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**SILVER  
JUBILEE**

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**ST MARGARET MARY'S  
CHURCH  
NEW MOSTON**

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

Although we are celebrating a Silver Jubilee on this occasion, St. Margaret Mary's is somewhat older.

Like all Parishes it had to grow from small beginnings, overcoming difficulties and accepting many challenges from that day the 2nd November 1935 when Father Richardson arrived here.

Initially Mass was said in the Moston Baths building, then in the Conservative Club, later in the School Hall until finally the Church was erected and opened – March 16th 1957.

We pay tribute to those who have gone before us, the clergy and people of the Parish, who in the dark days of the war and it's aftermath, kept alive the dream of a Church of their own. This day in March 1957 was a dream fulfilled.

St. Margaret Mary did much to foster dedication to the Blessed Sacrament where she knew Christ to be really present. We are indebted to our great Patroness and in humility we plead that she may help us all to grow closer to that Divine Heart.

Thank God for the blessings of the past and may the years ahead deepen our faith and fill us with a growing desire to serve Him and love Him.

Father G. Fearon  
(Parish Priest).

### MARCH 1935

On March 26th 1935 the Salford Diocesan Authorities purchased 3 acres of land in New Moston from Mayn Radcliffe with the intention of developing a new Mission there to meet the requirements of the newly developing estates in New Moston.

The cost of the land was £750 per acre, and the total cost including Surveyor's and Lawyer's fees, less a donation from Mayn Radcliffe of £26. 5. 0d., came to £2300. 11. 6d.

### OCTOBER 1935

On October 15th the Rev. G. Richardson was invited to take and develop the new Mission, named by His Lordship Bishop Henshaw - ST. MARGARET MARY'S. He arrived in the district on November 2nd 1935 to look for a suitable place to start and through the happy fact that the Resident Manager of Broadway Baths was a good Catholic, Mr. Bostock by name, was enabled to engage the Hall at the Baths at a weekly cost of 25/-d. This gave him the use of the Hall - a converted Bath - from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.

### NOVEMBER 10th 1935

On November 10th Mass was celebrated for the first time in the said Baths, a start being made with one Mass at 9 a.m. The attendance was about 350. The numbers increased rapidly once the fact that there was Mass each week was known and on November 24th permission was granted for the celebration of two Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

It was impossible to have Benediction as there were no facilities for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. Meanwhile on November 21st permission was granted by the Finance Board for the erection of a building. It was decided that this should take the form of a permanent structure designed to act as a temporary Church but to function afterwards as the Central Hall of a new School. Mr. Harold Greenhalgh of Bolton, was engaged as Architect. His plans were approved and the Contract for Building was given to the Moston Brick Building Company, the lowest contractors, at a contract price of £3000. The erected hall dimensions were 90 feet by 30 feet, and there were 3 additional rooms, a Sacristy, kitchen and heating cellar. Building commenced in January 1936.

Meanwhile Father Richardson rented a house at 259 Moston Lane East, at a rental of £50 a year and with the permission of the Bishop turned the front bedroom into a Chapel for Daily Mass, and on 6th December 1935 took up residence and the Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the Chapel.

DECEMBER 8th 1935

On December 8th the Pagella of Erection of the Parish of St. Margaret Mary was signed by the Bishop, and the boundaries defined.

The next event of importance was the laying of the Foundation Stone by Bishop Henshaw, which event occurred on 14th February 1936. The attendance was good, in spite of the weather and the rain held off until the Stone was laid. The collection on the Stone was £109.

At the end of March the Hall at the Baths, being reconverted into a Bath for the Summer Season, was no longer available for Holy Mass. The building was not finished and so temporarily a move was made to the Conservative Club in Hollinwood Avenue. This was only a wooden structure, dirty, small and very inconvenient. It was necessary to have 3 Masses to accommodate the people so Father McVunna, Chaplain to the Little Sisters at Culcheth was engaged as Assistant to say one Mass. The first Mass in the Conservative Club was on Palm Sunday 5th April 1936.

It was not until Sunday 31st May, that a move was possible into the new Parochial Hall, and even then the Hall was unfinished. There was no screen to protect the Blessed Sacrament; the floor was only the first rough boards and the place was filled with building materials of various kinds. But it did accommodate the people, who were now able to kneel during Mass. (In the Conservative Club the chairs were so close together that every one sat during the Mass and stood for the Consecration). Moreover 2 Masses were found to be sufficient, and they were fixed at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The temporary Altar that had served in the Baths and Conservative Club was used and the Blessed Sacrament still kept in the Priests' house where Mass was still said during the week. Great praise is due to the handful of loyal men who prepared and cleared the baths and the Club and now the Hall - clearing the latter ready for the builders to come in on Monday morning. The first Mass in the new Hall was on Whit Sunday.

Things continued like this, with no Benediction, until Sunday 5th July when the Hall was deemed fit for the erection of the Altar and Tabernacle and Our Lord took up His permanent residence in the said Hall. There was present that day, 278 at 9 a.m., 297 at 11 a.m. and 190 at Benediction in the evening. There was no great ceremony as no date could be fixed definitely in advance.

