a great end to the school holidays.



And finally.....

As this brochure goes to print, we are preparing for our final Jubilee event - The Golden Jubilee Awards. Parishioners will be given the opportunity to nominate those whom they feel have made a significant contribution to the parish over the years. The awards will take place in October 2010.

We remember with gratitude

As we move forward in faith, we look back in remembrance and thanksgiving. We will always remember those that have gone before us. It is a very humbling thought to know that, as a parish, we are where we are today because of their faith and generosity. We also remember all of the priests and sisters who have served our parish over the past 50 years.

Parish Priests

Fr Edward Doherty RIP
 Fr John Moss RIP
 Fr Thomas Colm Morris
 Fr Thomas Corless RIP
 Fr James Flynn RIP
 Fr John F Givens RIP
 Fr Robert Curley RIP
 Fr John Doherty
 Fr Michael Briody
 Fr John Taylor
 Fr Kieran Anderson SDB
 Fr Brian McGraw SDB
 Fr Jim McGarry SDB

Assistant Priests

Fr Brian Donnelly
 Fr Richard J Rodgers
 Fr John Kelly RIP
 Fr Vincent O'Neil
 Fr Daniel Millar
 Fr Lawrence Kenny RIP
 Fr Thomas Hunter
 Fr Patrick O'Hare
 Fr James Boyle SJ RIP
 Fr Michael O'Meara SDB

Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul

Sr Margaret Bannerton DC
 Sr Elizabeth Callaghan DC
 Sr Veronica Beeching DC
 Sr Maura Brennan DC RIP
 Sr Marie Byrne DC

Sr Agnes McGarvie DC
 Sr Pauline Vince DC
 Sr Kate O'Leary DC
 Sr Ann Buckeridge DC
 Sr Maureen Dunn DC



Fr E Doherty



Fr P O'Hare



Fr R J Rodgers



Fr T C Morris



Fr T Corless



Fr J Flynn



Fr J F Givens



Fr R Curley



Sr Margaret



Sr Elizabeth



Sr Marie



Fr K Anderson



Sr Maura



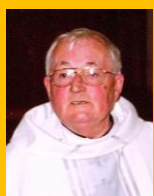
Fr M Briody



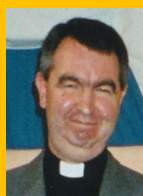
Sr Agnes



Sr Ann



Fr J Kelly



Fr B McGraw



Fr J Taylor



Sr Kate



Sr Maureen



Fr J Moss



Fr J Doherty



Fr M O'Meara



Fr J McGarry

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