

90th Anniversary
1893 – 1983

Introduction

Ninety years is a long span in the life of any community, and as we begin the tenth decade since the foundation of the parish of St. Joseph's, Tollcross, it seems right that we should remember with affection its history, so that we may understand the trials and difficulties which beset our parents and grandparents in their endeavours to bring it to the flourishing community we know today.

Why "NINETY YEARS"? Why not wait until the centenary? Well, ten years is a long way off for some, a very long way off. God alone knows what the future holds, and since we are not living in the future but in the present, why deprive ourselves of experiencing the joy that ninety years of memories can bring?

That's the joy we want to celebrate!

My personal Tollcross history goes back to within the first ten years of this century. When I was appointed parish priest of St. Joseph's in 1979, my mother told me how she used to bring her young brothers and sisters on a Sunday to Tollcross Park to feed the reindeer.

Yet another piece of Tollcross history for me is the picture which hangs in my room in the chapel house. It depicts Our Lady revealing the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine Labouré in the Rue du Bac in Paris. This picture was given by the Daughters of Charity here in Tollcross, to my mother on her wedding day, the Feast of the Miraculous Medal, 27th November, 1923.

As the years pass by, regrettably the people who were the instruments in God's hands have long since left this life behind. However, we know that "the souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God . . . and they are in peace." (Wisdom 3: 1-3). For the most part the good that was done by those who have gone before us will not be recorded here on earth, but undoubtedly their blessings will be great in heaven.

History is still being made in St. Joseph's, Tollcross. In the remaining ten years before the centenary, it is you the parishioners who are the living history of your own parish. Keep the faith alive in your hearts. Do not merely "keep the faith", give it away! Pass it on, hand it down faithfully to your children.

May that history be written ten years from now, in praise of a people who kept the faith, loved God and their neighbour and sought to bring about God's kingdom of truth, justice and peace here on earth. "Lord, make us grow in love."

In conclusion I wish to thank most sincerely Father Charles Kane, without whose diligent and painstaking effort this brochure would not at this moment be in your hand. It is he who has drawn together all the strands that give us the tapestry picture of ninety years of history in this part of our land.

I am sure that in ten years time, whoever has the task of producing a centenary [sic] brochure will thank God, and bless Father Kane for having gathered together those ninety glorious years.

Father John Mone.

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November, 1983

My dear Fathers and Parishioners,

It is a great grace from God to be celebrating ninety years in the life of a parish. How times have changed since 1893. And how many ups and downs has the parish of St. Joseph's, Tollcross, experienced throughout the years.

On Jubilee occasions like this we look back on those who have gone before us "marked with the sign of faith", great priests who have served here, great people who have lived and died in this part of Glasgow, full of that old faith which they had received from their own parents in even harder days.

Now we have the magnificent church and school in Tollcross. But we could never have reached such heights had it not been for the deep loyalty of the people who have gone before us. Surely we must pledge that we shall continue to bear the standard of Christ in Tollcross and beyond and in our turn pass that standard to those who will come after us.

The story contained in this booklet, so carefully and lovingly written by Father Kane, is a story of Faith and high endeavour. May it serve to inspire the younger parishioners to realize their debt of gratitude to those who have gone before them, so that they in their turn can pass on a shining and vibrant faith to generations to come.

Blessings, then, on St. Joseph's parish on this ninetieth anniversary—and forward towards its centenary in 1993.

+ Thomas J Winning
Archbishop of Glasgow

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The beginnings of the parish of St. Joseph's, Tollcross

There were no motor cars, no golf courses. Television existed only in the laboratory. The violent tactics discussed were not those on the football fields, but rather those employed by suffragettes despairing of receiving the vote for women. The stage coaches on the London road were losing their passengers to the railways.

Labour political groups—soon to be dubbed “Socialists” by a hostile press, were supporting the social reforms of a Liberal Government. One of the most famous Popes of all time, Pope Leo XIII, had just issued his encyclical *Rerum Novarum* rejecting the socialism of eastern and central Europe, but stressing the importance of social justice in the industrial state.

This was the world in which St. Joseph's parish was born.

The great Lanarkshire coalfields were providing employment for many men, and a black band of ironstone lay in the fields between Carmyle and Auchenshuggle. Thus the Clyde Iron Works came into existence and the houses built for the workers became known as the Clyde Rows. They formed the nucleus of Tollcross parish as we know it today. In the district there was a blend of the rural and the industrial. One of the villages in the area was Auchenshuggle, a name which derives from the Gaelic, meaning “the field of rye”.