The Altar, a gift from the Bishop, was the old Altar from the Bishop's private Chapel, that was superseded by the new Altar in the New Wardley Chapel. The frontal was a copy of the mosaic frontal of the Altar of the Confessional of St. Peter in Rome, and was painted for Herbert Vaughan when Bishop of Salford. It was mounted on 3 steps made by the parishioners.

Things now became normal and efforts were started to face the payment of the debt that was now over £5000.

During May of 1936, it was rumoured that the land above the New Hall and lying in Chadderton was to be sold for building purposes. As this was the only arable land near the new St. Margaret Mary's, and as the requisite land for School purposes was small according to the new ideas of the Education Authorities, it was decided to purchase another two acres of land, lying principally in Chadderton. After negotiations the price agreed upon was £750 for the two acres, and this with lawyers fees etc., came to £813. 7. 0d. An agreement was come to verbally with the Presentation Nuns, Livesey Street, that they would take one area for the purposes of starting a Convent in connection with the New Mission.

The Hall was registered as a place for Religious Worship under the title St. Margaret Mary's Chapel and Parochial Hall on 29th April, 1936. This is for purposes of marriage.

#### JANUARY 24th 1937

First Consecration of Men to Blessed Sacrament Confraternity - M.J. Timms First Secretary. To meet twice a month a) at Benediction on Holy Communion Sunday b) One Thursday evening during the month.

#### BANK A/C

Bank account was opened at Westminster Bank Limited, Newton Heath, Manchester in the names of George Richardson, G. Maspero (Dean) and P.J. White.

Transferred to Martins District Bank Limited, New Moston, in the same names i.e., G. Richardson, G. Maspero and P.J. White.

12th February, 1938, account opened with Williams Deacons, Newton Heath, in the same names as above.

MAY 2nd 1937

Children of Mary started with Consecration and Procession.  
Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary carried in procession.

SEPTEMBER 25th 1937

Rev. Gerard Prescott appointed as First Assistant Priest.

SEPTEMBER 5th 1937

Blessing of Statue of St. Joseph, presented by Miss. M. Moran,  
late of Lightbowne Road.

SEPTEMBER 25th 1937

Signing of Contract for New School, £7,419 - Moston Brick &  
Building Company's quotation. Other estimates £7455, £7563,  
£7582, £7805.

SEPTEMBER 26th 1937

Commenced 3 Masses each Sunday, i.e., 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m., and  
11 a.m.

FEBRUARY 15th 1938

Formation of Branch of Union of Catholic Mothers. Mrs. Groarke,  
President.

AUGUST 1938

School opened after Midsummer Holidays with 200 children.  
Headmistress - Sister Margaret (Presentation), Assistants -  
Sister Theresa, Mr. Wilding, and Misses Murray, M. McElin and  
A. Ward.

OCTOBER 1938

Removed into the New Presbytery in St. Margaret's Road.

OCTOBER 9th

Commenced 4 Masses in the School Hall, i.e., 8 a.m., 9 a.m.,  
10 a.m., and 11 a.m. Increased order for Altar Breads to 250  
per week.

OCTOBER 22nd

Mgr. V. Marshall blessed the School erected the Crucifix.  
Ceremony was delayed owing to the death of Bishop Henshaw.

OCTOBER 23rd

Four Presentation Nuns took up residence in New Parish, in a rented house on North Crescent, Greengate, until their new Convent could be built. They were present in Church for the first time at Benediction the same day.

NOVEMBER

A new Ciborium was presented to the Parish by Mrs. Flemming in memory of her husband (R.I.P.) who was the first one to train Altar-Servers.

JANUARY 22nd 1939

Started Guild of St. Agnes for girls from 11 - 15 years.  
39 Consecrated.

FEBRUARY 27th

First Requiem Mass in the Church Hall (William Francis McClellan).

MAY 7th

First Procession and Crowning of Statue of Our Lady. The Statue was a new one presented by the generosity of a few parishioners. Those taking part were, the school children, the Guild of St. Agnes, and the Children of Mary. The Statue was carried during the procession, which was short, i.e., from the Hall, along one corridor, through the playground and in through the other corridor. A girl from Standard 1 then First Communion Class, crowned, having been chosen by lot on the previous Monday. There was no fuss, no train or train bearers. A boy from the same class carried the crown, but only from the front bench to the Statue.

JUNE 1939

Permission was given for Benediction each day during the month of the Sacred Heart for the School Children, 4.10 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Outdoor Procession and Benediction in School Yard on Sunday. Children; Agnesians; Children of Mary and Men and Women took part.

SEPTEMBER 1939

WAR. School evacuated to Rishton. Well secured and all taken into St. Charles School with exception of a few in Clayton-le-Moors. Gradual drop back. By end of year 37 left in Rishton, with Sister Margaret and Misses Ward and McElin.

SCHOOL

Teachers at home do tutorial work (20 in School at one time to receive home-work), and visit the children in their homes for instruction and home-work.

JANUARY 24th 1940

New Parish was formed from St. Margaret Mary's to become St. John Bosco's.

FEBRUARY 14th

Surveyor's from Manchester Education Committee agreed to provide Air Raid Shelters in the Cloakrooms of the School.

