

# Our Lady of Lourdes Church

East Kilbride



1964 - 2004

## Introduction

This brochure has been compiled to give a picture of the parish community in 2004, forty years after the Church was opened. There are contributions from Fr Nolan, Fr King, our schools, and a flavour of a few of the many groups in the parish. We hope that you enjoy your short read.



## The Parish Priest

There are still those in the parish who remember when the plot of land where the church now stands was still a field. Those founding members of the parish have to be congratulated not just for the fine church they built, but, more importantly, for the outstanding parish community that they helped create and develop over the years. The priests who served in Our Lady of Lourdes and the people of the parish have achieved a great deal.

Recent renovation work has been carried out in the church to renew the building and keep it at its best. This building will continue to be, as it has been for 40 years, at the centre of our prayer and worship - and also at the centre of our renewal. For it is not just the building that is being renewed, the parish itself is constantly being renewed as we try to serve God afresh in every age and allow the power of God to transform our own lives and through us to transform the world.

Our celebration of the 40 years of this building is a celebration of the faith that inspired its creation and is a spur to us to look forward to the future and to be enthusiastic for the work that has still to be done as we build up the kingdom of God in the world.

May the prayers of Mary, our patroness, help us; may Mary's faithfulness encourage us; may Mary's example guide us. And may we who worship God in Our Lady of Lourdes' church worship him also in the lives that we lead.

*Fr. W. Nolan*



# St. Louise Primary School

## Head Teacher

In common with all Catholic schools, our relationship with the Church is central to what we are working to achieve.

Due to the location of St. Louise primary it is not possible to visit the church as often as we would like to, to celebrate Mass as a school. Perhaps because of this we feel particularly welcome when we do visit as groups, classes or indeed as a school. This geographical problem, however, is overcome by the willingness of the priests, especially Fr King, to actively work with us in ensuring that the children identify strongly with the Church and their role within it. We have regular school and class Masses in St Louise hall, many of which, parents are invited to. Indeed Fr King is perceived by all of our children as a regular member of staff and with him, and Fr Pat Hennessey of St Vincent de Paul Parish around, we rarely have a dull moment. Fr King is always there to support and celebrate with both the children and adults in the school community. Fr Nolan often adjusts his own plans to allow Fr King to be available when we need him.

The children always recall with great fondness their celebrations of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation that have taken place in Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr Nolan's careful planning of these Sacraments makes our role in the school a great deal easier and always results in a beautiful celebration.

Everyone in St Louise appreciates the support and care we receive from Our Lady of Lourdes parish. We wish you all well in the forthcoming years.

*Catherine M. Judge*



## The Children

**Fr. King talks to us about Jesus. Fr King reads to us from the bible about Our Lady and God.**

*(Father King talks to us about Jesus. Father King reads to us from the bible about Our Lady God.)*

*P1 Stephen Kirkwood*

**Fr King reads the gospel in school and church.**

*(Fr King reads the gosbly in school and church.)*

*P2 Graham Longmuir*

**When I made my first confession the school and the church were together.**

*P3 Robyn Heslin*

**I think the school and church are important to us because the priest and teachers help us to prepare for our First Holy Communion and other sacraments.**

*P4 Abbie Fisher*

**Last year I was preparing for my First Communion. All the teachers came along so did my family and Fr King held it at Our Lady of Lourdes.**

*P5 Sam Hill*

**I enjoy it when Fr King visits our class because it strengthens the link between the school and the church, and Fr King can also help us celebrate important celebrations, like class masses, Holy Communions, Confirmations and Confessions.**

*P6 Louise Dickson*

**When you go to church you feel part of the community and when the priest visits the school you can speak to him like a friend rather than a priest.**

*P7 James Carrigan*

## The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The conference, the brothers and sisters of the SVDP meet once a week in the parish hall to administer the funds, discuss charitable works done in the last week, and to arrange work to be done. This meeting takes the form of a shared prayer with business interlaced under the direction of our spiritual director Fr. Nolan.



