

Solemn Opening of The New Church
3rd May 1976

History of St. Joseph's

Many people will be surprised to learn that the new church in Fullarton Avenue is the fourth church building that has been provided in the parish to serve the local Catholics as a place of worship. In 1893 St. Joseph's was cut off from St. Paul's, Shettleston and Rev. Edward Doody was appointed to look after the spiritual needs of the growing community. He was succeeded by Rev. James Kirk whose name is still lovingly remembered by the older parishioners and during his time as parish priest three different buildings were erected. The first was a church school opened on 16th June, 1895 and the address was London Road, Old Monkland. This building was used for nine years until it was tragically destroyed by fire on 10th June, 1904. Immediately a temporary wooden building was provided and this served the parish as a church school for two years until on 26th October, 1906 the red-sandstone school church in Easterhill Street was formally opened by Archbishop Maguire. This building continued in use as a school for 68 years and as a temporary church for 70 years. During those 70 years many changes have taken place in the make up of the parish. The "Clyde Rows," the nucleus of the original parish disappeared and a new housing area was developed in Carmyle which became a separate parish in 1954.

In 1957, Carmyle had its new church completed and dedicated to St. Joachim and so we had the daughter parish fully equipped while the mother still had to make do with temporary accommodation. Besides, demolition commenced in the thickly populated areas of Causewayside Street and Easterhill Street, adjacent to the church, and many families moved out; however more families were moving in to the Sandyhills and Mount Vernon districts and gradually the old parish came back to its former strength. In 1975 when Good Shepherd parish was closed 600 people from the Braidfauld area, which was in St. Joseph's area 30 years previously, moved in and now there are 3,200 parishioners.

It was always the intention to build a permanent separate church in St. Joseph's but for one reason or another nothing definite was done until the present parish priest Rev. Edward O'Hara came to the parish in September, 1970. The first essential was a suitable site and such things are very scarce in built-up areas -- several approaches were made without any success and for quite a time it looked as if there was no solution to the problem. However we are deeply indebted to the kindness and helpfulness of the Sisters of Charity who made available one acre of the school playing field and so preparations were begun to plan a suitable church and presbytery. Scott, Fraser & Browning were appointed as Architects for the project and immediately a long drawn out series of tests had to be carried out regarding the suitability and usability of the site.

Things kept moving slowly and unobtrusively but the parishioners still did not believe that the long awaited new church was near at hand. On 18th October, 1974, the Diocesan Finance Board accepted the tender of J. C. Burns, Larkhall and immediately things began to happen. The contractors moved on to the site on 4th November and since that date the work has never ceased, except for statutory holidays and breaks, and as a result the contract was completed in 76 weeks instead of the 78 weeks that were specified.

3rd May, 1976, is indeed a red letter day in the history of St. Joseph's, Tollcross. We are privileged to welcome His Grace the Archbishop to the Solemn Opening of the new church and to thank him for the interest he has always in our projects. Today with hearts full of gratitude to God we place ourselves under the protection of St. Joseph our patron and Mary our mother to whom the parishioners have always had a great devotion.

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We believe this new church is worthy of the parishioners who have waited so patiently for so long, and we hope that this and future generations may use it for the worship and glory of God and as a power house from which God's grace and help will flow to the community.

PERTINENT FACTS

Your new church, including choir and cry area, has seating accommodation for 520 people.

Your new church will be open every day for visits to the Blessed Sacrament and private prayer.

Appended are the names of the priests who have served in St. Joseph's.

PARISH PRIESTS :

Rev.	EDWARD DOODY	-	-	-	1893
Rev.	JAMES H. KIRK	-	-	-	1893 - 1909
Rev.	DANIEL O'SULLIVAN	-	-	-	1909 - 1926
Rev.	DANIEL HORGAN	-	-	-	1926 - 1929
Rev.	MICHAEL MCCARTHY	-	-	-	1929 - 1936
Rev.	CORNELIUS DENNEHY	-	-	-	1936 - 1944
Rev.	ALFRED GALLAUCHER	-	-	-	1944 - 1970
Rev.	EDWARD O'HARA	-	-	-	1970 -

ASSISTANT PRIESTS :

Rev.	MATTHEW HENNESSY	-	-	-	1899 - 1908
Rev.	JOHN LYONS	-	-	-	1908 - 1910
Rev.	DANIEL CROWE	-	-	-	1911 - 1914
Rev.	JAMES DOHERTY	-	-	-	1913 - 1914
Rev.	MATTHEW QUILLINAN	-	-	-	1913 - 1924
Rev.	JOSEPH O'LEARY	-	-	-	1924 - 1925
Rev.	JEREMIAH AHERNE	-	-	-	1925 - 1926
Rev.	GERALD MCDADE	-	-	-	1926 - 1929
Rev.	PETER FITZPATRICK	-	-	-	1914 - 1933
Rev.	WILLIAM LOWERY	-	-	-	1929 - 1950
Rev.	NEIL MCKNIGHT	-	-	-	1933 - 1950
Rev.	J. O'FLYNN	-	-	-	1950 - 1957
Rev.	J. O'BRIEN	-	-	-	1950 - 1967
Rev.	T. HOLLORAN	-	-	-	1957 - 1959
Rev.	F. GOODFELLOW	-	-	-	1959 - 1962
Rev.	P. KELLY	-	-	-	1962 - 1970
Rev.	W. TOBIN	-	-	-	1967 - 1973
Rev.	F. THOMPSON	-	-	-	1971 -
Rev.	H. LOWRIE	-	-	-	1974 -

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ARCHITECT'S DESCRIPTION

The new church and presbytery of St. Joseph, built to serve a parish of approximately 3,200 people and to replace the existing school church which has been in use since 1906 was commissioned by the Archdiocese of Glasgow and designed by Scott, Fraser & Browning, Architects and Planning Consultants, East Kilbride and Irvine.

The church and presbytery are situated on a portion of the school playfield at Fullarton Avenue, Tollcross, adjoining the Sisters of Charity convent and school.

The broad requirements were for a church to seat 400 people, a cry area seating 30 people and a presbytery to house a parish priest, two curates and a housekeeper.

The church is basically a laminated timber framed structure with brick used extensively for the enclosing walls. There are rendered externally with a white dry dash roughcast. The copper finished roof has many exciting slopes culminating in an aluminium cross, surmounting the highest point.

The interior of the church has been planned in such a way as to make full use of daylight and direct attention to a spacious sanctuary thus making it the focal point. The large sanctuary so planned makes it very suitable for Concelebration Services and with the seating wrapped around it, the furthest away seat being only 34 feet from the altar this allows complete congregational participation.

Certain items of church furnishings from the school church have been retained, for example: a new rood was designed to take the corpus from the original crucifix; the stations of the cross have been used and a new brass surround has been added to the tabernacle giving it a horizontal effect in keeping with the shape of the sanctuary.

The cry area entered from the narthex is completely sealed off from the church by means of a glazed screen. This allows the parents and their children to have an unobstructed view of the sanctuary.

The internal finishes have been kept tastefully simple, being mainly facing brick and timber lining, which contrasts sharply with the back wall of the sanctuary which has a close textured white finish and a rich green carpeted floor.

The main entrance to the church is approached from Fullarton Avenue, ramps being provided to allow easy access for invalid chairs. The car park with space for 36 cars, also has its entrance from Fullarton Avenue.

The presbytery and church are connected on the same level by means of a glazed link corridor. This gives direct communication between sacristies and house.

All fixed seating and fitments in the church and sacristies including sanctuary furniture were designed by the architects.

Construction work started on 4th November, 1974. The original target was for the church to be completed in 18 months, which date has now been achieved.