MARCH 27th

Paid £190 off Capital Debt.

SEPTEMBER 15th

11 a.m. Mass interrupted at Gospel by Air Raid Warning. All people went into Shelters and returned for Mass on the All-Clear being sounded.

JULY 1940

Land for Senior School between Lightbowne Road and Moston Mill, already approved by Manchester Education Committee and Board of Education, was shared equally among the parishes of St. Mary's Failsworth; Christ the King, Newton Heath, St. Dunstan's, Moston, St. John Bosco, Charlestown Road and St. Margaret Mary's. Our cost was thus £803. 10. 4d., which was added to the Capital Debt.

SEPTEMBER 29th

Paid £200 off Capital Debt.

OCTOBER 12th

Confirmation by His Lordship Bishop Marshall at 3 p.m., Saturday afternoon. 68 boys - 85 girls.

JANUARY 30th 1941

Rev. G. Richardson celebrated his Silver Jubilee and received a gift of £420. 0. 0d., from the parishioners.

JANUARY 31st

Statue of St. Anthony, gift of Sister Anthony, Presentation Convent, Livesey Street, erected in the Church.



JUNE

Carved Statue of St. Margaret Mary placed in Church in memory of Jubilee of Father Richardson.

NOVEMBER 28th

Father Prescott joined the R.A.C. and was succeeded by Father John Corbett, from Whalley.

JANUARY 5th 1942

Father John Corbett left to join the Army.

JANUARY 13th

Father Terence Cotton from Rusholme - appointed as Assistant who took up his duties on January 17th.

JANUARY 18th

Started a Mass at 12.25 p.m. for the Workers at A.V. Roe, dropping the Mass at 6.45 a.m., that had been put on for the same reason. Result - 200 present, justifying the change. Sunday Masses now - 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 and 12.25 p.m.

FEBRUARY 1942

Started Youth Centre. 3 nights per week. Scouts started. Mr. Inglis - Scout Master. Father Cotton - Group Scout Master. Later Cubs were started.

JUNE 1943

Sister Margaret resigned the Headship of the School, being recalled to the Convent at Livesey Street. Sister Teresa was appointed Headmistress in her place.

AUGUST

School opens with Sister Teresa as Headmistress and Sister Francis as Assistant.

OCTOBER 1944

On October 5th Father Cotton left to join the forces as Chaplain. His place was taken by Father Henderson from St. Mary Magdelaine's Burnley.

Earlier in the year Mother Austin left St. Margaret Mary's for Livesey Street and was succeeded by Mother Anthony.

JANUARY 1945

On 28th January the Bishop, R. Vincent Marshall made Visitation and conferred Confirmation on 167 children and adults - 86 boys and men and 81 girls and women. Incidentally there were 23 Armenians (21 men - 2 women), Army Members from Warrington Confirmed among the above.

FEBRUARY 13th 1945

School examined by Father Sheeran, who in the middle of the examination held informal conference with the teachers re new syllabus.

(It is of interest to me that by December 1945 about £3,500 has been paid in interest on loans).

OCTOBER

Start of building of Canteen - Cost to be borne by M.E.C. who rent land for same for 10 years. To accommodate 120 at a sitting .

NOVEMBER

A.V. Roe's start to clear land rented by them during war. The Air Ministry requisition about 1/3 of an acre.

NOVEMBER 24th

Father Henderson was moved to St. Peter's Blackburn and Father John Corbett returned here from the Army, discharged wounded in right hand and arm.

NOVEMBER 21st

The Board of Administration granted leave to Father Richardson to collect for a Church, said money, by permission to be lodged with the Diocese in Account separate from the Debt Account. On November 26th the first £200 was forwarded for same. The Church to be a Mass Centre only, not an elaborate structure, permission being granted because of the difficulties arising out of using the School Hall as Hall, Schoolroom, Canteen, Youth Centre, and Church.

FEBRUARY 9th & 23rd 1947

Mission given by Father Martin Dougherty C.P. - 1st week for women, second for men. In midst of great freeze up that lasted over three weeks and caused shortage of coal and renewal of black-out.

JULY 1947

Painted house. Work done by Manton, Lightbourne Road, - good.

AUGUST

Painted outside of School - work done by Manton, cost £85.

SEPTEMBER

Prefabricated hut for Education of 14 - 15 year old's opened.  
9 teachers and Head on the School Staff.

MARCH 1948

New Sanctuary Lamp given by Miss. G. Haynes in memory of her  
mother R.I.P.

NOVEMBER 1947

At end of year - i.e., 10th November £815 had been collected for  
the New Church - the total for two years being £1586.

NOVEMBER 1948

New Church during '47 '48 collected £1576. Total for 3 years  
£3150.

JANUARY 31st 1951

1st Pantomime by School children. Raised £60. Very successful.

JUNE 3rd

1st Outdoor Procession. About 850 took part. 241 men, 38 youths,  
51 Children of Mary, 72 Agnesians, 140 women, 3 bands.