Our weekly tasks include visiting the poor, lonely, sick and elderly in their homes and Hairmyres Hospital, regardless of race or creed. We also organise and fund the weekly transport for the elderly to attend Sunday Mass, annual events such as the Mass for the sick of the parish and the luncheon for the housebound.

The conference is also twinned with St. Francis of Assisi in Pattithanam, India, where we currently sponsor 10 students through full time education in both college and university.

Our parish work is best described as charity

“To see God in everyone and treat them as you would treat him.”

## Hospital Chaplaincy

The hospital has been in the care of the parish here since the very beginning except for three years when it was based in St. Vincent's Parish.

Over the last forty years things have changed. When the parish first started, the hospital was the responsibility of all the priests in the house. Then the bishop made the hospital the responsibility of one priest and that is the way it is today.

However, the chaplaincy is much greater than one person. There is a great team of people who are involved in the hospital. For the last fifteen years the Columban Sisters have played a huge role in the work of the hospital, especially Sr. Joy and now Sr. Maureen.

The Eucharistic Ministers both from here and from St. Leonard's Parish have a very valuable role. They take communion on a Sunday to all those Catholics who are in hospital. They provide a great service and I know that they get great rewards from doing this.

There are also other groups who visit patients in the hospital - the various groups of the St. Vincent de Paul and the Legion of Mary to name but a few

I cannot forget to mention the great cooperation I get from my brother priests in the Deanery. They are always there to give me a helping hand.

Finally, I would want to take this opportunity to thank all the above for all the work that they have done and will continue to do in the future.

*Fr. Frank*

## Bowling Club

Founded in 1992, from the late Jack Allan's concept of a Parish Club, launched by a capable committee, to become an "all year round" club Murray Bowling Green in season and Church Hall Indoor in the winter. As a club we play at South Lanarkshire tournament level; we socialize at our Annual Trophy-giving dance and several "meal and theatre" nights as well as an annual bowling outing. We also enjoy exchange visits with other church clubs. Come and join us!



## Parish Pastoral Planning Team

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team (PPT) has been in existence for 12 years. The group, at the present time, consists of the two priests of the parish, Sister Maureen and five lay members - a total of eight. The team meet, more or less, monthly, on a Monday Night in the Oratory and each meeting is started and ended with prayer, where we ask for guidance in what we do.

As the group's name implies, our role is to identify, discuss and plan any pastoral activities thought to be suitable for the Parish community at any given time. An example of this is many of the events and activities surrounding our Fortieth Anniversary. Many of these were initially identified, discussed and planned by the PPT. Although these events might well be triggered by the PPT, it is only through individuals in the Parish giving their valuable time to each activity that they can actually happen and be successful. The PPT is a good example of the priests and people working together in every area of parish life.

# Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

## Head Teacher

I have been the head teacher in Our Lady of Lourdes primary school for six and a half years.

The school is positively embraced by the parish on many levels.

Father Nolan and Father King work very closely with the staff and all of the children. They both empathise with the ethos the school promotes and are actively engaged in that promotion. Parish groups are always eager to support us in prayer and through the preparation for and participation in the Sacraments.

In addition their commitment to the school is evident in many other ways.

Central to our educational provision as a catholic school, our participation at First Friday mass, celebration of the Rosary and reception of Sacraments enable the children to establish familiarity with our lovely church. Without exception, we feel welcomed and supported by the considerable adult congregation who set a tone for the children to be guided by.

This legacy augurs positively for the continued development of this faith building community.

In closing I would pay tribute to the less formal, but no less telling day-to-day occurrences, which shape and mould the partnership between the respective agents of our parish community. Courtesy, humour and fairness underpin these daily exchanges. The good work carried out within the Church transmits itself into what people do and say when they are conducting their daily lives. Never patronising or conceited rather, supportive and confident, these guiding principles make good news within a challenging world.

