

St. Gerard's,
Bellshill

Silver Jubilee

1971 - 1996



His Holiness
John Paul II

lovingly imparts his
Apostolic Blessing

on the Community of St. Gerard

on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee
of St. Gerard's Church, Bellshill,
16th October, 1996

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis die 12.10.1996

+ Oscar Ruzante
Archiepiscopus
Elemosynarius Apostolicus



24th September, 1996.

Dear Parishioners of St. Gerard's,

It gives me great pleasure, both personally and on behalf of the Diocese, to congratulate all of you on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of your parish church. Yours is one of the youngest of parishes in the Diocese, but far from the least in the quality of your faith and devotion to the Lord. The reverse is the case as has been evident to me since arriving in the Diocese 13 years ago.

For the great majority of that time, Fr. Brosnan has been your parish priest, one of the finest parish priests that any parish could ever have. His selfless devotion to your spiritual welfare and his great affection for your parish community is a joy to behold. With you, I wish to thank him for all of that, as well as all the work he has undertaken with you to prepare for this day of importance in the history of your parish, the first big marker since the silver jubilee of your parish a few years ago, namely the Silver Jubilee of your church.

The church building is so very central to the life of our community, as it is the centre of both the liturgical and sacramental life of every parish. In addition, it holds so many memories of great happiness for people, in baptisms, first communion days, confirmation and wedding celebrations, as well as the sad recollections of the funerals of relatives and friends. It is like a mirror reflecting the big moments in our journey of faith and life. That is why the building is prized by its congregation.

But the church is more than a building. More important is the community within the church building, for that is the church in a deeper meaning. Each of you, each of us is much more consecrated to the Lord than bricks and mortar ever could be. That is why my real thoughts on this occasion are directed to you, in the Lord's invitation to you to build up in each and all the stature of Christ, so that the Father might see in you what he first saw and loved in Christ.

I pray that the coming 25 years will be a golden preparation for your Golden Jubilee, as all of you, as individuals and families, continue to seek to serve the Lord and each other in the faith into which you were baptised. When we live our faith we witness to our faith. That is the great need for practicing Catholics today, to combat the gap between faith and life so evident in the lives of many today. Perhaps we are less devout than our parents and grandparents. If that is true, it is clear to me that is much less true of the people of St. Gerard's, Bellshill. I salute you for the quality of your parish life and the ways in which you seek to sustain it. May the Lord continue to bless all of you in reward for all that you are and seek yet to be.

With every blessing,
Yours devotedly

+ Joseph D Stewart .

Bishop of Motherwell.



My dear Parishioners,

A Jubilee is a time for celebration and a time for saying thanks to God and to each other. We are grateful to God for the countless blessings He has bestowed upon our parish.

We have an awful lot going for us in St. Gerard's. We have a great number of people doing great things. I have particularly in mind all those who day after day are looking after the sick, the lonely and the house-bound; all those who are committed to handing on the Christian faith; all those who are actively involved in the renewal and updating of their faith; so many who daily give of their time to prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I take this opportunity to thank all who are actively involved in the work and mission of the Church in our parish.

We must never forget that we are the people of God, the Body of Christ. Spreading the Good News is a considerable challenge to all of us. A body functions through all its parts unless the head, hands, feet, eyes and ears are all in good working order the body will not work to its full capacity. My hope is that all of us together - laity and clergy will intensify our efforts and find new, improved and creative ways of working together for Christ and His Church.

There is no need to spell out all the serious problems and difficulties facing us in our community. In the face of such problems and difficulties it is understandable that many feel powerless and down-hearted. Naturally people look to the Church for leadership and guidance.

Time and time again it has been brought home to us that we are the Church by which we mean laity and clergy. We must never allow ourselves to forget that through Baptism every Christian has the right and duty to participate in the life and mission of the Church.

It is very clear that the Church can only fulfil its mission to-day and respond to the present difficulties and challenges if there is full, wholehearted co-operation between laity and clergy

As followers of Christ, we know that Jesus Christ is the best news. As we face into the third millennium, we need Jesus Christ's vision, His presence, His spirit and His power to enable us to tackle the many problems facing us and to fashion a new future.