ROUTE:- Lightbowne Road, Nuthurst Road, Moston Lane East, time  
1¾ hours. Finished with Benediction in School Yard. Everyone  
extremely happy and satisfied in lovely sunshine. Leading Banner  
made by Nuns (figures by Sister Gabriel).

Cost including Barriers:- Bands; Statue; etc., £147. 6. 2d. Held  
a collection for expenses - £163. 8. 0d.

MARCH 11th 1951

Permission for one priest to say 3 Masses on alternate Sunday's  
Those working in Avro's heard Mass at 12.5 mid-day. (45 names on  
paper of request).

JUNE 1952

Procession. Another success. Route changed. Hollinwood Avenue,  
Lightbowne Road, Nuthurst Road, Broadway to Mough Lane, Oowler Lane,  
Hollinwood Avenue. Time about the same. Banner made by Nuns  
(Our Lady).

NOVEMBER 8th - 15th

Rosary Crusade preached by Father Bolger and Father Adamson, S.M.M., very successful. About 200 Holy Communions per day. 190 promised to recite Rosary.

FEBRUARY 14th 1954

Visitation and Confirmation. 285 Confirmed.

MARCH 7th

Announced that we were starting New Church.

AUGUST 16th

Feast of St. Margaret Mary. Foundation stone laid by Bishop Marshall, Bishop of Salford. Collection £196. 16. 0d. Fine for procession from School to stone, then rained all the time.

AUGUST 21st

Received tenders for Church. James Hartley & Sons appointed as builders.

Principal Tenders:-

Hartley	£25,436	J. Murphy	£28,251
P.Hames Ltd.	£28,572	Dickinson	£30,326
Fearnley	£30,687	Hodkinson	£30,643

It was decided to cut out the Car Park (planned) and carry on, and Hartley's tender was acceptable.

JANUARY - MAY 1955

Knocked down part of Church ruined by frost - started putting low roof on in September (all up to 8' length).

JANUARY 6th

Burglars in School and Church. Tabernacle pulled off Altar and attempt made to free it. Attempt failed. Ciborium inside did not open - so Blessed Sacrament was safe.

MARCH 16th 1957

New Church blessed and opened by George Andrew Beck - Bishop of Salford. Ceremony went without a hitch and children sang Mass - Te Deum alternatively with the Priests, Father Duggan was Deacon and J. Russell Subdeacon. Canons Motler and Taylor accompanied the Bishop.

MARCH 6th 1958

Father Corbett promoted Parish Priest - Sacred Heart, Gorton. In his place Father V. Sweeney came on 6th March.

AUGUST

Father Francis Frost appointed as extra Assistant.

OCTOBER

Started new floor to Sanctuary. (Marble) cost £1140.

NOVEMBER 10th

Silver Jubilee of Parish. Church Consecrated by Bishop Beck -  
3 hours 40 minutes.

Just 25 years to the day since the first Mass in Broadway Baths.

FEBRUARY 12th 1961

Visitation and Confirmation. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 165 boys -  
189 girls.

MARCH

Stained glass window in Baptistery. Cost £288.

APRIL (2 weeks)

MISSION. Father Malachy and Father Simon O.F.M. Very  
successful but attendance at services poor.

DECEMBER 24th 1963

Father Richardson ill - cerebral thrombosis.

JANUARY

Father Richardson taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, Whalley Range.

Father Francis Cummins moved to St. Peter's, Middleton.

Father John Williams came as Assistant Priest.

MARCH

Father Richardson goes to Alexian Brothers Hospital.

MAY 2nd

Father Richardson dies.

MAY 6th

Solemn Requiem Mass. Bishop Beck presided. Celebrant:-

Father George Richardson (Nephew). Deacon:- Father Denis Sheeran.

Subdeacon:- Father Francis Higgins. Father John Corbett preached.

MAY

Father Vincent Sweeney appointed Vic Deacon.

NOVEMBER 27th

Father Herbert Power came as Parish Priest.  
Father Vincent Sweeney appointed Parish Priest of St. Chad's.

NOVEMBER 27th 1964

Father Herbert James Power came from St. Chad's to take charge of St. Margaret Mary's parish.

JULY 10th 1965

The tragic death of Father Herbert Power on holiday in an air crash took place in the Canary Islands on the 5th May 1965. Two other Salford Priests suffered the same fate with him. Canons' Peter Taylor of Corpus Christi (P.P.), and Canon George Motler of English Martyrs (P.P.) M/c. This news brought a terrible shock to the whole diocese, and to their respective parishes. Father Power was buried at Moston Cemetery on the 15th May 1965. Father Campbell of St. Vincent's, Openshaw was appointed as Parish Priest to St. Margaret Mary's. He came here on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 17th June 1965.

OCTOBER 1965

The exterior of the Church has been decorated by C.A. Boardman & Son Limited, 48 Old Church Street, Newton Heath at a cost of £240.

Confirmation and Visitation was held in the Parish on 26th June 1966 by His Lordship Bishop T. Holland. 330 including converts received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

SEPTEMBER 1966

Father John Williams has been transferred and appointed to the Staff of St. Bede's College, Manchester and Father Terence Greenwood of Our Lady's and St. Patrick's, Walton le Dale has replaced him as Assistant Priest. He was ordained in 1960.