*Mr Paul McGarry.*





## The Children

Father Nolan, Father King and the parish make us feel welcome when we go to mass. We go to see them in the church every first Friday of the month. The priests come to visit us in class lots of times.

*Room 2*

Our school is good friends with Our Lady of Lourdes Church. We love coming to church every first Friday.

We even like Father Nolan or Father King coming to the school for a little visit.

We love praying to Jesus and God and Mary. Amen.

*Georgia Rowlett, R.3.*

Father Nolan and Father King helped us during our preparation for confession. They showed us inside the confessional box so that we would not feel nervous.

Every First Friday we go over to church for mass with the parishioners. This makes me feel like a parishioner. It also makes me think that when I pray I get closer to God.

*Kludia, R.4.*

We go to Mass on the first Friday of each month.

Fr. Nolan often visits our class. When he comes to our class he tells us how to be kind and share things.

Fr. Nolan blessed our school. I like him because he asks us things. He tells us about Lent.

*Sophie McNally, P5.*

I go to Our Lady of Lourdes School. Since our new school opened it has been visited by lots of people including Father King, Father Nolan and Bishop Devine. 59 children made their First Holy Communion this year. One of them was me. My teacher, Mrs. McFarlane, teaches me and my class how to live like Jesus did.

In our church we have a liturgy to help understand the mass. My favourite parts of the mass are the homily and Communion.

Me and my class went to Confession not long ago. We always sing a favourite hymn at the end. We say the Angelus every day at 12 o'clock. We always go to 10 o'clock mass with the whole school on the first Friday of every month. During the month of May the ladies from the parish came to say the rosary with us at lunchtime.

*Sophie Cooney, R.7.*

The church is the place where we celebrate mass. We go to Mass with our mums and dads. We go with our class at school.

*Lewis, R.4.*

Our school is very dedicated to the church and its teachings. The priests are very nice to us. They come to the School and teach us about God and to love Him. We go to confessions in the school and church.

We go to mass every First Friday and the primary sixes and sevens get to do readings,

bidding prayers and the psalm.

In class we learn about the bible, Saints and God. We found it very interesting. Every May and October we say the Rosary. At school we receive Sacraments such as First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation which are important.

At school we also learn hymns and prayers. We think you should let primary sevens burn the palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

*Room 8*

## The Children

Our school neighbours and the Church are connected like a jigsaw.

We go to church and Fr. King and Fr. Nolan say thank you by coming to our shows and plays.

Our neighbours worship and sing to God, and the priests repay them by forgiving their sins. Me and my friend Cameron enjoy working as altar boys which means we are connected to God in a special way. We enjoy doing this because we are able to sing, smile and preach to the Lord.

Our home and our family are the link between the church and the school. Our parents take us to church where we learn about Jesus. They take us to school where we learn how to live with others and help them.

What we learn in church helps us in school, and what we learn in school helps us in learning more about how to live like Jesus.

### *Room 10*

The relationship between the school and our parish is very strong. We feel like the church and parishioners are part of our school.

We go to first Friday mass and celebrate feast days and special occasions. Sometimes we have mass in our school.

The Eucharistic Ministers and parishioners take part in all the masses. They also help with communions and are prayer partners for P.7's when they make their Confirmation. Fr. King and Fr. Nolan come to visit us from time to time in our classrooms. Fr. King came to do the Stations of the Cross and Fr. Nolan comes to talk to us about Jesus. The priests are very friendly and talk to us regularly.

The parishioners who take the children's liturgy help children understand Jesus' life. They also print out sheets about God for us to fill in.

The church is always welcoming and we always know that we can have a talk with God.

### *Room 12*

In the past 40 years the school has been in connection with the parish through Prayer Partners for the Confirmation and on a Friday during the months of May and October. The Legion of Mary comes and says the rosary with us. Also on a Sunday there is a children's liturgy for children to go and listen and talk about the Gospel during mass.

At other points during the school year Father Nolan comes and says school and class masses. And in Lent Father King comes and says and does the Stations of the Cross with us.