“THE ORIGIN OF THE VILLAGE OF TOLLCROSS dates from after the middle of eighteenth century. In a statement by a witness for the defender in a case before the Court of Session (1823), it is affirmed that the villages of Bridgeton, Parkhead and Tollcross have all been built within the memory of men still living.

The village (of Tollcross) owes its existence to . . . progress in methods of agriculture, to new inventions, such as those of Arkwright, James Watt and Stevenson, to the establishment of crafts and manufactures, especially handloom, muslin weaving and cotton bleaching, to coal mining and to the construction of the Clyde Iron-Works.” *

In J. F. Miller's *Old Shettleston*, Tollcross was decribed as “the aristocratic and exclusive part of Shettleston”—a description which caused offence in Tollcross, whose people refused to be considered as “part of Shettleston”.

* “The Old Historic Church of Tollcross and Tollcross District”—A Historical Sketch. This booklet was produced to mark the centenary—in 1906—of Tollcross Central Church. That same year—1906—was the year in which St. Joseph's opened in Easterhill Street.

The name “Tollcross”.

“That portion of the lands of Shettleston on which the cross stood was known as the ‘two-merk’ land of ‘Towcorse’ now called ‘TOLLCROSS’.” (Charter and documents relating to the City of Glasgow—page 526) The name of “Tollcross” is ancient, although the village is comparatively modern.

“Tow” is old Scottish for the Anglo-Saxon “Tol” or “Tel”—signifying “to count”. So Tollcross is the cross of levying or exacting by counting goods so as to take the “tol” or “tax”. (We speak of “tellers” in a bank).

The “Cross” was probably situated at the west end of the village of Tollcross . . . “At this point the road from Rutherglen, via Bogleshole Ford—a very ancient crossing—and

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Shettleston, to Falkirk and Stirling, intersects the old Roman road to Glasgow, which in the village forms the Main Street.”

The Catholic community comes to Tollcross.

In the brochure for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of St. Joseph's we read: “In the early days of the Catholic Church in Glasgow, it would seem that Catholics were rather slow in penetrating the district around Tollcross. It was attached to St. Mary's from 1842 to 1857, but we are told that one bench was able to accommodate all the Tollcross Catholics. When Shettleston or Eastmuir was cut off from St. Mary's in 1857, Tollcross became part of the new parish. From this onward its growth is more marked. The Clyde Ironworks became the nucleus of the Catholic community. A briskness in the mining industry swelled it.

So far had things advanced in 1874 that the late Very Rev. Canon McBrearty, who was then parish priest of Shettleston, opened a school at Tollcross, but the attendance was well below a hundred. The whole district then wore a very rural aspect. There was no railway station at Tollcross, and one had to go to Bellgrove for the nearest car. Still our older people have pleasant memories of those days. They look back with pride to their trudge across the hill to Eastmuir to hear Holy Mass. They retain a warm place in their hearts for Father McLauchlin and Father McBrearty and Father Van Hecke.”

It is difficult for us to appreciate the difficulties of a Catholic community at the period in the second half of the last century. We can learn something of those difficulties from an account of the history of another St. Joseph's—in Cowcaddens.

(photo)

THE SANCTUARY—ST. JOSEPH'S, EASTERHILL STREET

This picture was donated by the family of Mrs. Matilda Smith of 130 Causewayside Street. At the age of ninety-seven she is the oldest surviving parishioner.

Another “St. Joseph's” around mid-nineteenth century

In the brochure for the Solemn Consecration of St. Joseph's (Cowcaddens) we read something of the difficulties of the Catholic population of Glasgow. The Cowcaddens church was built in 1850, and prior to that the only Catholic churches in Glasgow were St. Andrew's (1816), St. Mary's (1842), St. Alphonsus' (1846), St. John's (1846), and St. Mary Immaculate (1849).

In St. Joseph's parish (Cowcaddens), like all other older parishes in Glasgow, the first centre of Catholicism was not the church, but a small school. About the year 1840, Bishop Murdoch, with a small grant from the Glasgow Catholic Schools' Committee, founded a Catholic school in the Cowcaddens district of Glasgow. It was attended by the children of the scattered Catholic families of the northern outskirts of the city, the children of poor Irish immigrants who had been attracted to the district by the employment provided by the many small industrial concerns neighbouring on the busy inland port of Port Dundas. . .