NOVEMBER 15th

A two weeks Mission conducted by the St. Francis De Sales Fathers, Whitefield was held in the Parish beginning 31st October and finishing on 13th November. The names of the Missioner's were Father Francis Hamilton MSFS and Father Joseph Davis MSFS. The first week was devoted to the children and visiting the Parish. The 2nd week was devoted to the Adults - Mass with sermon at 9 a. m. and 8 p.m. The missioner's concentrated on the dialogue Mass in English which was well received. Their sermons were very well prepared and attuned to the new approach of religion as expressed in the Vatican decrees.

The closing was most impressive with Solemn Baptism conferred in the Sanctuary in presence of the whole congregation; all with lighted candles renewing their Baptismal vows. About 3000 Holy Communions were received during the Mission and about 600 visits were made in the Parish.

DECEMBER 3rd 1966

A Christmas Fair was organised in the Parish in aid of a New Pipe Church Organ as a memorial to the late Father George Richardson. It was a most successful event realising a net profit of £800. Jardine's of Manchester have got the contract for erecting the organ at a cost of £2,359.

MARCH 1967

The new pipe organ has been installed in the Church at the above figure and paid for out of Parish funds.

APRIL 1967

The plans for alterations to the Presbytery have been passed by the Diocesan Finance Board at a cost of £8,881. This is to include an extension of an extra room at the rear. Central heating by gas throughout, re-wiring, extra bathroom, modernising the scullery, and new wooden framed windows throughout the Presbytery. Mr. E. Kennedy, Failsworth, Contractor, has been entrusted with carrying out the work. Mr. Desmond Williams, 144 Oxford Road, Manchester is the Architect. The work will begin approximately 25th April. The work did not ultimately begin until 22nd May 1967. Completed in October 1967.

JANUARY 26th 1968

The Church is being redecorated by Frank Allen & Sons Limited of Oldham at a cost of £746.

A Unity Service was held in our Church Hall on the 25th January 1968. The following Churches took part - St. Chad's Parish Church, St. Mary's Parish Church, New Moston, The Emmanuel Church and St. George's and Chain Bar Methodist. Over 450 people attended the service and the address was given by Dr. Ramsey, Anglican Bishop of Hulme. The Bishop and Ministers were entertained in the Presbytery afterwards. It was a very interesting and historic occasion for the Parish.

DECEMBER 22nd 1968

The Bell which has been in the Church Tower since the Church was built has now been properly hung and is rung electrically. The work was carried out by Taylors of Loughborough - Bell experts. This bell originally came from St. Edmunds old Church, Manchester.

JULY 1st 1969

For two years we have been trying to get planning permission to build a new Parish Hall. Plans have been drawn up by Greenhalgh & Williams of Bolton, after the rejection of several plans. Finally permission was granted by the Finance Board for a building to be erected at a cost of £21,000. A London Firm was entrusted with the work, Bath and Company Unit Built Construction. Work is expected to begin in late August.

DECEMBER 14th 1969

His Lordship Bishop Holland administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 163 children. The Bishop said the Mass at 3.00 p.m. Father Ignatius and Father V. Sweeney assisted at the Confirmation Service.

JULY 11th 1970

The New Hall was Blessed and opened by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Burke on Friday 10th July 1970. A grand Carnival Dance followed - 280 people attended. A most enjoyable night was held by all. The furnishings were purchased from Remploy Limited, Oldham. 300 stacking chairs, 30 formica top tables, 20 Hamer Tan Chairs. The beautiful curtains for stage and windows were made by Mrs. Gillespie and two other ladies from the Parish. Norbert Stiles, Manchester United Footballer attended the Dance at the opening.

OCTOBER 15th 1971

Owing to overcrowding in our Junior School, the Diocese and the L.E.A. have been approached to have a further 3 classrooms built on land we have already bought near the Convent. Plans have gone before the Ministry; now awaiting approval.

JANUARY 20th 1972

Final approval from the Ministry has been received. A sum of £39,000 has been allocated. This will allow for the building of 4 extra bases or classrooms. Also in the project will include further modifications to existing cloakrooms and toilets and also a new Secretary's Room in the existing School.

FEBRUARY 4th 1972

His Lordship the Bishop has appointed Father Timothy curate of St. Dunstan's Moston, to set up a new Parish of St. John Vianney's in the near future. The boundaries of the Parish have yet to be determined. It will embrace part of St. Margaret Mary's, St. Dunstan's and St. Mary's Failsworth. Very Rev. Dean Glynn of the Boundaries Board is making full inquiries of the neighbouring Parish Priests' to reach agreement on the determined boundaries.



FEBRUARY 20th 1972

Today 20th February His Lordship Bishop Burke presided at the 11 a.m. Mass and preached, afterwards he visited in the usual way. After lunch the Bishop said Mass at 3 p.m. and Confirmed 170 children. He returned the following Friday 25th to visit both schools and the sick of the Parish. He expressed how well he was pleased with the Spiritual and Temporal progress of the Parish.