I ask you to pray daily so that together we can remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Brosnan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Timothy Brosnan, Parish Priest

ST GERARD'S, BELLSHILL

1971 - 1996

The parish was established on the 1st. September 1967 and being close, at that time, to one of the finest maternity hospitals in the country was dedicated to St. Gerard Majella. While awaiting construction of the present 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 with the official opening ceremony by Bishop Francis Thomson taking place on **Sunday, 13th June 1971**. To-day, twenty five years later, there has been added to the Church and Presbytery the parish hall, a large car park and, since 1973, on the ground to the north of the Church, St. Gerard's Primary School. The parish has also grown as more families moved into the Clay Road council estate, the Scottish Special housing estate, Westgate and most recently the new Rosehall estate adjacent to the "old" maternity hospital.

Since its establishment in 1967, the parish has been served by three priests: Rev. Patrick J. Moss (1967-1977), Rev. Patrick O'Hare (1977-1984) and the present parish priest Rev. Timothy Brosnan, who arrived in St. Gerard's on the 21st October 1984. For nine years, September 1986 till September 1995, Father Brosnan was assisted by Sister Patrick Joseph from the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy.

Rev. Patrick J. Moss, the first parish priest of St. Gerard's, initially lived in a council house in Mavisbank Gardens until the present 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. The St. Vincent de Paul Society was inaugurated to serve the new parish, a Church choir was established to lead the congregation in liturgical celebrations, a Women's Guild was formed and also a youth club. Many of the original groups are still active within the parish today.

The Rev. Patrick O'Hare was to follow Father Moss as parish priest of St. Gerard's. He was instrumental in introducing Special Ministers of the Eucharist, at that time four in number, and also Lay readers. He also introduced into the parish a Novena to St. Gerard which was celebrated every Thursday evening and in its initial period drew huge crowds not only from the parish but from many surrounding parishes as well. During Father O'Hare's time in St. Gerard's the parish hall was built and opened for use.

The Rev Timothy Brosnan arrived in St. Gerard's in 1984. 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. In reparation for the wanton destruction and profanation it was decided to expose the Blessed Sacrament for short periods during the week and this has grown into daily exposition from 10.00am. till 7.30pm. in the Marian Chapel of St. Gerard's Church with parishioners praying continually before the Blessed Sacrament. This devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament continues to grow and is the focal point of the parish community of St. Gerard.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

ENTRANCE HYMNS:

THE SERVANT KING

1. From heaven you came helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled,
Not to be served but to serve,
And give your life that we might live.

CHORUS

This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King

2. There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load He chose to bear,
His heart with sorrow was torn
"Yet not my will Yours", He said.

3. Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space,
To cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving.

BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

PENITENTIAL RITE (SUNG)

RESPONSE

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA (SUNG)

RESPONSE

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to His people on earth.

OPENING PRAYER

God Our Father, you alone are holy; without you nothing is good. Trusting in the prayers of St. Gerard, we ask you to help us to become the Holy People you call us to be. Let us never be found undeserving of the glory you have prepared for us. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end...AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 6: 6-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (SUNG)

RESPONSE

It is good to give you thanks, O God

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2: 4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 6: 46-49

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

MAGNIFICAT (SUNG)

1. Magnificat, magnificat, sing the glory of our Saviour

Alleluia (3)

Sing my soul to the glory of my Saviour,

Let all within me sing His praises

Alleluia (3)

All creation, gaze in wonder,

See before You God Almighty,

Alleluia (3)

Holy, holy, holy our mighty Saviour

Alleluia (3)

2. Magnificat, magnificat sing the glory of our saviour,

Alleluia (3)

Still, my soul, for He raises up the lowly,

The rich and proud He will not welcome.