(At St. Joseph's, Cowcaddens). . .

Collectors were chosen for the weekly collection which was sent through the school master (Mr. Quigley) to Bishop Murdoch at St. Andrew's, who kept separate accounts in his

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ledger for each of the outlying stations. Occasionally, when a priest could be spared, Mass was said in the little school, but on a normal Sunday morning the Catholics had to attend Mass in St. Andrew's. It was the duty of the collectors to see that all the children were wakened at 7 a.m. on Sunday morning, to see them assembled at the school for morning prayers, and to assist the master in marshalling the children as they walked to St. Andrew's for the children's Mass at 9 a.m.

In those days, Catholics considered that the most inspiring sight in Glasgow was had by standing on Glasgow bridge early on a Sunday morning and seeing the contingents of Catholic children approaching the city from all directions, from Rutherglen, Pollokshaws, Govan, Anderston, Partick, Maryhill, Cowcaddens, Townhead, Calton, all converging on St. Andrew's for the children's Mass.

The years 1845-1850 witnessed an enormous growth of the Catholic population, almost entirely due to the immigration that followed the Irish famine years. Bishop Murdoch had to take the decision immediately to double the number of churches

Tollcross becomes a separate mission—1893

(photo)

Rev. James H. Kirk and Rev. Matthew Hennessy

1893

The increase of Catholics in Tollcross made it very difficult to have their needs properly attended to from Shettleston. This led, in 1893, to Tollcross being established as a separate mission. Rev. Edward Doody took charge for a short time. Until this time Tollcross was served by the clergy of St. Paul's. (There was also the convent and chapel of the Good Shepherd nuns at Dalbeth). The site for the original school (1874) on London Road had been acquired thanks to the goodwill of Mr. Smith Sligo of Inzievar and Carmyle. More ground was added to the original feu and a large school-chapel and a presbytery were erected. During the building Mass was said in the original small school.

1894

Rev. James H. Kirk came to the parish in 1894, to supervise the completion of the school-chapel. He was to remain in charge of the parish until 1909, and thus he was to witness the destruction of this building and the erection of the new chapel-school eventually in Easterhill Street.

1895

16th June, 1895 was the date of the opening of the first St. Joseph's chapel-school on London Road. The aristocratic and scholarly Archbishop of Glasgow, Most Rev. Charles Eyre, was unable to be present, but he was represented by his auxiliary, Glasgow-born Archbishop John A. Maguire.

(photo)

Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan.

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(line drawing)

A Mass amid the ruins

Tollcross Catholics worship in the open air

Sadly, the long-awaited chapel-school was destroyed by fire on 10th June, 1904. The *Evening Times* of Monday, 20th June reported the tragedy:

“Tollcross Catholics received a sad blow on Friday week, 10th June, when their place of worship was almost wholly destroyed by fire—caused by a spark from a passing railway engine. Only the walls of the building were left standing, and thus, in one night’s time, the congregation were deprived of chapel, school, and hall.

No doubt they will get over this temporary loss. Yesterday and on the previous Sunday they worshipped in the open air, immediately behind their burnt buildings, the ruins of them staring gloomily and silently in their faces. Some 500 people assembled in the school playground at last Mass, which was celebrated by Father Hennessy at a temporary altar, erected against a small outhouse which had escaped the flames. The day was breezy and gusty, with slight showers now and then, and sudden bursts of sunshine between them. The worshippers, as they entered the playground, took off their hats the same as if they were entering their church, and spread themselves in kneeling posture all over the yard with their faces towards the altar. There were no seats or kneeling boards, nothing but hard “chuckie” stones, to pray upon. However, a religious ceremony conducted under discomforts always seems more impressive, and certainly is more devotional than when celebrated in more cheerful surroundings, and that of yesterday made up in earnestness what it lacked in comfort, though there seemed to be an all-pervading gloomy feeling amongst the congregation. At the conclusion of the Mass, Father Kirk congratulated them on their exemplary conduct, and encouraged them to look forward to the time when their buildings would arise again, and therein would be said the Mass, the Rosary, and Benediction, binding them together in heart, thought, word and deed.”