NOVEMBER 12th 1972

A Mission was held in the Parish from 5th until 19th November. Conducted by the Catholic Missionary Society Father G. Brydon and Father Peter Moran. They visited all the Parish with morning and evening services on the second week. The first week devoted entirely to visiting.

APRIL 9th 1973

Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. William Green in St. Margaret Mary's Church from the Beda College, Rome. Ex-teacher of St. Margaret Mary's School. Ceremony took place on the 7th April 1973 by Rt. Rev. T. Holland Lord Bishop of Salford. The Mass was sung by the children's choir conducted by Sister Francis, organist Mr. Rook. A most impressive and simple ceremony. Present in the Sanctuary - Canon R. Earley and Canon J. Lakin, Fathers K. Kenny Father James OFM and Father Vincent OFM, Father Richardson, Father Tetlow, Father J. Williams, Father Greenwood, Father Flatley, and Father J. Allen (Sec) and myself. Father W. Green said his first Mass in our Church at 11 a.m. when he preached a great sermon himself and at the end of Mass gave his first blessing with the Kissing of the Hands. After the Ordination Mass on the Saturday 7th a Running Buffet meal was prepared in the Hall for invited guests. A presentation was made by Mr. Ken Collin's to Father W. Green of a cheque for £80.

JUNE 3rd 1973

Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. David Ryder a native of the Parish - Ordained at Belle-Vue Manchester (Kings Hall) on 2nd June by Rt. Rev. Bishop Holland in presence of 5000 people. Four Bishops present - Bishop Gray, Bishop Grasar and Bishop Burke. Father Ryder celebrates his first Mass at St. Margaret Mary's. Father Louise from Boston U.S.A. preached - a friend of the family, a Passionist Father.

OCTOBER 20th 1974

It has been a great surprise and shock to the Parish and myself that Father Greenwood a curate with me for over eight years has suddenly decided for his own private reasons to resign the Parish. He left for good on Sunday 6th October 1974. His successor is Father Michael Watson ordained in 1973. He came here from St. Peter & Pauls Pendleton.

His Lordship Bishop Burke recommends that four Masses on Sundays should be sufficient to meet the needs of the Parish with its present population. Formerly we have had five Masses. Accordingly we have decided to have 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. , and evening Mass at 6.30 p.m. We intend making this change on November 3rd 1974.

Plans are on the way to move the High Altar forward facing the people. Alberti Lupton has submitted an estimate at a cost of £679 with marble Lectern at a cost of f255. This has got to get the approval of the Finance Board.

JANUARY 25th 1976

A joint United Service was held at Chain Bar Methodist Church this evening. St. Chad's and St. Mary's Parish Churches took part. Father Gerard Meath O.P., of the Catholic Radio Centre, Hatch End, preached the sermon.

MARCH 7th 1976

The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered in this Church today. Rt. Rev. T. Holland, Lord Bishop of Salford. Over 200 pupils were Confirmed. The Bishop presided and preached at the 11 a.m. Mass. The P.P. said the Mass afterwards. Visitation took place. The Bishop was pleased with the Spiritualites and Temporalites of the Parish.

APRIL 16th 1976

The Church and Presbytery have been decorated exteriorily by Ernest & Webster and Co. Ltd., Cornbrook, Manchester, at a cost of £677. 16p. The interior of the Church was decorated by the above firm at a cost of £1400.

OCTOBER 3rd 1976

A Mission conducted by two Cross and Passion Missioners - Father Benignus and Father Pius for 2 weeks in the Parish. A great success.

JANUARY 16th 1977

A joint United Service was held at St. Margaret Mary's on Sunday at 7.30 p.m. St. Chad's and St. Mary's Parish Churches attended along with representatives of Chain Bar Methodist Church. The Bishop of Manchester preached - Rt. Rev. Patrick Campbell Rodger. About 300 people attended. The Bishop's sermon was very good. There was to be renewal of Christian life within each denomination before any unity could be achieved.

FEBRUARY 2nd 1977

Father Watson appointed to St. Patrick's - Walton-Le-Dale. He is succeeded by Rev. Father Thomas Keeley of St. Patrick's Rochdale.

MARCH 16th 1977

Lenten Station Mass was held in our Church this year. A large congregation attended between 700 and 800 people. Msgr. Earley and Canon Lakin concelebrated Mass with me and 17 other Priests. Everyone was highly pleased with its success. The children sang the Mass beautifully under Sister Francis. The Nun's were a great help to me in preparing everything in the Church. Father Denis Clinch preached the Sermon.

Father Campbell died JUNE 3rd 1977 at Baguley Hospital. Bishop Burke presided at the Requiem Mass. Monsignor Earley was Chief Concelebrant.

Father G. Fearon appointed as Parish Priest and took up duty on July 19th 1977.

JULY 19th 1977

School Leavers Mass in Church - whole school present. A very happy and significant beginning.

OCTOBER 19th

Induction of Father Fearon as Parish Priest. Monsignor Earley presided. Concelebrated Mass, followed by a Social in the Parish Hall.

CRUSADE OF MARY IMACULATE:

Meetings on 3rd Monday of each month - Rosary, Spiritual Readings, Prayers for various intentions, visits to the sick.

