

St Gerard's Church, Bellshill 1971-2024

Final Mass of Thanksgiving

24 November 2024





Silver Jubilee of St Gerard's Church, 1996

L-R. Mary Briody, Theresa McDonald, Evelyn Duffy, Father Timothy Brosnan, Jim Kenny and pupils of St Gerard's Primary



Golden Jubilee of St Gerard's Church, 2021

Bishop Joseph Toal, Father Stuart Parkes and a limited number of parishioners due to covid restrictions

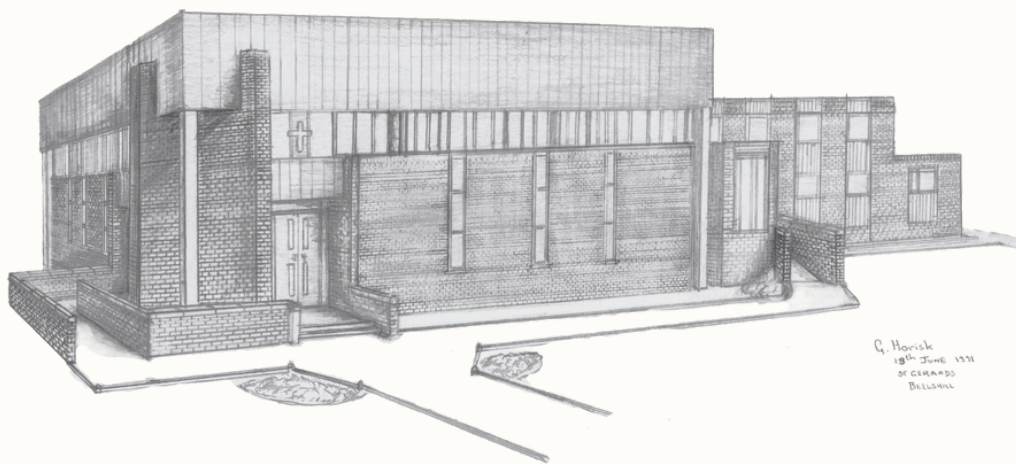
St Gerard's, Bellshill



Final Mass of Thanksgiving

Sunday 24th November 2024
Solemnity of Christ the King

Principal Celebrant:
Right Reverend Joseph A. Toal
Bishop of Motherwell



History of St Gerard's Church

St Gerard's Roman Catholic Church was opened on Fleming Road on Sunday 13th June 1971 by Bishop Francis Thomson, the third Bishop of Motherwell. The new church replaced the original church in the old Noble School where the parish had been based since its founding in 1967.

The parish was established on the 1st September 1967, as a daughter parish of Sacred Heart Parish which had been founded in 1949, to serve the growing population of the North Road and Hattonrigg area. Being close, at that time, to one of the finest maternity hospitals in the country, the new parish was dedicated to St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers.



Bishop Thomson and Father Moss after the opening Mass in St Gerard's

While awaiting construction of the Church, the parish was given the use of the former Noble School, situated then to the right of the west end of Lynnburn Avenue, in the North Road, Bellshill where three classrooms were converted into a temporary Church with the remaining premises serving the usual parish activities.

Construction of the new Church building began in December 1969 on the present site in the heart of the Shirrel housing estate and was completed in May 1971. Father Patrick Moss, the founding parish priest of St. Gerard's, initially lived in a council house in Mavisbank Gardens until the Presbytery was completed. One of his first functions was to form a Parish Council whose primary aim was to help raise funds to clear the cost of the new Church and Presbytery, costing at that time in the region of £ 100,000.

Two years after the opening of the Church, St Gerard's Primary School was opened next door, on the ground to the north of the Church in August 1973.



First Communicants process from the school to the church in the 1970's

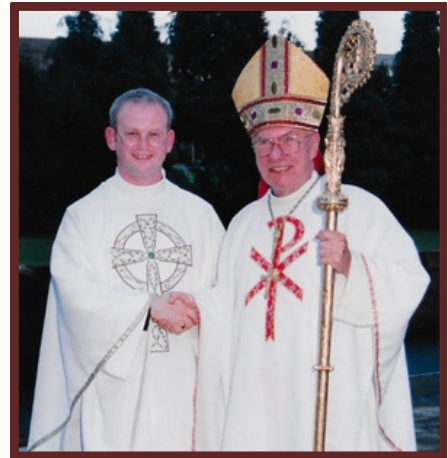
During Father Patrick O'Hare's time in St. Gerard's the Parish Hall was built and opened for use. It was also during Father O'Hare's time that the first Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist were commissioned and lay readers introduced.