St. Joseph’s re-built—1906

(photo - school-chapel)

1906

The handsome school-chapel was erected on a new site in Easterhill Street. The site was once again given, on generous terms, by Mr. Smith Sligo, of Inzievar. It was opened by Archbishop Maguire on 29th October, 1906. The Archbishop himself preached and congratulated the people on the courage they had shown in an hour of trial. He believed that their children would look with pride on the building that had been newly opened.

Later a presbytery was erected near the chapel-school. During the time when the chapel-school was situated on London Road the priests lived in Priory House, which had been the property of Miss McGalligly. (Priory House is still standing—now the property of Armac Engineering Co., Ltd.)

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When eventually the new presbytery was built in Easterhill Street, an extension was added to the building, and Miss McGalligly came to live there. At this time the McGurk family moved into Priory House, and lived there for a few years. This might be an appropriate opportunity to record the gratitude of the priests and people of St. Joseph's to the McGurk sisters for the many years of dedicated service they have generously given to the parish.

1909

In 1909, after sixteen years' work in our midst, Father Kirk was transferred to another charge. His place was taken by Father O'Sullivan, and shortly afterwards the present parochial hall was erected. It was to become the centre of the social life of the Catholic community of Tollcross.

Father Matthew Hennessy served as assistant priest from 1899 to 1908; and Father John Lyons, from 1908 to 1910.

(photo - key)

Inscription on key: Presented to the Archbishop of Glasgow by the Architects and Contractors on the occasion of his Opening St. Joseph's Chapel School, Tollcross.

The Daughters of Charity come to Tollcross—1911

1911

Any account of St. Joseph's parish would be incomplete which does not dwell on the significance of the coming of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul to Tollcross. They opened the School for Blind and Deaf Children in 1911 and, since then, they have revealed the spirit of their vocation; they were pioneers on the teaching staff of our school; they have spent many hours in the task of instructing new converts to the faith; they bring consolation to the afflicted in our homes; they visit the sick and the house-bound and, in recent times they have become even more involved in their spiritual life by enabling them to receive Holy Communion more frequently.

We have every reason to bless the day they came amongst us.

(photo - convent)

Silver Jubilee of the parish—1918

On 17th June, 1918, we celebrated our Silver Jubilee. His Grace Archbishop Maguire honoured us with his presence at the High Mass. The Canons of the Cathedral Chapter were present in the sanctuary. At the evening service Rev. Father McPhillips, S.J. preached, and Solemn Benediction was given. The Archbishop, to honour the occasion, made a plenary indulgence available to all the people of St. Joseph's parish.

The material side of things had also been considered. A Jubilee Memorial Fund was opened and generously subscribed to. The parishioners recognised that they had only a chapel-school and that financial difficulties stood in the way of the erection of a proper church.

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ST. JOSEPH'S CHOIR, as it was around the time of the First World War. A photograph has been preserved by Miss Jessie McFarlane, who was baptised in St. Joseph's in 1905. Her family has associations with the parish over a period of eighty-three years. Amongst those whom she can recall are: in the front row, Mrs. McSherry, Mrs. Margaret Urquhart, Mrs. Connelly (organist), Mr. Dunnigan, Miss Rogan, Mrs. Margaret Mooney, Mrs. Peggy Carabin; in the back row the gentlemen at the left is Mr. Black, of Braidfauld Avenue, the father of the late Bishop James Black, who became the first bishop of the newly-formed Diocese of Paisley on 28th February, 1948, and remained in that office until his death on 29th March, 1968.

In the years between the Silver Jubilee and the Golden Jubilee in 1943, the parish was faithfully served by parish priests and assistants: Father Daniel O'Sullivan, until 1926; Father Daniel Horgan (1926-1929); Father Michael McCarthy (1929-1936); Father Cornelius Dennehy (1936-1944).

Fathers Daniel Crowe and James Doherty served as assistants before the outbreak of the first World War. Father Quillinan—a much-loved priest—came before the war, and remained until 1924. He is still remembered for his work with the Boys' Guild and the Dramatic Club. Father Fitzpatrick arrived in 1914, and his term of office was to last until 1933—a period of nineteen years. Next to Father W. Lowery, this was to the longest term of service of any assistant in the parish. Father Lowery was to remain from 1929 until 1950—twenty-one years. Between the time of Father Quillinan's departure in 1924 and Father Lowery's arrival in 1929, Fathers O'Leary, Aherne, and McDade had served for short periods. Father Neil McKnight served from 1933 until 1950.

When the parish came to celebrate the Golden Jubilee in 1943, the Catholic population was 3,000 souls, and close on 600 children attended the school.

(photo - choir)

(photo)

Diamond Jubilee Mass—1953

Fathers Gallaucher, O'Flynn and O'Brien, Servers Anthony Bancewicz (now Father) and Joseph Shields.

Into the 'fifties

Inevitably, it would seem, comparisons will be made between those who have gone before and those who take up the challenge to pass on the faith of our fathers to this present generation. For twenty-six years St. Joseph's was guided by the genial Father Alfred Gallaucher, from 1944 until 1970. From 1950 until the time of his death, he was assisted successively by Fathers W. Lowery and N. McKnight, J. O'Flynn, J. O'Brien, T. Holloran, F. Goodfellow, P. Kelly and W. Tobin.

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The red sandstone chapel-school in Easterhill Street continued in use as a school for sixty-eight years, and as a temporary church for seventy years. The children of the parish thus spent their formative years under the self-same roof as Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

During those years many changes took 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.

St. Joachim's Church opens

1957

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 Sandyhills and Mount Vernon districts, and gradually the old parish came back to its former strength.

Good Shepherd parish closes

1975

When Good Shepherd parish was closed 600 people from the Braidfauld area, which had been in St. Joseph's parish 30 years previously, moved in, and by the time the new church was ready there were 3200 parishioners.

Solemn Opening of the new St. Joseph's—1976

3rd May, 1976, was indeed a red letter day in the history of St. Joseph's. We were privileged to welcome His Grace Archbishop Thomas J. Winning to the solemn opening of the new church.

How a priest-architect describes it

In *The Clergy Review* (Vol. LXI No. 6.—June 1976) there is an article written by Rev. Kenneth Nugent S.J., a priest highly qualified to appreciate the work of our architects—Scott, Fraser and Browning. We quote from the article:

“If ever a church was ‘deserved’ it was St. Joseph's. Eighty-two years is a long time in the life of a community. . . It is a long time too when seventy of those years were spent with a school hall doing service as a church. In all that time, populations have flowed back and forth, industry has come and gone.

Now the church and presbytery complex which, while not occupying a dominant site as an ecclesiastical phoenix, is most decidedly a local asset. It is at first sight a small church, positioned rather diffidently down a side street. The time is long since past when churches vied for visual prominence, and is increasingly past when they attempted to assert themselves by some visual *tour de force*. What is sought now is a ‘belonging’ which has all the marks of the community which it serves, not a detachment, but an integration.

This appears at St. Joseph's in the sense that a good and patient community, having survived so many vicissitudes, is now expressed in an almost crystalline form, purified of anything except faith and its own necessity.

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St. Joseph's—at first sight a small church, but in fact seating just over five hundred—is

(photo - architect's model of new church)

deceptively large. There is a pyramidal form in the church roof which is the dominant feature. The roof does not follow through to an apex, but ends as a horizontal top light to the sanctuary. Surmounting it is a cross which takes up the line through the extremities of the arms to the head of the cross and completes the outline of the form to be taken up by the community itself, and the means of that fulfilling is the cross.

Internally, there is a quality of space and light which comes almost as a surprise. No seat is further than nine rows from the sanctuary, and the breadth of the plan prevents the effect of the comparatively low perimeter walls from being claustrophobic by projecting the high roof towards the concealed lighting which brings the sanctuary into a visual prominence.

Many people were unhappy when the liturgical renewal took its toll of the warm and friendly spaces and seemed to offer aseptic voids as the place of the gathered community. Renewal was sometimes discredited on aesthetic terms alone. What actually happened was typical of any movement of renewal or reform. The extraneous, the superficial and the superfluous were swept aside, albeit sometimes too harshly, and the fundamentals reasserted.

St. Joseph's is a parish church in every sense. It is a church for people with uncomplicated ideas about faith and life, but a church which has an identity in harmony with the whole Church, and a church which embodies tradition in its seeking to live rather than merely to be.

New churches in new places have their own problems, but the parish priest and the architect of a church in a long established area have theirs. The over-riding one is the need to express continuity, with all the delicacy which this can involve. There are not many churches without their quota of furnishings of one sort or another, donated by original members of the parish or by their descendants, who can be inconsolable if the marks of their benefaction are discarded in favour of the new. This does present a real problem, for one wishes neither to hurt, nor at the same time to compromise an otherwise attractive design. Clearly, some judicious incorporation is called for, but it is at least essential that this be allowed for from the start. If it can be done successfully, then the donors are happy, and the church is more readily seen as an expression of its own continuity.

(photo - interior)

The solution to this problem was found at St. Joseph's by using the tabernacle from the hall/church, elaborating it with brass work to give an appropriate significance to the setting. A very large crucifix presented some difficulty which was met by turning the two members of the cross at right angles, reducing its apparent size quite considerably. If anything, the cross is still rather large for the position which it occupies, but that is a small price to pay when it is so much a part of the life of the people of the parish. More harmonious is the placing of the old stations on a deep fascia of dark-stained wood, where their colour and modelling are a visual relief which is most successful in its blending of the old and the new.

The new church is a sign of the faith which brought it into being, a living faith which sees it not as arrival, but as the latest and most expressive in a series of points of departure.”

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Since 1874 the schools and the church have gone hand-in-hand.

That was the year in which the first school was opened in Tollcross—an off-shoot of St. Paul's, Shettleston. Indeed, over the years the children of our parish have received their primary education at St. Joseph's, St. Joachim's and St. Paul's. For a considerable part of that time St. Joseph's catered for their needs at all levels, infant, primary and junior secondary.

It all started at St. Paul's

It would be ungracious of us to attempt to relate the story of St. Joseph's without giving due deference to St. Paul's. In modern times the school to which the majority of our children go is St. Paul's.

The area in which St. Paul's church now stands was originally a small district called Eastmuir. The *Catholic Directory for Scotland of 1863* has the following entry: Eastmuir—St. Paul's (established 1857). Parish Priest—Rev. P. McLauchlin.

The Mission of Eastmuir is very scattered. . . It consists of about fifteen different villages, with a Catholic population of about 2500 souls. In this district there are six Sunday Schools, in all of which the attendance is about 300 children.”

The first St. Paul's primary school—1866

“Gradually the numbers increased, and in 1866 the necessity for a school became more apparent. Father McLauchlin with his customary zeal and energy, secured a suitable place from Mr. Kennedy, Architect, for a small country school to be built. The school, though small, was pleasing, yet simple in design, and was supplied with all the essentials of a school. It was opened in 1866 and for ten years was the only Catholic school in the district. Mr. Ronald McDonald was the first schoolmaster; the first records reveal an average attendance of 118.

The school was under the direct control of the parish priest, but it was also affiliated to the Committee of Council on Education and placed under Government Inspection.”

(The above excerpt is reported in the Log Book of St. Paul's School, dated 11-10-65. It is quoted from a souvenir programme on the opening of the new St. Mark's church in 1927; it is part of a reference to the growth of the Catholic population in the east end of Glasgow when St. Paul's was the only church between St. Mary's, Calton and St. Patrick's, Coatbridge.)

The first St. Joseph's school (Tollcross)—1874

The Education Act (Scotland) of 1872 made education compulsory in Scotland. In 1874 Canon McBrearty, who was then parish priest in Shettleston, opened a school at Tollcross. However, the attendance was well below 100.

There is little information of the early history of this school, since original Log Books have been destroyed by fire.

In the account of the history of the parish outlined above there is reference to the “new” chapel-school in Easterhill Street, opened on 28th October, 1906. The Tollcross children had been in temporary accommodation in London Road, following the fire in church and school.

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1918

In 1918 the Education Act saw the schools pass out of the hands of the reverend managers into the control of the Glasgow Education Authority.

(photo)

Miss Jane Mullen and the staff of St. Joseph's School, 1918.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century the name which is remembered best of all is that of the head teacher, Miss Jane Mullen. She was a strict disciplinarian, but the end product of her methods of teaching was not only a solid foundation in the basics of the various subjects taught; she gave pride of place to religious instruction and above all to the practice of the faith.

One of our present parishioners, Miss Catherine McGurk, has a vivid memory of the occasion of Miss Mullen's retiral. She was selected to write the testimonial address (as it was dictated to her). There had been a rather rigorous "competition" to discover the best writer. She can still remember the opening words of the address: "With sad, yet proud hearts, we are assembled here tonight . . ." It was indeed a proud moment for a wee girl in 1929.

Since those days, the school has been in the capable hands of devoted head teachers and members of their staffs, both teaching and auxiliary.

Miss Mullen was succeeded by Mr. Andrew Curran (1929); Mr. John Madden (1937); Mr. James A. Gillespie (1955); Mr. John Brown (1967); Mr. Charles McCrorie (1970); Mr. James McKeating (1973).

The school moved to new premises in Carmyle, and changed its name to St. Joachim's. Tragically, the new school was destroyed by fire on 8th July, 1978. After enduring the hardships of temporary accommodation, the pupils and staff were able to occupy completely new premises in Carmyle on 17th February, 1981.

St. Paul's (Shettleston) Primary R.C. School—1974

When the present head teacher, Mr. Francis McCluskey, B.A., A.C.P., took up his appointment on 5th August, 1974, he was fully aware of the long tradition of Catholic Education which had been built up in St. Paul's.

The school retained its title "St. Paul's (Shettleston) Primary R.C. School", although since 20th August, 1962, it had occupied new premises in Anwoth Street, Tollcross. Space does not permit us to do justice to the long line of Catholic teachers and auxiliary staff who have given loyal service to our community over the years.

Mr. McCluskey's predecessor, Mr. John McCrossin, came to the school in 1963. Shortly after taking up his post, he had occasion to preside at presentations to three members of his staff on their retiral. He took the opportunity of referring to some of the difficult conditions endured by the community over the years, when paying tribute to the devoted service given by Miss Euphemia McGregor, who had spent her entire teaching career at St. Paul's—a period of forty-six-and-a-half years—she had started teaching in August 1918. In those days attendance at school was very poor. The poverty of the children was excessive; over 300 pupils received three free meals a day. During coal strikes many women and

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children were fed in the school's cookery room. The social conditions of the 'sixties were immensely better than those of the 'twenties.

The situation of the children of this decade, while far from ideal, is comfortable. The atmosphere in the school is a happy one. In recent times a strong bond has been formed between parents and staff. There is every reason to expect that the faith of the children likewise is being strengthened.

Pupils attending secondary schools have a wide range of Catholic schools from which they may make their choice. From this parish alone they attend: St. Andrew's, Our Lady and St. Francis', St. Mungo's, St. Aloysius', Notre Dame, St. Gregory's, Fernhill, Trinity High, Cardinal Newman High, St. Ambrose High, Holy Cross and St. Vincent's.

We are grateful to the staffs and chaplains of these schools for the care which they manifest towards all our young people.

A tribute to the clergy of the recent past

We express our deep gratitude to Rev. F. O'Hara, by whose energy the dream of the people of St. Joseph's became a reality when the new church was opened. He was ably assisted by Fathers W. Tobin, F. Thompson, H. Lowrie and E. B. McNaught. A special word of thanks to Father Thompson, whose departure—after twelve-and-a-half years' service—coincides with this celebration of our ninetieth birthday.

Father John Mone, with his cheerful spirit, has brought us into the 'eighties. For a short time he had the assistance of Rev. P. M. Conroy. Then the parish experienced a "new" dimension in the devoted ministry of Rev. S. Holland while he was still a deacon.

It remains for us to ask prayers for all the clergy, including the present assistants, Rev. C. Kane and Rev. M. Sharkey.

For all who belong to the family of St. Joseph's—past and present:

"This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name:

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-20).

Present Clergy

(photo) Rev. John Mone, Parish Priest

(photo) Rev. Charles Kane, Assistant

(photo) Rev. Michael Sharkey, Assistant

90th Anniversary
1893 – 1983

90th Anniversary
1893 – 1983

(photo)

Pope John Paul II with Archbishop Winning at St. Andrew's College, Bearsden, June 1982.

“Be loyal to the memory of those valiant forerunners in the faith. Be diligent in handing on intact the spiritual heritage committed to you. Be faithful to your daily prayers, to the holy Mass and the sacrament of penance, meeting regularly with Jesus as a loving and merciful Saviour. Defend the sacredness of life and the holiness of matrimony. Understand your holy Catholic faith and live by its teaching. Face up to the difficult challenges of modern life with Christian fortitude and patience.

“Did not Jesus himself say to his disciples: ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.’ “? (Mt. 16: 24; Mk. 8:34.)

From John Paul II—Mass at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow.

Tuesday, 1 June, 1982.

John S. Burns & Sons. 25 Finlas Street, Glasgow. 022 5DS