S.V.P. meeting each Tuesday. Twelve active members. They visit homes in the Parish, and the hospitals.

Rosary in the Church each evening of October. A different family lead the Rosary each evening. Good attendances.

NOVEMBER

Saturday morning Mass at 11.30 a.m. introduced. Very good attendance.

DECEMBER

Nativity Play presented by the Junior School which was a great success.

Ecumenical Carol Service of the Moston Churches in St. Mary's C of E, Church, Moston.

Christmas Party for the elderly in the Parish Hall. A good number turned up and a good time was had by all. Great credit for this to the S.V.P. and ladies of the Parish.

JANUARY 1978

Before the children made their First Holy Communion - meetings were held when the parents were given instruction as to how they too can help in the training and preparation of their children for the receiving of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. This was much appreciated and a great success and we therefore intend to continue with this practice.

Junior school choir sings at a Special Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Choir takes part in the performance of the Manchester Mass in the Holy Name.

MARCH 1978

March 12 - 14th Quarant Ore. Gratifying to see so many of our people showing their love for the Blessed Sacrament.

Film show on the life of Maximillian Kolbe organised by the Crusade of Mary Immaculate. Very good attendance.

April - Sixty five children receive First Holy Communion.

MAY 15th - 20th

Christian Aid Week, where we received generous support for this worthy cause.

MAY 28th

Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham. To pay homage to Our Lady at this lovely shrine.

MAY 31st

Commencement of Life in the Spirit Seminar. This was conducted by Father Gerard McCann. The meeting was well attended, and great interest was shown by all present.

Blessed Sacrament Procession in Manchester June 18th, with very good attendance from St. Margaret Mary's.

JUNE

School Choir filmed in Leeds Studio by Yorkshire T.V. for appearance in "Stars on Sunday", where they appeared 4 times in October.

RENEWAL MASSES IN THE PARISH

- (1) For married couples and the families - 5th June.
- (2) For the old, sick and infirm - volunteers from the Parish transported many of the old people to the Church - 12th June.
- (3) For the Youth of the Parish - 19th June.

All of the above Masses were followed by a most enjoyable social evening in the Hall. One felt that much was achieved - both spiritually and socially on such occasions. I feel that this will be a good innovation.

Special Mass in the school for the parents of the school leavers this year. Most of the parents came, and during the Mass made a renewal of their Baptismal vows.

JULY 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th

Performance in the Hall of the Russian Opera - The Fire Maid, by the Junior children.

On the Sunday before the 15th August the Rosary was recited in the Church from noon to 4 p.m. in preparation for the feast of The Assumption.

SEPTEMBER 1978

Inauguration of Family Offertory Processions at all Masses on Sundays and Holydays. This active involvement in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will bring many blessings on us all.

SEPTEMBER 16th

Donkey Derby. Excellent team spirit displayed by all Parish groups. £1600 was made.

Harvest Festival Mass. Gifts distributed to the sick and poor in the Parish.

OCTOBER

Rosary each evening in the Church.

U.C.M. & WOMEN'S CONFRATERNITY

Hold their monthly meetings in the Hall. Their monthly Mass is held on Saturday at 11.30 a.m. - the second Saturday of the month. In addition to a high spiritual example, they are always willing and cheerful to help in any claims made on them.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP

Members of our Parish give considerable help to this deserving cause; we have also volunteers who help at the Brothers' Nursing Home, and with the Catholic Needlework Guild.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Four of the Sisters from the Presentation Convent here have been commissioned as Extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion - Mother Aloysius, Sister Francis, Sister Alphonsus, and Sister John.  
OCTOBER 20th and 21st

Annual Concert of Brass and Voices. Owing to the popularity of the Concert, two nights are now devoted to it.

JUMBULANCE

Donation of £200 from children's effort to this Charity.

DECEMBER

At last we can report the final clearance of the debt by payment of £4561 to the Diocese.

DECEMBER 19th

We were pleased to welcome our non Catholic brothers and sisters to the Ecumenical Carol Service in our Church.

MARCH 14th 1979

Station Mass at St. Margaret Mary's. Exceptionally big congregation. Father Alfred Hughes was the preacher.

MARCH 30th - APRIL 1st

Quarant Ore. It is pleasing to see so many homes represented.

A class of our children from the Junior School attend Granada T.V. Studio's to be filmed for a part in a T.V. Play.

MAY 2nd

School choir visits Fountains Abbey to be televised for appearance on the programme "Your 100 Best Hymns".

MAY 6th

62 children make their First Holy Communion (Children from St. Margaret Mary's and St. John Vianney's parishes).

MAY 14th - 19th

Christian Aid Week, was once again well supported.

MAY 18th - 25th

Sponsored walk to Walsingham. Two men from our Parish made the long journey on foot - Joseph Gribbin and Paschal Biagioni. God bless and reward them.

JUNE

Fourth Year children make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Edmund Arrowsmith.

RENEWAL MASSES

During the month of June our Renewal Masses took place in the Parish and it was gratifying to see the good numbers attending.

JUNE 17th

Blessed Sacrament Procession in Manchester.

JULY 1st

Blessed Sacrament Procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

OCTOBER 26th and 27th

Annual Brass Band Concert, which was most enjoyable.

OCTOBER 31st

The School Choir recorded by B.B.C. for a "Grand Sing".

Rosary in the Church each evening in October led by different families.

DECEMBER 16th

Junior School Nativity Play in Church which was up to its usual high standard. We attended an Ecumenical Carol Service in Chain Bar Methodist Church.

DECEMBER 17th

School Choir sings at St. Mary's Mulberry Street.

MARCH 3rd 1980

Spring Festival in School, officially opened by Mr. Hainsworth, Deputy Education Officer, in the presence of Clergy, Inspectors, Local Headteachers and Staff.

MARCH 10th

Rosary Crusade - commences - each morning before the 9 a.m. Mass, when the Rosary will be recited.

MARCH 21st - 23rd

Quarant Ore.

MARCH

The School Choir give a Concert at the invitation of the Vicar of St. Mary's C.E. Church.

MARCH 18th

Sister Alphonsus appointed Headteacher.

APRIL 27th

First Communion Day. 53 of our children made their First Holy Communion.

MAY 16th - 24th

Sponsored walk to Walsingham.

MAY 25th

Diocesan Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

JUNE 8th

Annual Blessed Sacrament Procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi. It was pleasing to see so many people showing their love for Our Blessed Lord in this way.

JUNE 11th

Renewal Mass for the Youth of the Parish followed by a social and presentation to Sister Francis on her retirement. These young people owe much to Sister Francis and were proud to say so.

JUNE 15th

Parish participation in the Manchester Blessed Sacrament Procession.

Renewal Masses for the family and the sick and elderly were offered and again 'thank God' were very well supported.



JUNE 25th

Mass, Reception and Presentation to Sister Francis - attended by Clergy, Inspectors, Headteachers, Officials of the Education Authority, Staff - past and present. Glowing tributes were paid to Sister Francis.

JULY 6th

Donkey Derby. Again this splendid effort made £3000 for our Parish Funds.

JULY 9th

Mass followed by Social and presentation to Sister Francis by parishioners. Among other gifts she was presented with a cheque to send her to the Holy Land on pilgrimage.

AUGUST 10th

Rosary recited in the Church - noon until 4 p.m., in preparation for the Feast of the Assumption.

With a view to increasing our love for the Blessed Sacrament we have started Exposition on Saturday evenings from 6 - 7.30 p.m. Rosary is recited at 6.30 p.m.

S.P.U.C.

In the Parish we have an active branch of S.P.U.C. They hold meetings and spread information through film shows and distribution of literature.

ST. JOSEPH'S WELFARE CENTRE.

Four members of the Parish work regularly as volunteers at St. Joseph's Welfare Centre, Blackley, assisting in social work with the elderly, handicapped, mother's groups, and the deaf.

A notable achievement at the end of the year was the presentation of a Nativity Play by our Junior School children on Granada T.V. on December 18th. This has been widely acclaimed - many tributes have been paid to the high standard of the production.

SISTER FRANCIS - 1980

As this school year draws to a close, it brings to an end an era in the life of our parish. Sister Francis who has taught here for 27 years is to retire. She has been Headteacher since 1959. Her name and fame have travelled far. She has been a devoted, dedicated teacher - one whom the children, parents and

teachers respected and greatly admired. At her farewell presentation the Education Authorities were lavish in their appreciation of the work she has done. It is difficult to visualize Sister in retirement. As long as she is able she will find ways and means of serving God and St. Margaret Mary's. God bless her.

JANUARY 16th 1981

We were pleased to welcome Bishop Burke to our Parish on January 16th and 18th for Visitation and Confirmation. This was a very happy occasion for all of us. 184 Confirmed.

I am happy to report that our Church was overcrowded when the Station Mass was offered at St. Margaret Mary's. This was followed by a social gathering in the hall.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi 1981 4 of our parishioners, showing their great love for Our Lady, started a walk from Walsingham to Lourdes, arriving there on July 20th in time to join the Eucharistic Congress. They were Joe Cribbin, Paschal Biagioni, Martin Cribbin and Anthony Sweeney. These gallant men are an inspiration to all of us - and will bring many graces to our Parish.

Our School Children have made a number of visits to T.V. Studio's for recordings.

MAY 27th

Mr. Michael Flatley appointed Deputy Head of the Junior School.

MAY 31st

Parish Mission. Two weeks. Two Redemptorist Priests from Belfast. Mission was well attended. The Priests worked hard - especially in their visiting the homes of the people.

Special Masses were held for the sick, and for the Youth of the Parish.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

Functioning in the Parish for many years is a dramatic troupe. The members are most enthusiastic, and seem to go from strength to strength. At least two major productions are put on each year. It is refreshing to see such involvement, and such interest.

PARISH MAGAZINE:

A Parish magazine has been introduced in our Parish. Mr. Brian Poulton is the Editor - we wish him every success.

There are many other activities in the Parish - Bingo, Youth Groups, Sequence Dancing. All these contribute to the Social life of the Parish.

Thank God for all His graces and blessings. We could never be worthy of His love; but let us keep on trying to serve Him.