Alleluia (3)

He will feast the poor and hungry

At His banquet of salvation

Alleluia (3)

Holy, holy, holy our mighty Saviour

Alleluia (3)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, we bring our gifts to your holy altar on this feast of St. Gerard. In your mercy let this Eucharist give you glory and bring us to the fullness of your love. Grant this through Christ Our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

ALL SING

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.*

Father, you are holy indeed,
and all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
by the working of the Holy Spirit.
From age to age you gather a people to yourself,
so that from east to west
a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name.

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts.
We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit,
that they may become the body and blood
of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist.

On the night He was betrayed,
He took bread and gave you thanks and praise.
He broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it:
This is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, He took the cup.
Again He gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to His disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
**This is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all men
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.**

3. PRAISE GOD IN HIGH HEAVEN
(CHORUS ONLY)

ACCLAMATION (SUNG)

*When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.*

Father, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation,
His glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven,
and ready to greet Him when He comes again,
we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.
Look with favour on your Church's offering,
and see the Victim whose death has reconciled us to yourself.
Grant that we, who are nourished by His body and blood,
may be filled with His Holy Spirit,
and become one body, one Spirit in Christ.
May He make us an everlasting gift to you
and enable us to share in the inheritance of your saints,
with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles and martyrs,
Saint Gerard and all you saints,
on whose constant intercession we rely for help.
Lord, may this sacrifice,
which has made our peace with you,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church on earth,
your servant John Paul, our Pope, Joseph our Bishop, and all the Bishops,
with the clergy and the entire people your Son has gained for you.
Father, hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here
before you.
In mercy and love unite all your children wherever they may be.
Welcome into your Kingdom our departed brothers and sisters,
and all who have left this world in your friendship.
We hope to enjoy forever the vision of your glory,
through Christ our Lord from whom all good things come.

THROUGH HIM,

WITH HIM,

IN HIM, IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,

ALL GLORY AND HONOUR IS YOURS,

ALMIGHTY FATHER,

FOR EVER AND EVER.

ALL SING

Amen

COMMUNION RITE

SIGN OF PEACE

BREAKING OF BREAD

ALL SING

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

1. MAJESTY

Majesty, worship His Majesty,
unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise,
MaJesty, kingdom authority
flow from His throne unto His own
His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King,
Majesty, worship His Majesty
Jesus who died, now glorified King of all Kings

2. MALLAIG SONG

1. Spirit of God, come dwell with me,
Open my heart, O come set me free,
Fill me with love for Jesus my Lord,
O fill me with living water.

CHORUS

Jesus is living, Jesus is here,
Jesus, my Lord, come closer to me,
Jesus our Saviour dying for me,
And rising to save his people.

2. Lord how I thirst, O Lord I am weak,
Lord come to me, you alone I do seek,
Lord you are life and love and hope,
O fill me with living water.

3. Lord I am blind, O Lord I can't see,
Stretch out your hand, O Lord comfort me,
Lead me your way in light and in truth,
O fill me with living water.

3. PRAISE GOD IN HIGH HEAVEN (CHOIR ONLY)

CONCLUDING RITE

CLOSING PRAYER

All powerful God, may we who are strengthened by the power of this Sacrament learn from the example of St. Gerard to seek you above all things and to live in this world as your new creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord...AMEN

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMNS

1. CITY OF GOD

*1. Awake from your slumbers!
Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.*

CHORUS

**Let us build the city of God,
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord our light and our love
Has turned the night into day.**

*2. We are sons of the morning,
We are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for His people to set their hearts free.*

*3. God is light
In Him there is no darkness.
Let us walk in His light, His children one and all.
O comfort my people, make gentle their words,
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.*

*4. O city of gladness now lift up your voice,
Proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice.*

2. HYMN TO ST. GERARD

*1. Strong lover of the lance torn heart
of Jesus crucified,
And lover, too, of all poor souls
For whom our Saviour died.*

CHORUS

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

*2. In all my sorrow, all my pain,
Oh lend swift aid and sure,
Greater wonder-working saint of God,
Kind brother of the poor.*

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

*4. 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.*