### *Jennifer Stirling, R.13*

Over the last 40 years the church has helped our school by letting us attend masses and help prepare us for Confirmations, Communions and Reconciliations.

The church has helped us by giving us prayer partners at time like Confirmations and such. Once a year a priest comes to school and does the stations of the cross and the children join in so they know how Jesus felt.

The school has helped our church by attending the masses and providing musicians and readers.

### *Shauna. R. 14*

## Mothers & Toddlers

Mothers and Toddlers meet every Thursday morning in the large hall from 10.30 am to 12 noon, but in today's economic climate there are Dads, Grannies and Grandpas. At present there is anything between sixteen and twenty-four children.



Monsignor Taylor, now Bishop Taylor, started this group to give mothers a place to meet and get to know one another and help to cope with the loneliness of a "New Town". It also helps the children make friends with each other before they start school. Because of the educational changes the children now leave younger to go to Nursery school, but they still make friends and learn to share their toys.

Light refreshments are provided for both children and adults. There is always a place for anyone who would like to join us and share a pleasant hour and a half.

## The Columban Sisters

The missionary spirit of Monsignor Maurice Taylor brought the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban to the Parish in 1977. Many of the sisters who have ministered in Our Lady of Lourdes have returned to the mission in Hong Kong, Pakistan and the Philippines, grateful for the friendship and support they continue to receive from the people of the Parish. We pray that this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish will be a time of renewal and blessing for everyone.



## RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults known as RCIA has been in existence in the Parish for 15 to 16 years. For 10 years it was run by Sister Joy and a few helpers. Since 1999 there has been a Team, coordinated by Liz Kelly and consisting of: Catechists who instruct; Prayer Leaders who present suitable prayers and readings to assist the Catechist; Sponsors who accompany and support each Candidate through the Programme and Hospitality Persons who organise tea at each Session.

Those taking part in the Programme are learning about the Catholic Faith with a view to becoming Catholics, and are known as Candidates. As a Team we are all Parishioners with a willingness to share our Faith and our knowledge to assist others on their "Journey of Faith". We are strongly supported, trained and motivated by our two Priests who also have roles as Catechists.

The Programme begins in June each year and runs through to Easter. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in the Oratory and last till 9 pm, with the last half hour being "tea time" and time for informal discussion and questions.

Anyone interested in finding out more about RCIA should, in the first instance, speak to one of the Priests.

## Altar Servers

I have been serving in Our Lady of Lourdes now for just about ten years and have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of it. When I first started serving I was trained by Fr Stewart who gave us the best training available considering he was the Bishop's M.C. at the time. With this grounding along with the respect and reverence we were taught to have when serving Mass, it brought a great deal of enjoyment and purpose to the Mass which I was too young to fully understand at the time. I personally feel that it is greatly down to serving mass



that my faith and commitment to Mass did not fade when I first hit my teenage years, when so many young people drift away from the Church. Serving gave you a reason to get out of bed on a Sunday morning or on days you just couldn't be bothered. In more recent years I have been heavily involved with the parish due to my position as M.C. and I am involved in making sure all major celebrations go as planned and in training all the new servers. Over the last ten years I have met many friends and encountered hundreds of people from servers to Priests, from Missionaries to Bishops, from parishioners to Fr Dunnachie! Our altar servers, past and present, are a great commodity in Our Lady of Lourdes and I feel honoured to be part of that brilliant team.

Paul Denney

## The Childrens Liturgy

The children's liturgy has been going for a great number of years and it is still going strong. The children receive the liturgy at a level that they understand during the 10.30am Mass. It consists of two groups, which meet in the hall. The upstairs group is for children in Primaries 4-7 plus any child that requires wheelchair access. The downstairs group is for Primaries 1-3. We have willing volunteers who run the liturgy groups every Sunday, except for school holidays. As with most initiatives which are led by volunteers we are always happy to receive volunteer help.