Father Timothy Brosnan arrived in St. Gerard's on 21st October 1984, remaining for 27 years until 2011 making him the longest serving parish priest of the parish.

Just two years after his arrival, the year 1986 saw extensive damage done to the Church when, on the 16th May, the Sanctuary was completely destroyed by fire. The Church was closed for repair for several months with Mass being said for parishioners in St. Gerard's Primary School on Sundays and in the parish hall on weekdays. The Church was reopened in time for Christmas 1986.

On 26th June 1998, the first, and only, priestly ordination took place in St Gerard's Church when son of the parish, Father Stephen Rooney, was ordained by Bishop Joseph Devine.

It was announced in September 2013 that with Father Kevin McGoldrick to succeed Father Michael Brown as parish priest of St Gerard's, the parish was to share a parish priest with Sacred Heart Parish and the two parishes would be linked. In 2018 the two parishes were formally amalgamated to create the new parish of Sacred Heart and St Gerard.



Father Rooney with Bishop Devine after his Ordination

Following his Installation as the fifth Bishop of Motherwell on 23rd June 2014, Bishop Joseph Toal took up residence in St Gerard's Presbytery. He remained in the parish for ten years, the second longest member of clergy to live at St Gerard's after Canon Brosnan. In January 2024, Bishop Toal took up residence in the Cathedral House, Motherwell.



Final Vows of Sister Stacey Cameron

On 25th March 2017, Sister Stacey Cameron made her final profession of vows as a Religious Sister of St Peter Claver in St Gerard's Church. Sister Stacey made her solemn profession as a member of the Redemptoristine Nuns in Dublin on 11th November 2023 taking the name Sister Angela.

On Sunday 13th June 2021, Bishop Toal and Father Stuart Parkes celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the Golden Jubilee of the opening of St Gerard's Church. Due to covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, the celebrations were much simpler and only a small number of parishioners were able to be present at the Mass.

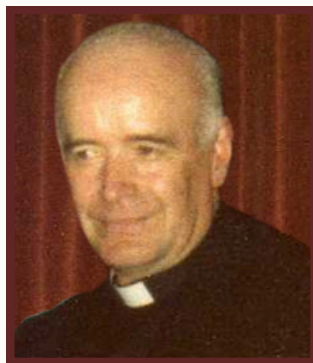
As we gather for the Final Mass of Thanksgiving ahead of the closure of St Gerard's Church, we give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed on our parish during the 53 years of St Gerard's Church, for the priests and people who have faithfully served this Church and for all that has taken place here, and ask for His continual protection on the members of this community as we look to the future and a new chapter in the life of our parish.

Clergy who have served St Gerard's

Parish Priests



Very Rev. Patrick Canon Moss
1967-1977



Very Rev. Patrick Canon O'Hare
1977-1984



Very Rev. Timothy Canon Brosnan
1984-2011



Rev. Michael Brown
2011-2013



Rev. Kevin McGoldrick
2013-2020



Rev. Stuart Parkes
2020-2024

Permanent Deacons

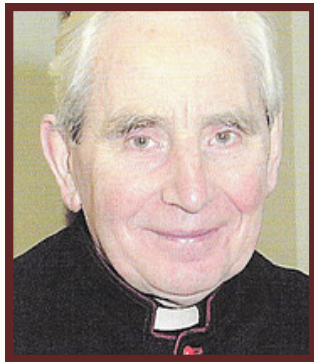


Rev. Thomas Gorman
2017-2020



Rev. James Aitken
2020-2024

Resident Clergy



Very Rev. Andrew Canon Reen
2011-2013



Bishop Joseph Toal
2014-2024

Pastoral Assistants

- Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy



Sister Patrick Joseph SSJA
1986-1995



Sister Brigid SSJA
1999-2007



Exterior of St Gerard's Church, 1971



Exterior of St Gerard's Church, 2018



Original Interior of St Gerard's Church, June 1971



Interior of St Gerard's Church, Easter 2024

Order of Mass

Processional Hymn

***Sing it in the valleys,
Shout it from the mountain tops;
Jesus came to save us,
And his saving never stops.
He is King of Kings,
And new life he brings,
Sing it in the valleys,
Shout it from the mountain tops, (Oh!)
Shout it from the mountain tops.***

Jesus, you are by my side,
you take all my fears.
If I only come to you,
you will heal the pain of years.

You have not deserted me,
though I go astray.
Jesus take me in your arms,
help me walk with you today.

Jesus, you are living now,
Jesus I believe.
Jesus, take me, heart and soul,
yours alone I want to be.

Sprinkling Rite

***We shall draw water joyfully,
singing joyfully, singing joyfully;
We shall draw water joyfully
from the well springs of salvation.***

Truly God is our salvation,
We trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song;
He became our Saviour.

Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;
Give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all the nations;
Proclaim his greatness.

Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord
For he has done glorious deeds.
Make known his works to all the earth;
People of Zion, sing for joy; for great in your midst,
Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gloria

Mass of Christ the Saviour, Dan Schutte

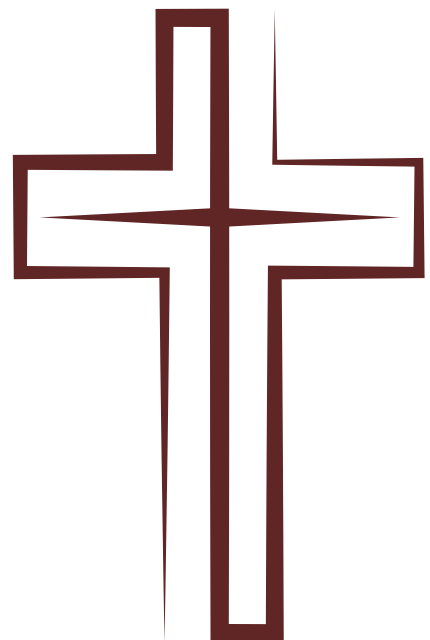
**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace on earth, peace to people of good will.**

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heav'nly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand,
the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Daniel 7:13-14

I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man

Responsorial Psalm

**The Lord is king, the Lord is King, the Lord is King with majesty enrobed.
The Lord is king, the Lord is King, the Lord is King with majesty enrobed.**

Second Reading

Apocalypse 1:5-8

Jesus Christ has made us a line of kings and priests

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Word of God, Jesus Christ, live within our hearts:
Open our eyes, open our minds to you today.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading

John 18:33-37

Yes, I am a king

Homily

Universal Prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Procession of the Gifts

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear
in him no sin is found
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight
our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Holy, Holy

Mass of Christ the Saviour, Dan Schutte

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Mass of Christ the Saviour, Dan Schutte

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

The Communion Rite

Lamb of God

Mass of Christ the Saviour, Dan Schutte

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us,
his love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.

***Come, then, all you nations,
sing of the Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.***

Power he has wielded,
honour is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken,
one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness,
comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary,
pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God.

Praise him with your singing,
praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp;
praise him with the cymbals,
praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.

Thanksgiving Hymns

Hymn to St Gerard

Strong lover of the lance torn heart
of Jesus crucified,
And lover, too, of all poor souls
for whom our saviour died.

**Saint of pity, saint of power,
Hear, oh hear me in this hour,
Saint Gerard, pray for me.
Saint Gerard, pray for me.**

In all my sorrow, all my pain
O lend swift aid and sure;
Great wonder-working saint of God,
Kind brother of the poor.

Dear patron of the prodigal
Who would forgiveness win.
Lead, lead me to my Father's knee
And help me weep my sin.

Saint Gerard true to Mary pure,
And true to Mary's child.
Pray that my soul by sin's dark stain
Be never more defiled.

Angel of God

(1st verse: school children only)
Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side
To light, to guard, to rule, to guide.

Angel of God, my comfort close,
Who steals my fear and gives me hope,
Keep me within your arms of peace,
In light, in dark, awake, in sleep.

Angel of God, protector friend,
Your grace abides, your love defends.
Lead me each day, for all my life,
With love, with faith, with hope in Christ.

The Concluding Rite

Recessional Hymn

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me





St Gerard Majella, pray for us

**Please join us for the
Mass of Blessing of the refurbished Sacred Heart Church
on Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 7.00pm.**



The first Wedding in St Gerard's Church, James McKay and Jean McVie.



Pupils lead the prayers of the faithful during a Confirmation Mass with Father O'Hare.



Bishop Thomson confirms Stephen Healy



Bishop Devine confirms Sandra McLintock



Bishop Toal confirms Alistair McGregor



The last First Communions in St Gerard's Church, 11 May 2024



The last Confirmations in St Gerard's Church, 7 November 2024



Golden Jubilee of St Gerard's Parish, 1 September 2017

L-R. Marion Desmond, Joe Hughes, Bishop Joseph Toal, James and Margaret McIntyre



Golden Jubilee of St Gerard's Primary School, October 2023

Pupils and Father Stuart Parkes with the Icon of St Gerard Majella, written by Sister Stacey, after the Mass of Thanksgiving in St Gerard's Church.



SACRED HEART & ST GERARD'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH