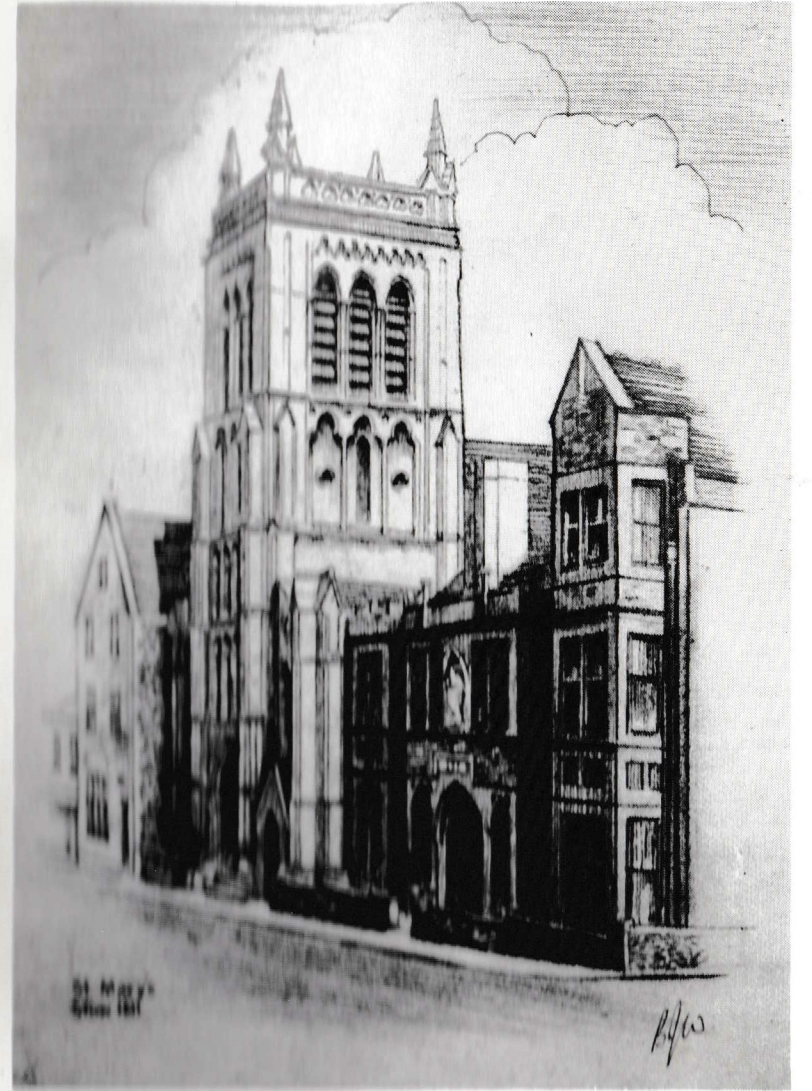


ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWPORT



Price: £2.00

1840 - 1990

St. Mary's Church

1840 - 1990

DEDICATION OF ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEWPORT,
MONMOUTHSHIRE.

St. Mary's Church

1840 - 1990

" On Wednesday, 11th and Thursday, 12th November, 1840. Principal Vocal Performers : Mrs. T. Millar (Bath), Mrs. Searle (formerly Miss Novello), Miss Whitnall (of Liverpool), Miss Dolby, Messrs. Thomas Millar (Bath), J. A. Novello, and W. C. Manners. Assisted by an efficient chorus. Mr. Vincent Novello will preside at the new organ which will be opened on this occasion. The whole of the musical arrangements will be under the direction of Mr. J. A. Novello. *November 11th.* The morning service will begin at 11 a.m. 'Come let us adore.' Pontifical High Mass sung by the Right Rev. Dr. Collier, Vicar Apostolic of Mauritius.

Kyrie Mozart No. 13.
Gloria Haydn No. 3.
Sermon by Right Rev. Dr. Brown, Vicar Apostolic of Wales.
Credo Mozart 12.
Offertory (Mrs. Searle) ... *Veritas mea* ... Gulielmi.
Sanctus and Benedictus Beethoven.
Elevation (Miss Dolby) *O Salutaris Hostia* Cherubini.
Agnus Dei and Dona Mozart No. 1.
Domine Mozart.
Evening Service at 6.0 p.m. Solemn Vespers.
Tones and *Iste Confessor* Gregorian.
Magnificat Danby.
Salve Regina V. Novello.
Sermon by Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman."

A Sacred Concert followed :—

" *Ave Maria* Mrs. Searle ... Cherubini.
Veni Sancte Spiritus ... Miss Dolby ... Newkomm.
Laudate ... Mrs. Millar and Chorus ... Zingarelli.
Alma Virgo Mrs. Millar ... Himmel.
Te Deum Mrs. Searle ... Romberg."

On the following day :—

" November 12th. 'Come let us adore.'
Kyrie Miss Whitnall ... Haydn No. 3.
Gloria Mrs. Millar ... Haydn No. 4.
Sermon by Right Rev. Dr. Briggs, Yorkshire.
Credo Miss Whitnall and Mrs. Millar Haydn No. 1.
Offertory *Verites mea* ... Mrs. Searle ... Gulielmi.
Sanctus and Benedictus ... Mrs. Searle Mozart's Requiem
Elevation *O Salutaris* ... Mrs. Millar ... Himmel.
Agnus Dei Mr. J. A. Novello Haydn No. 5.
Dona Nobis Miss Whitnall ... Haydn No. 16.
Domine Mrs. Searle ... V. Novello.

Tickets at each service 5/- and 2/6. A few select places 7/-.
Tickets to be had at Messrs. Clapperton, Evans', Oliver's,
Reid's and Loder's, Booksellers, Newport."

Page

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1	PENAL TIMES	1
Chapter 2	THE NEWPORT MISSION	5
Chapter 3	THE ARRIVAL OF THE ROSMINIANS	13
Chapter 4	SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PARISH IN 1875 AND ONWARDS	30
Chapter 5	THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	38
Chapter 6	SECOND PARISH MAGAZINE	56
Chapter 7	CONCLUSION	67

INTRODUCTION

Some years ago, I began to collect historical information about the Catholic community in Newport for St. Mary's Magazine. Father John Daley suggested I make this into a booklet and, as the 150th Anniversary of the opening of St. Mary's occurs in November 1990, this seems an appropriate time to do so.

I begin with an account of Catholic activity, in Gwent and the Border counties, from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

Father Dominic Cavalli consulted the oldest members of the congregation in the 1860's about the early days in the Parish of St. Mary's and I have used the information he provided.

I am also indebted to Mr. Canning for his "History of St. Mary's" 1840-1940, another fruitful source of information.

The pages of the 'Monmouthshire Merlin' - edited in the 1830's by Mr. Dowling, an Irish Catholic, and printed by John O'Dwyer of Llanarth Street, were carefully studied for relevant news items.

My thanks also go to The Very Rev. Augustine Little, Provincial of the Institute of Charity, for making the archives available to me.

Edward Curran

Edward Curran

November 11th 1990

Chapter 1

PENAL TIMES

After the Reformation, Catholicism was far from being crushed, and its adherents were ready to face severe penalties to retain their beliefs. In 1606 there were said to be about 30,000 recusants (Catholics who refused to attend Church of England services) in the Border counties and adjoining parts of Wales.

Between 1539 and 1680 over fifty Welshmen, clergy or lay, whose names are known, were executed or died in prison for their religious beliefs.

The Western District

From 1688 to 1840 Welsh Catholics were under the rule of Vicars Apostolic of the Western District. (A Vicar Apostolic is a Titular Bishop who exercises delegated jurisdiction only; he has no diocese or Cathedral.) The Western District consisted of Wales and the Counties of Somerset, Dorset, Gloucester, Hereford, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.

Bishop Mathew Pritchard, a Monmouthshire man who taught at Douai for many years, was consecrated Bishop of the Western District in 1715 and died in 1751. This eminent Welsh Catholic was buried at Rockfield. Many years later, the Anglican vicar and his flock planned to extend the church and, when they found that the new Communion Table would be sited over the tomb of a Catholic Bishop, they petitioned the Archbishop of Canterbury to remove the remains. His grace, however, ordered that the body be left undisturbed, and so to this day the tombstone can be seen in Rockfield Church.

Bishop Pritchard's grand niece was Mrs. Williams, who lived in Crindau House at the end of the eighteenth century. Her family worshipped at St. Mary's.

Of all the counties of the Western District, Monmouthshire was the most Catholic. In 1662 the Jesuits, helped by Catholic families, opened the College of St. Francis Xavier at Cwm, near Monmouth. The first superior was Fr. Robert Jones of Denbighshire, who converted Lady Frances of Llantarnam, wife of William Morgan and daughter of the Earl of Worcester.

St. David Lewis

Saint David Lewis was arrested after saying Mass at Llantarnam in 1678 and executed the following year.

The Civil War had been disastrous to the Catholic cause, and the rebellion of 1688 a further blow.

After the storming of Raglan Castle, it was reported that one hundred Knights, Lords and gentlemen officers, the majority of whom were Papists, were taken into custody. The Catholic gentry who could maintain the Faith declined in number, some losing their faith gradually, while others lost their lands or their lives in outbursts of anti-Catholic feelings.

Titus Oates Plot

The Titus Oates plot in 1678 caused further attacks on clergy and laity. It was proposed to disperse influential Catholic families to other parts of the country where they would be surrounded by hostile neighbours and strangers.

The list of recusants included the Vaughans of Courtfield, James Morgan of Llantarnam, Sir John Brown of Caerleon, Thomas Gunter senior and junior, Lady Jones of Treowen and William Jones of Llanarth. The proposal was eventually dropped.

Llanarth Court

After the Titus Oates enquiry it was stated that William Jones of Llanarth was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and some Papists were heard to brag that "he dy'd a Papist and that his son is now bred in a College of Jesuits in France".

A chaplain was maintained at Llanarth Court where he used an upper room of the mansion as a Chapel until 1750 when the Church of St. Mary and St. Michael (disguised as a Barn) was built.

Two priests died at Llanarth Court at the age of eighty-four in 1761: Fr. Charles Davies who had lived with the family for fifty-four years, and Fr. John Owen.

Fr. Edward Jones continued to reside in the house, and he served Brecon once in three months and Usk once a month. The Catholics in the area were thoroughly Welsh during the eighteenth century.

John Jones of Llanarth visited Brecon in 1784 and, although the congregation was increasing, he found "a tabernacle that deserves not the name, and an old vestment, two pewter candlesticks and a room about 12 feet square". Four years later Fr. John Williams was sent to the town and soon he informed the Bishop that he had "two boys upon the hills of Brecon who had vocations to the priesthood. Both speak Welsh perfectly and would need a year to learn English". They followed their brother Lewis Havard to Douai and later served the parish of Brecon.

Courtfield

The Vaughans of Courtfield, near Symonds Yat, (a branch of the Herberts) also endured persecution for the Faith.

In 1605 Mrs. William Vaughan was accused of being "at Mass at ye Darren" and fined for recusancy. In 1678 they were indicted for "resorting to Mass on Holy Days and Sundays".

Richard and William Vaughan were outlawed for assisting Prince Charles in 1745 and fled to Spain. They were honoured by being excluded from the general pardon proclaimed by George II. William became a general in the Spanish Army.

The old Catholic Chapel near Courtfield was known as the Welsh Church. Protestantism was obviously associated with the English.

In the nineteenth century Francis Vaughan of Courtfield J.P., D.L., Colonel of the Royal Monmouthshire Militia, Privy Chamberlain to the Pope and Knight Commander of the Order of Pius, was a sixth son who succeeded to the title. His five elder brothers became priests; of these Herbert became Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Roger Archbishop of Sydney, Kenelm a priest in Spain and South America, Joseph O.S.B. founder of St. Benedict's Monastery Fort Augustus, Bernard a well-known Jesuit preacher, and John Bishop of Salford. His five sisters became nuns. Their mother was one of the Rolls family of Monmouth. Her portrait is in the Welsh National Museum in Cardiff.

The survival of the Faith through penal times in this area was almost entirely due to the devotion and steadfastness of the old Catholic families like the Vaughans and the Herberts and the Regular Clergy.

In 1719 Abergavenny had seventy Catholics. Other centres included Raglan, Monmouth, Usk, Llantarnam, Llangibby and Chepstow. At Llanfair Cilgoed in the Parish of Llantilio Crossenny there was scarcely a Protestant, and a pre-Reformation Chapel was in use until 1689.

In 1778 a Bill was presented to the Commons which afforded relief to Catholics. This eventually led to the Gordon Riots, during which the Bishop of the Western District's house in Bath was burned down and the priceless records of the area destroyed.

The Catholic community now began to open Chapels for worship; Hereford in 1790 and in 1794, St. Mary's, Monmouth. Access to the church was up a narrow passage past a couple of shabby houses, because it had been stipulated that the building was not to open on to the public street. Usk Church opened in 1806 and Chepstow in 1812.

THE NEWPORT MISSION

In 1800 the Catholics of the town numbered about twenty and they had to travel to Caerleon to hear Mass which was said once a month by a priest from Llanarth Court.

The Bishop of the Western District, Rt. Rev. Peter Collingridge, sent Fr. William Barnes to Newport in the year 1809. He said Mass in the upper room of a two-storied house on the corner of High Street and Market Street. The first congregation consisted of Mrs. Pye, who owned the house, Dr. James Hawkins, Philip Williams of Crindau and Jerry Driscoll and his wife.

Here were the three national elements who contributed to the restoration of Catholicism in Newport.

Philip Williams, whose grandmother was grand-niece of Bishop Pritchard, Vicar Apostolic of Western District in the eighteenth century. Two of Philip's sons, Monsignori Edward and James, were successively Presidents of Prior Park. His grandson, Alfred Williams, was the first Catholic Vice-Chairman of the Newport School Board. Dr. James Hawkins, an English Catholic, and Jerry Driscoll, an advance guard of the great host of Irish Catholics, settled in Newport, and, poor in everything but faith, did so much to re-establish and consolidate Catholicism in the town.

Fr. Barnes took a house at Caerleon, but left after a year. He was followed by Fr. John Haly who served Newport fortnightly for three years and lived at Usk.

THE FIRST 'ST. MARY'S'

In 1812 a small chapel was built on the site now occupied by St. Mary's. John Jones of Llanarth gave the land and stone with £500 as an endowment. It was opened in November 1812. "There was no High Mass; Fr. Haly gave a good sermon. The chapel was crowded and everyone was much pleased." Fr. Haly was succeeded by Fr. Edward Richards O.S.F., who continued the fortnightly visits.

About 1822, Mr. Jones of Llanarth built a house adjoining the chapel. A further strip of land was necessary for this and Sir Charles Morgan, hearing that the house was for a priest, generously gave the land at a nominal rent for 99 years.

Fr. Richards was succeeded by Fr. David Morton, who was in turn followed by Fr. John Burke.

Fr. Burke became attached to his flock at Newport and offered to give up Usk and move to the new priests' house in the town. This offer was accepted and the actual existence of Newport as an independent mission dates from 29th August 1828.

To the dismay of the parishioners, the Bishop of the Western District signified his intention of moving Fr. Burke from St. Mary's immediately. The result was that the men of the parish signed a petition pleading for him to remain, sadly without success.

The letter is of historical interest, however, listing the Catholic men of the town of over 160 years ago.

Newport August 31st, 1828

To the Right Reverend Bishop Collingridge,

We the undersigned, being part of the Congregation of this place and neighbourhood, learn with great regret and surprise, that our most worthy and zealous Pastor (Fr. Burke) is about to leave us!!

We most sincerely hope and trust that this event may not take place, as we all admire with the greatest satisfaction to ourselves, the amiable zeal with which he fulfils his duty in endeavouring to instil into us, the Principles of our holy Religion.

We all must candidly and generously confess, that we have not had a pastor for some years, with whom we are so well pleased and perfectly satisfied, therefore we sincerely hope and trust that your Lordship will be pleased to take the matter into your most serious consideration and endeavour to continue unto us our present most amiable, faithful and zealous pastor.

James Hawkins	Malachy Crowley	Isaac Moore
Geo Davies	Pat Burk	Anthony Poole
John Hawkins	Mick Hurley	Andrew Cummins
James Hawkins	Patrick Biggin	Thos. Henesy
Philip Williams	Thos. Biggin	John Dwire
Francis Williams	Garrett Sullivan	James Casey
William Williams	Thos. Linch	Jno. Gestra
Richard Burke	Timothy Sullivan	Dominack Skirrier
Callaghan McCarthy	John Higgins	Josephus Donald
Denis McCarthy	John Fitzgerald	Jn. Pedrekin
Thomas Edwards	Maurice Gorman	Laurence Hay
James Loughlin	Thomas O'Brien	Ihon Carrol
Henry Carrol	James Burn	Capt. G. McMorhn
Peter Freeman	John Burn	Capt. Gibbon
Patk. McCarthy	Timothy Cotter	Capt. Andrew Parl

Philip Williams and Dr. James Hawkins, who were present at the first Mass in 1809, were signatories and the list contains an admixture of old Catholic Welsh and English, a predominance of Irish, and two Spanish or Portuguese names.

James Loughlin was one of the first Irish settlers in Cardiff, and to hear Mass he had to travel to the little Catholic Chapel on Stow Hill. He no doubt walked over twenty miles each Sunday to attend St. Mary's.

A Succession of Priests

Fr. Burke left the town for America and was succeeded by Fr. Patrick Portal, whose devoted work in South Wales undoubtedly shortened his life. In 1822 he became the first resident priest for the mission in Dover. In 1827 he arrived in South Wales and simultaneously served Cardiff, Merthyr and Pontypool. He died on the 10th December 1835 at Llanarth Street, Newport, before his fortieth year and was buried in Bristol. Fr. W. Bevan then took charge for a short time.

In 1836 Fr. Edward Metcalfe arrived. He was a Yorkshireman who had been professed as a Benedictine monk at Ampleforth, and ordained in 1816. He assisted Bishop Baines in the foundation of Prior Park College in 1830, and was subsequently released from his religious vows and became a secular priest. In 1831 he became chaplain to Sir Edward Mostyn, Bart., at Talacre in Flintshire and, while there, he translated the devotional book "Garden of the Soul" into Welsh.

Early Newport

If the present day Newportonian could be set down in the streets of his native town in 1840 he would scarcely recognise them. There were thatched houses in High Street. The Cattle Market was held outside the King's Head Hotel, and vehicles and pedestrians had to thread their way through cattle, sheep and pigs. Irate inhabitants complained through the columns of the Monmouthshire Merlin about the filthy state of the thoroughfare.

The East side of the river was almost open country, and there was scarcely a house between Cardiff Road and Pillgwenlly. There was no railway and no dock. The limited coach service was so badly arranged that the up coach to London left before the down coach arrived, so letters could not be answered until the following day.

Irish Immigrants

The population of the town was now about 10,000 and increasing at a phenomenal rate, and the number of Catholics was approaching 2,000. The immigrants were arriving from Ireland. The Port records state that the sloop 'Joseph' from Clonakilty arrived on 18th April 1835 with 36 pigs and 68 passengers. The 'Catherine' arrived from Cork with 98 passengers in excess of her authorised number. She was observed unloading passengers two miles below the Watch Tower. The Master of the 'Mary' from Cork was prosecuted for bringing more than twenty passengers. When the vessel left Cork, forty-six passengers were on board and seventeen were put ashore in a boat at the mouth of the Usk and a number were forced overboard into the mud.

A New Church

The modest chapel was now too small and in March 1837 Father Metcalfe asked Mr. J. J. Scoles of London to prepare plans for a Church and schools. The only school for Catholics at this time was held in the old tithe barn opposite St. Woolos Cathedral, now converted to offices for a civil engineering firm. Mass was said here while the new church was being built.

The Chartists

In March 1839 the old Chapel was demolished and the work commenced on the new church. In November of that year, the Chartists passed down Stow Hill and ordered the workmen to join them, but they took no part in the attack on the Westgate Hotel.

The 'Merlin' notes that the considerable number of Irish people living in the area were not involved in the riots of 1839 in any way.

This Impressive Gothic Church

There must have been great excitement and pride among the Catholic population of Newport as this impressive Gothic Church was completed. The original design contained a spire, but this was never added. A stained glass window in memory of Fr. Metcalfe on the right side of the altar depicts the priest kneeling at the feet of St. Edward (his patron) offering a model of St. Mary's to God, complete with spire as originally designed. The builder was Mr. Lawrence of Monmouth. The height and width of the building was reduced to keep the cost within £2,500. The church was dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption, and Father Metcalfe made every effort to make the consecration and opening on November 11th and 12th memorable occasions by securing the attendance of several prelates and the services of some of the finest musicians and vocalists in the country.

11th November 1840

On 11th November, Bishop Collier sang Pontifical High Mass in the presence of Bishop Griffiths of the London district and Bishop Brown O.S.B., Vicar Apostolic of Wales, with twenty-eight priests in the sanctuary and a congregation of eight hundred, including "very many leading individuals in the Protestant religion and respectable dissenters".

The Monmouthshire Merlin carried an extensive report of the proceedings. A well-merited tribute was paid to Father Metcalfe in which it was stated that "the church had been built with money raised by public subscription by the indefatigable exertions and untiring zeal of a pious and amiable missionary, the Rev. Edward Metcalfe of whom, in the character of pastor and neighbour, the public of Newport, of all denominations, speak in terms of either attachment or respect".

Among the most generous contributors to the fund were the Herbert and Jones families of Llanarth Court and Clytha Park, while a number of Protestants had given monetary assistance. Last but not least a special tribute was paid to "those who are poor in purse but rich in faith - the Irish working classes whose pence given with warm hearts were weekly added to the subscription list during the progress of the goodly work".

Buried in St. Mary's

Another generous contributor to the building of St. Mary's was Mr. Joseph Beaumont, Agent to the Llanarth Estate. He died, after much suffering, at Clifton a few years after the completion of the building. His body was brought from Bristol by packet boat and is buried in the Lady Chapel, the spot marked with a brass plate.

The "Merlin" was full of praise of the musical programme at the opening. It refers to the organist Vincent Novello of the Portuguese Embassy Chapel with his son Albert Novello and his daughter, Mrs. Searle.

The sermon at the High Mass was preached by Bishop Brown, who reminded the congregation that "scarcely a few years since and our rites were proscribed, they were driven into retired houses and obscure chambers - every approaching step was hearkened to with suspicion, lest it might be the footfall of a pursuivant or a spy. Our enemies mocked us as a race soon to become extinct. Where was the obscure chamber is now the splendid church, emulating the architectural glories of former days and erected by the spirit of Catholic zeal such as raised in the ages of faith. Where our sacrifices were celebrated with terror, stripped of all their solemnity, we now have all the impressive ceremonies of our ritual - zealous worshippers crowd around the altar - a concourse of priests clad in their symbolic vestments gather around the sanctuary. Surely there must be an enduring vitality in Catholicity which alone would be satisfactory evidence of its divine origin".

Typhus Fever

Father Metcalfe, in addition to his pastoral duties, took a prominent part in local affairs. He was very active in securing relief for the unemployed and was a member of the committee which drew up the rules for the Newport Dispensary which has grown into the Royal Gwent Hospital.

He remained at Newport until 1843, when he was removed to the less arduous Trenchard Street Mission in Bristol. Later he was transferred to Leeds where he died of typhus fever in May 1847 at the age of fifty-six. This most infectious and deadly disease, now almost unheard of, then raged in the crowded and insanitary dwellings of our industrial towns. Towards the end of 1841, Father John Bernardine Davison O.S.F., another Yorkshireman, came to assist Father Metcalfe. He proved to be a most zealous priest and, as the "Merlin" informs us, "might be seen at all hours visiting the cheerless homes of the desolate poor, plumbing the depths of human wretchedness, administering food to the famishing, or teaching the best of lessons - how to die". He gave his life for his flock, dying of typhus fever on 1st February 1842. He lies buried under the new altar in the sanctuary of St. Mary's.

The Public Health report of conditions in Newport at this time was published by Dr. Robert Woollett, Medical Officer and a Catholic. Whole areas of the town were occupied by poor Irish immigrants. In Ebenezer Terrace six families lived in one house. The drinking water in the well in Stow Hill was contaminated by the graveyard further up the hill. The back wall of a bakery was also the wall of a large piggery next door. Charles Street contained lodging houses where tinkers and packmen who sold saltfish stayed and, with rag and bone men, stored their wares in the rooms where they slept. Hygiene was unknown. Disease was rife and many died in the frequent epidemics which swept the town.

Boys and Girls Schools

The Rev. Dr. Baldaconi who succeeded Fr. Metcalfe began the building of the Boys and Girls Schools which stood at the back of the presbytery, with access to Commercial Street through a passage between the shops.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE ROSMINIANS

In June 1847, in response to repeated requests to their founder, Father Antonio Rosmini, the Fathers of Charity took charge of St. Mary's. Fathers Peter Hutton and Signini were the first Rosminians in the Parish, but within two months Father Signini was stricken with fever and invalidated, and Father Hutton's health broke down shortly afterwards.

Father Cavalli

In July 1847, Father Rinolfi became Rector and Father Dominic Cavalli his assistant.

Two years later Fr. Cavalli succeeded Fr. Rinolfi as Rector, a position he was to hold for forty-three years. The commencement of his pastorate was marked by an outbreak of cholera during which he repeatedly risked his life by his unselfish and undaunted service to the sick. Called out night after night, the Rector trudged down to the slums. In one day while going to sick calls he passed fourteen funerals. On one occasion when no-one was left of a poor family to put the last victim into the coffin, Fr. Cavalli undertook the task with the help of a neighbour. The latter caught the disease and died. On no less than three occasions he was on the brink of death from fever. In December 1864 he was extremely weak and "what with leeches - he has nine on his side - blisters, medicines and no food, he is in a deplorable state". Dr. Hawkins said the attack was very severe. "Both in Newport and Cardiff it has been reported that he is dead. If he recovers, his duties must be as light as possible so that he may be spared a few years yet", wrote a Brother to the Provincial. The whole of Newport rejoiced at his recovery and Father Cavalli continued his work in the town until 1892.

In 1848 the priests received a letter from Field Marshall The Duke of Wellington dated 3rd November (Walmer Castle, Dover) requesting that they make contact with the officer commanding troops in the Barracks in the town to provide spiritual care. The Barracks were situated where the Uskside Engineering Works once stood in Church Street, Pill, and the census of 1841 shows that the majority of soldiers were Irish. A strong military presence was deemed necessary after the Chartist Riots of 1839.

School Opened

In August 1847 St. Mary's School, with accommodation for 130 boys and 120 girls, was opened. The boys were taught by Brother S. Spencer, and the girls by three Sisters of Providence, who arrived early in 1848. Mrs. Herbert of Clytha furnished a house for the Sisters.

The Monmouthshire Merlin of 21st July 1849 announced that, 'on Sunday next the Annual Sermon will be preached at St. Mary's in aid of the schools where about 320 children are receiving the blessings of education. There will also be Examination of Children's proficiency in Catechism and distribution of prizes. The pecuniary assistance of those who cannot attend forwarded to the Schoolmaster or the Reverend Gentlemen of St. Mary's will be gratefully acknowledged. The townsfolk are encouraged to contribute to the school because the poorest children of the town attend there.'

'School Money'

A schools committee was formed at St. Mary's to collect from the faithful regularly throughout the year. The town was divided into nine districts and collectors appointed.

District One Club Row, Reform Buildings, Cross Street, Ebenezer Bank, King and Queen Street, Little Mellons Bank.

Collectors Nick Rogers and Jim Long.

District Two Commercial Street from the Parrot Hotel (now Woolworths store) to George IV Hotel - Bream Place, Fothergill and Hill Street.

Collectors Dan Shea and Michael Hurley.

District Three Llanarth Bank- Union Street - Dock Street - George Street - Granville Street.

Collectors Tom Mahoney and James Portal.

District Four Friars Fields - Canal Side - Charles Street - Stow Hill - The Rookery (opposite Victoria Place).

Collectors John Fitzgerald and Tom Macarthy.

District Five Skinner Street - Oliver Square - Mill Street - Pentonville - Waters Lane - Blewitt Street - West Street - Baneswell - Maindee.

Collectors John Knight and - Buckley.

District Six High Street - Castle Street - Clarence Street - Speedwell Street.

Collectors Dennis Murphy and G. McCarthy.

District Seven Botony - Dock Parade - Kings Parade.

Collector Jerry Shea.

District Eight Potter Street - Constables Lane - Mill Parade - Baldwin Street - Courtybella.

Collector - Hausey.

District Nine Dolphin Street - Market Street - Ruperra Street.

Collector - Neville.

Collectors called on heads of families and resident lodgers for their penny subscription "So that we may be blessed with the services of the Sisters of Providence for the education of female children" and were asked to report those who did not support to the priest in charge of the Mission.

In June 1849 the Merlin reports that the United Brothers (a benefit society) met at the Wexford and Kinsale Arms and afterwards, numbering about ninety members wearing sashes, marched behind the excellent Factory Band (in regimental dress) to St. Mary's Church. Here Father Cavalli addressed them after which they re-formed and marched back to their clubroom where Mr. Sprit provided an excellent dinner.

Newport Rail Tunnel

Stow Fair was held in Fir Tree Field, Stow Hill, but the progress of civilisation and commerce was likely to sweep away the 'merry sports of old' because a mountain of rock and earth occupied half the field - the result of the digging out of the new railway tunnel.

Restoration of the Hierachy

In 1850 the Holy Father decided to restore the Hierachy of the Church in England and Wales. Known as the Papal Aggression, it caused uproar in the country. The names of the dioceses were chosen not to conflict with the ancient Anglican titles. A fine of £100 was to be levied by the authorities for each breach of regulations. Cardinal Wiseman and others wanted the Welsh Diocese to be called St. David's, but Newport was chosen and Dr. Brown O.S.B. Vicar Apostolic of the Welsh District became the Bishop of Newport.

Newport's Bishop Brown

From a small gathering in an upper room fifty years previously, the Catholics of the town were now able to hear Mass in their beautiful new church, with their own prelate presiding.

Dr. Brown had been a superior at Belmont Abbey and had taught theology to the future Archbishop Ullathorne, the leading Catholic prelate for twenty-five years. He was a sound systematic student, deeply read in the Fathers and later a model of domestic poverty and simplicity. Although the Chapter was at Belmont, he lived for some years at the old Presbytery. His mother is buried in Newport cemetery. In 1870 all the Hierachy were in Rome for Vatican I, except the Bishop of Liverpool who was ill and Dr. Brown of Newport who was left in charge. He was a Bishop for forty years and died aged 82 years.

Brother George

In October 1850, Brother W. Bird wrote to the Provincial asking for an assistant in the School. He wanted Brother George Clarkson because "he is clever at some branches of which I am deficient and we understand each other and our ideas with regard to teaching". So Brother George was sent to St. Mary's and remained until 1884, most of the time as Headmaster. He was a strict disciplinarian, but he secured and retained the affection of his pupils, some of whom recalled their schooldays to the writer in the 1950's.

The Holy War

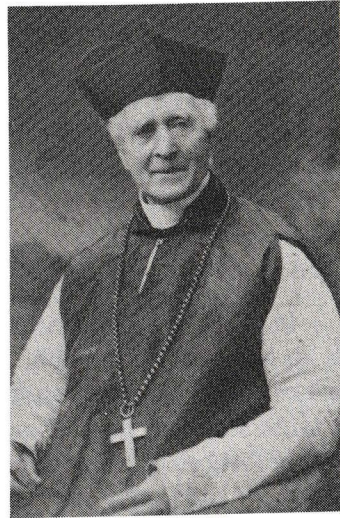
In 1857 came Father Richardson who was to see more than one term of service at Newport. He was a zealous temperance advocate and founded the 'Holy War' which found a place in its ranks alike for the total abstainer and for the moderate drinker.

Drunkenness was a problem in the town due in no small measure to the unhygienic and overcrowded homes people lived in.

Father Richardson's association (under the Patronage of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception) held their annual meeting in the Town Hall under the presidency of the Mayor. The room was adorned with pennants, flags and banners, and a band was in attendance. The members were reminded that moderation was the aim of the movement. During the past year, fifty-two members had violated the rules and lost their cards and of these thirty-nine had renewed their promises and returned to duty. Total membership was 2,479.



Brother George



Bishop Brown



Father Bailey



Father Cavalli



Monster Parish Picnic with Father Richardson c. 1860

MONSTER PIC-NIC, CLYTHA PARK,

17th August (if not fine, the Day after or the following Week),

FOR MEMBERS OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF DRUNKENNESS.

The Members will assist at High Mass before starting. The Procession from the Church to the Station will be as follows:—The SAX-HORN BAND, headed by the beautiful New Banner of the Association, representing that passage in the Apocalypse xii. chap., 1st verse. The Men three abreast, then the Women, followed by the SCHOOL FIFE AND DRUM BAND in full Dress, at the head of the School Children.

A SPECIAL TRAIN

Will be in readiness for the journey. The Members will of course take their Dinner with them, and Pic-Nic on the Grass.

The Banners used in the Procession will have the following Inscriptions in gold and colours:—*Mater Immaculata. Rosa Mystica. Janua Cæli. Refugium peccatorum. Auxilium Christianorum. Causa nostræ lætitiæ. Prudence. Justice. Fortitude. Temperance. We have one Enemy, not Drink but Drunkenness. "Our Help is in the Name of the Lord." Erin-go-bragh—Try again.*

In the Park there will be Tents, and plenty of Ale, Cider, Porter, Ginger Beer, &c.

At the Castle Tea will be provided for all, by the kind liberality of Mrs. JONES of Clytha, and Dinner at the House for the First-Class Passengers who are Members of the Association. There will be various old English Sports; and Two or Three Bands, besides numbers of Violins, will enable those who are inclined to enjoy the merry dance.

TICKETS, FOR MEMBERS ONLY,

Including Ale, Cider, Porter or Ginger Beer, Tea, and Railway Fare there and Back, 1s. each. Children ATTENDING the Schools Half-Price. FIRST-CLASS TICKETS, 7s. 6d.

To be had in the Schoolroom on FRIDAY Evening next, at Seven o'clock, and on SUNDAY Afternoon at Two o'clock.

Further particulars as to time, &c., will be announced later.

LITTLE TRIP.

St. JOSEPH'S CONFRATERNITY.

MONDAY, 18TH JULY, 1892.

BREAKS LEAVE STOW HILL AT 9 O'CLOCK SHARP.
ARRIVE AT CARDIFF DOCK FOR 11 O'CLOCK BOAT TO
PENARTH BEACH.

BATHING, BOATING, BEAUTIFUL WALKS ON THE CLIFF

DINE WHERE YOU CAN.

RETURN BY 4.43 TRAIN FOR CARDIFF.

TEA AT LARGE COFFEE TAVERN, ST. MARY ST.
AT 5.30. 6d. EACH.

VISIT TO THE CASTLE.

BENEDICTION

AT ST. PETER'S, CARDIFF, AT 8 O'CLOCK. START HOME BY
BREAK AT 8.30.

TICKETS FOR MEMBERS, 2/9 EACH; NON-MEMBERS, 3/6.


THE HOLY WAR.

—•••—
THE FIRST
GENERAL MEETING

OF THE
Members of the Holy War

WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE
TOWN HALL ASSEMBLY ROOM

(By kind permission of His Worship the Mayor)

On **MONDAY EVENING, 16th MAY.**

—•••—
THE
REV. FATHER RICHARDSON

Will preside and say a few words on the
PRESENT POSITION OF AFFAIRS.

OTHER SPEAKERS WILL ADDRESS THE MEETING

There will be a Variety of
SONGS & MUSIC
DURING THE EVENING.

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY,

As the Room will not hold all the Members.

TICKETS 3d. EACH; a few Reserved Platform Seats, 6d.

DOORS OPEN AT 7.30.

Monster Picnics

Monster picnics were held each year. Caerphilly Castle, Caldicot Castle and Clytha Park - the home of the Jones family, benefactors of St. Mary's - were among the venues.

The members gathered at the Cattle Market where a decision was made as to the suitability of the weather. Then the procession formed and, led by the Saxhorn Band, marched to St. Mary's. Banners carried were inscribed in gold and Colours with inscriptions such as Mater Immaculata, Rosa Mystica, Refugium Peccatorum, Causa nostrae Laetitiae, Our Help is in the Name of the Lord. After High Mass, the procession re-formed and marched to the Station where the Station Master personally supervised the boarding of the special train. On the outing to Clytha House, the members took picnic lunches and paid a shilling for ale, cider, porter or ginger beer or tea and railway fare, there and back. First-class tickets were available at 7s. 6d. and included a dinner served in the grand dining room of Clytha House. On arrival, the Saxhorn Band played a hymn to the Virgin and a blessing was invoked. Then there were races and football, followed by dancing to the Band. Tea was served and the return to Newport was managed in good order, with Father Richardson and Mr. Murphy constantly present to superintend. The party arrived at 9 p.m. and the Band played in front of the Westgate in honour of the patrons of the Association.

Fr. Richardson's successful work for the poor of Newport was recognised in other parts of the country. He travelled frequently to lecture in the developing industrial towns.

St. Mary's Infant School

The Infants School, the present Institute, was built in 1857; the cost £1,079 17s. 10d. Mr. Herbert of Llanarth gave the ground gratuitously. The Privy Council allowed £520 towards the building.

The Stations of the Cross were placed in the church in 1858 at the cost of £44 19s. 8d.

The notice for Midnight Mass for Christmas 1860 is interesting.

“Mass is at 11.30 - No-one can enter without a ticket.

Please do not bring strangers - Doors open at ten o'clock.

No tickets sold at the door - No infants.

No sittings (rented seats) kept after 11 p.m. No-one can send another to keep their place.

The names of those who came drunk last year have been kept and they will not be allowed in this year at all.”

Father Louis Nedelec came in 1861 for a year. He was a Breton and intensely interested in the history of the old Welsh Church, and his learned book ‘Cambria Sacra’ was published in 1879.

Father Bailey

In 1862, Frs. John and Michael Bailey, two brothers, came to St. Mary's. John was of a quiet and studious nature, and his expert skill as an architect was of great advantage to his brother in the building of St. Michael's in later days. Michael was, essentially, a man of action to whom obstacles were merely an incentive to increased energy. It is no exaggeration to say that he spared no effort, physical or mental, in the cause of Catholic education, and his work upon the School Board and the Board of Guardians was of immense and lasting value to the Catholics of Newport.

The schools were now the centre of activity in the new missions. They were regularly inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. In 1867 the H.M.I. was most impressed with the Head of the Infant School. “This department is excellently taught and it is a mistake that one of the most admirable teachers in my district should be tied down to an infant school.” Of the Senior Boys School, he wrote “This is as it has been for many years, one of the few boys schools I visit with unmingled satisfaction. I have to praise and acknowledge the invaluable services of the conscientious and capable teachers.” The result of the inspection was payment of the Government Grant. In one year voluntary contributions and School Pence realised £194. The government contribution equalled that amount.

One of the Inspectors approached the Rosminians for the release of Bro. George Clarkson so that he could work with the Schools' Inspectorate. Bro. George made it clear to Fr. Cavalli that he had no wish to give up his work with the boys of St. Mary's, but he did want a College for the training of our own Schoolmasters.

Fr. Cavalli then wrote to the Inspector thanking him for his interest in Bro. George, but he would be required for the establishment of a College for our schoolmasters.

Bishop Brown, when told of this, expressed a wish that Father General would open such a College. Bro. George then wrote to Father General concerning the proposal.

Log Book

The log book of the Boys' School gives an insight into the problems of the day. “The spirit of devotion during this Holy Season of Lent is very consoling and shows what progress the children would make in piety if the good impressions were not counteracted by the example of drunken and wicked parents.”

Absentees were announced from the Altar on Sundays and a list pinned to the Church door.

“The Good Old Days”

The Infant school was so crowded that the boys' dinners were arranged in the playground until 24th January, when they ate indoors because of the cold. It was also noted that “fever continues among the children; Father Bailey could not take catechism this week because of the number of sick calls”. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Brown, Bishop of Newport, carried out the Religious Inspection of the schools.

The mortuary chapel in the cemetery was built in 1864 when the Catholic burial ground was allocated. The cost was £267 12s. 11d. After the account was paid, the balance of 2s. 3d. was handed to Fr. Cavalli for cleaning expenses.

The Merlin of 31st March 1866 reports that, at a full meeting of the Board of Guardians chaired by Lord Tredegar, the following minute was moved by Octavius Morgan, M.P. "The death of Dr. James Hawkins who for upwards of twenty-seven years had filled the office of Medical Officer with credit to himself and to the great benefit of the poor entrusted to his charge."

“Resolved : That deep sympathy be expressed to Mrs. Hawkins and sincere regret that his death was occasioned by illness from typhus fever induced by assiduous attendance upon a large number of paupers (inmates of the work-house) labouring under that infectious disorder, although not a single pauper patient died under his watchful care.”

Dr. Hawkins’s remains were conveyed to the Old Cemetery where Father Cavalli read the burial service. Many professional men and tradesmen attended. Most shops were shut and, at principal hotels and offices, blinds were drawn. Many of the poorer people were visibly affected.

A memorial window was placed in the Church by Mrs. Hawkins and, after restoration some years ago, was divided into two. St. Luke with the family dedication can be seen in Our Lady’s Chapel, and the portion depicting a doctor at a patient’s bedside in St. Patrick’s Chapel. Sixty years previously another Doctor James Hawkins was one of the five people at the first Mass in Newport.

Church Tower

A Parish Committee met on 14th February 1869 to consider the proposition of completing the church tower by adding stonework and the four pinnacles to the structure. They decided to proceed with the undertaking providing that:

- A. No debt to be contracted or left on the church on that account.
- B. That three-fourths of the amount necessary for the work be already in hand before any part of the work is begun.

A sub-committee was then appointed to canvas the town to ascertain what amount could be raised by donations. The following were named and accepted office: Rev. D. Cavalli, Messrs. Roe, Vaughan, Mackey, Rogers, Collins, Isorni, Horrigan, Williams and Donegan.

The town was divided into five districts and two of the Committee were appointed to canvas for each district. The result was that the sum of £226 2s. 6d. was promised, and Mr. William Williams was appointed to carry out the work subject to his subscription of £10 towards the cost.

Bells were installed in 1874 and were blessed by the Right Rev. Dr. Hedley. They were rung for the first time on the first of November in the presence of Bishop Brown of Newport.

Compulsory Education

In 1870 education became compulsory in this country. The young people had previously benefited from a voluntary system which catered for 1,700,000 in 1870 to increase to 3,000,000 in 1879. The Government had supported these church schools to the amount of 12/- per pupil, and now it is proposed to build board schools with a grant of £12 12s. per pupil. The board schools were to have a religious hour, but “no doctrine distinctive of any denomination was to be taught.” The threat to Catholic schools was considerable; fortunately Father Bailey looked after the interests of the parish schools in Newport.

There were other problems here however. It was proposed to amalgamate the boys school with the girls school, but the Sisters of Providence could not teach boys.

St. Joseph’s Convent, Stow Hill

Faither Bailey had been visiting Devizes in Wiltshire where a friend had joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy, a French order recently arrived from India. They had been encouraged to come to England by Captain Dewell who met the Sisters whilst serving in the army in India.

Father Bailey suggested that the Sisters move to Newport and teach in the parish schools, and they agreed. Arundel House, 89 Stow Hill, was for sale, but would not be vacant for eighteen months - but Reverend Mother Athanase went ahead and bought the property for £1,600. This became the Convent and remained so for nearly 100 years.

The Community moved to Newport in August 1873 and for four months fourteen Sisters lived in the upper rooms of the building next to the church known as the Institute. The attic became the dormitory and one small room was used as a Chapel Community Room and Refectory.

So began the association of the Sisters of St. Joseph with St. Mary's to the benefit of generations of children down to the present day.

A.P.F.

The Association for the Propagation of the Faith was active in the parish in these early days and Father Richardson's Catholic Association for the Suppression of Drunkenness was also a Sick and Burial Club.

Parishioners were early risers. Masses on Christmas Day were at six, six-thirty, eight-thirty, nine-thirty and eleven a.m.

(Church Notice) A Mission for children and young people and for those who are to be confirmed will continue every evening for a fortnight at 7.30 p.m. In order to give as much room as possible to the young, no one can be admitted to attend above the age of nineteen.

The Right Rev. Dr. Brown carried out the Religious Inspection of the Schools in 1870 and the H.M.I. report at the same time was "Excellent as usual".

More Schools Open

In September 1871 the children from the Pill district were told to attend their new school. Father Bailey had purchased three cottages, two for a school and one for a school chapel.

The Catholic population of Newport was now 4,350. In 1874, Mr. J. H. Herbert of Llanarth gave a site for a school in Cross Street, now Emlyn Street.

The 'Merlin' of 2nd January 1875 carried headlines of "NEW SCHOOLS IN LOWER CROSS STREET", and also that accommodation is now provided for over one thousand Catholic children in the town. The five schools are already free from debt. At the opening ceremony, the children's choir sang a new piece "God Bless our Pope".

It was difficult to recruit teachers for these schools because, with 300 homeless families in the town, accommodation was at a premium and the pay was what the priests could afford.

In 1875 the Sisters of St. Joseph withdrew from Westbury and decided to build up the Congregation in Newport as the core of the Province. This was centred on the Convent (Arundel House) where they also had a private school for 28 Boarders.

The Sisters were also busy instructing converts of whom there were ninety in one year, not counting those instructed by the priests.

St. Mary's School logbook (1875) records that Hugh O'Neil, a pupil teacher, had gone home with fever. He was absent next day. Regretfully he died - on the third day - of typhus. He was thirteen.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PARISH
IN 1875 AND ONWARDS

Dr. Robert Woollett

The leading Catholic layman, Dr. Robert Woollett, who, in addition to being Medical Officer of Health, was a magistrate, and a severe one. "Is the Doctor on today?" miscreants enquired of one another as they gathered at the Town Hall. He lived in Park Square. A group of workmen formed a string band - they paid a tutor to teach them. At Christmas they played outside the Doctor's house. He came out to inform them that he did not like music and he would like to be left alone. A large flagpole was fixed to the tower of the church and a large silk Papal Flag was flown on special occasions, both given by Dr. Woollett. On the morning of the Doctor's funeral the flag was flown at half mast and became entangled with one of the pinnacles of the tower which broke in two and crashed through the roof of the church, breaking up part of the centre aisle.

Tom Lee and John Hausey, Beadles, had miraculous escapes. A quantity of stone and slate was strewn amongst the congregation. No one was hurt. Some fell through the roof of the Infant School - one infant was scratched.

Mr. Thomas Woollett, a cousin of Dr. Woollett and Town Clerk of Newport, lived in a house at the junction of Charles Street and Commercial Street. He always asked the men of the congregation after Mass to go as far as the bottom of Stow Hill before lighting their pipes. Thomas and his wife are buried on either side of a path in the cemetery: he in the Catholic part, she in the non-Catholic section. His brother was Rev. Canon Woollett, D.D., Vicar-General of the Plymouth Diocese.

Mr. Blount - a pious gentleman - lived in St. Mary's Lodge (where the Civic Centre is). A lovely Flemish wooden statue of Our Lady stood in a niche in front of the house. In 1936, when the house was demolished, the non-Catholic owners gave the statue to St. Mary's and it now stands above the door of the Presbytery.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurley lived in Clarence Place - their grandson became Abbot Hurley.

Mr. and Mrs. Roe's son, Father Bernard Roe, became Rector of St. Ethelreda's, Ely Place, London.

Alderman Vaughan, Alderman Tom Canning and Mr. Harrington took a deep interest in the Irish people and their cause in trouble-some times. Mr. Hitzman, Mr. Berkley and Mr. O'Brien were jewellers. Mr. Primavazi kept a china shop.

School Bands

Attached to St. Mary's were a Brass Band and three Drum and Fife Bands. Bro. George was head of the School band and their uniform was of the period of Charles II. Two working boys bands wore neat uniforms. Mr. John Enright who kept a grocer's shop in Emlyn Street conducted the Brass Band. All four bands took part in Catholic processions.

Catholic Benefit Societies

The United Brothers met in the Ship and Pilot-Club Feast (Easter Monday). The Hibernians (Whit-Monday) and the Catholic Women's Club (15th August, Assumption) met at the Wexford and Kinsale Arms kept by William Sprit. The St. Patrick's Guild dined on 17th March.

Each Society attended St. Mary's on Feast Days, then marched through the town with banners flying and bands playing.

Some Names in the Parish

Jerry Shea and his wife spent most of Sundays in St. Mary's. Mortimer Shea always attended the Sunday funerals. Granny O'Neil and Mrs. Phillips would be seen at an early hour waiting for the church doors to be opened. James Murphy, owner of a wagon works, was Mayor of Newport in 1868, the year of the Election Riots. Some of the working men always willing to help the clergy were Con. Collins, John O'Brien, James Moriarty (grandfather of Father Flood), Tim Downey, John Bennett, Patrick Haley and Michael Manley.

School fees at St. Mary's were now 2d. per week. Father Cavalli would pay for poor children if they attend. In cold weather the children were given blocks of patent fuel to take home, paid for by Sir George Elliott, M.P., for the Monmouth Boroughs.

Bishop Hedley

Bishop Brown of Newport died in 1881 after an episcopate lasting forty years. His successor, Dom Cuthbert Hedley O.S.B. was the outstanding Bishop in this country in the last 25 years of the century.

At his death, in 1915, the 'Tablet' announced that "This day a Prince has fallen in Israel. Among our Catholic writers he is inferior to only one, Cardinal Newman. He was for forty years, to the Catholics of this country, a candle set upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house". The Bishop of Newport, the smallest diocese, had no staff of canonists, financiers or secretaries, yet the faithful doubled in number during his episcopate: 40,000 in 1881 to 80,000 in 1915. Prior to his elevation to the See of Newport, he was Editor of the Dublin Review.

Cardinal Manning

The schools were of paramount importance to the Catholic community, and increasing the financial support of the Government became the burning issue of the day.

Great excitement occurred, therefore, in August 1881 with the visit of His Eminence Cardinal Manning to the town. A large concourse of people not exclusively, though in great part, composed of Catholics of the town had assembled at the Railway Station and at their hands His Eminence received a very cordial greeting. The Cardinal's carriage was unhorsed and, amid much enthusiastic demonstration, drawn through High Street to the west door of St. Mary's Church, from the steps of which he addressed the crowd. The Catholic Drum and Fife Band led the procession.

Three thousand people filled the Victoria Hall (the Lyceum Theatre) to hear his Eminence speak on the subject of Education and, amongst those on the platform, were the Bishop and priests of the County, General Herbert, Dr. Woollett, Mr. Woollett, Mr. T. Canning, Col. Lyne, Admiral Foote and Mr. Wernet.

Mr. J. A. Herbert of Llanarth, presiding, said that the Cardinal's name was universally known and universally held in the highest esteem and veneration, and not only by Catholics.

His Eminence remarked that those who planned state education in 1840 stated that no plans should be encouraged in which intellectual instruction is not subordinate to the doctrines of revealed religion. The Royal Commission of that time stated that the management of schools has been left to the religious denominations and in this respect it has been most successful.

"Now it was proposed to build and maintain at great expense board schools where doctrinal religion is banned and to give minimal financial support to church schools. If we desire our Church to be perpetuated and bequeathed to our children, we must maintain our own schools."

"The greatness of this country is raised to an imperial height greater than any other people on the face of the earth had hitherto attained. But the day may come when all our great ports, now filled with commerce, may be idle, and fishermen spread their nets, and when, in our great cities which are the wonder of all, there may be signs of a departed greatness because the people have grown up in the worship of the God of this world, rejecting the world of Him who made heaven and earth."

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Woollett, in proposing the vote of thanks, remarked that the last Catholic Archbishop to visit Newport was Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, seven hundred years ago, who preached a Crusade against the infidel. "It is not straining the analogy too far," he said, "to say that history repeats itself, for if religious instruction be excluded from the education of the child his little heart will soon be in the possession of the infidel."

School Boards

The new Education system was to be run by elected school boards set up in towns and districts throughout the country.

In Newport, nineteen candidates offered themselves for election of whom nine were Catholics. Father Richard Richardson and Daniel Vaughan were elected, and Robert Jones, Thomas Richards, Peter Roe, Charles Williams, Charles Oakeley, George Venton and William Parry were unsuccessful.

The boards appointed officers to gather information from the schools of Newport, particularly with regard to absentees. These were very early days in the relationship between Catholic Schools and the local authority, as this extract from the Merlin shows:

"The officer reported that on his visit to the Catholic School in High Street, Pill, he could get little information from the Mistress. After he had left the school, Father Bailey sent out this message, 'I am ready for him now'. He was out of sight by this time and had not seen the priest since. At the Catholic School on Stow Hill he could get no information. The Master said he had no time to bother about it. Father Richardson saw him and said, 'We don't acknowledge the authority of the School Board in any way'. He was very courteous and told the officer not to take it as personal to himself."

Father Cavalli was concerned at this time by the fact that no passage existed between the Infant School on Stow Hill and the Boys and Girls School at the back of the Church. The Mistress and pupils had constantly to pass through the Church. A passage would serve as a defence against fire - even now, he notes, a baker's oven comes up to the very divisional wall of the Church. Access to the Boys and Girls Schools was through the passage next to the London House in Commercial Street, the tenants of which were allowed to place a window looking into the boys' yard. They paid one penny per year for this convenience and, by an agreement duly signed, notice could be given at any time to close it.

St. Michael's Church

The number of Catholics in Newport had increased to 4,350 in 1871, more than double the figure when St. Mary's was built. The need for another church in the town became apparent and eventually, in 1886, the foundation stone of St. Michael's was laid and in the following year this imposing structure was opened for worship amidst considerable ceremony.

"Truly (says The Star of Gwent) St. Michael's Church may be called the Church of the poor. It was paid for almost entirely by the pence of the poor, and the coaltrimmers, the iron shippers and others freely and willingly gave their time and labour in building. Under the guidance of Father Bailey, the Catholic workmen and even non-Catholic would come after their day's work was over and help to dig the foundations; others who were out of work would give the whole day. Thus the foundations were dug almost without expense."

In March 1881, a meeting of managers and teachers of the Cardiff district schools was held at the Town Hall to discuss curriculum in schools. Mr. Whitmell, H.M. Inspector of Schools, remarked that in his district no manager devoted more time and attention to his schools than Father Bailey. (Applause.)

The Newport School Band had been booked to play in aid of funds of a Non-Conformist Chapel at the Town Hall on Good Friday (1888). Father Knight informed the School Board that the Catholic children would not play on this day. The Chairman said that it must play without them. Mr. Darby said that the Roman Catholic children were the backbone of the band. "Take them out and the band would not be worth listening to, a disgrace to the schools." The schoolmaster was asked what difference the exclusion of Catholic children would make, and he said, "It would be a band with a great deal of bottom and no top".

R.I.P.

In January 1892, Cardinal Manning died and the 'Star of Gwent' announced that Bishop Hedley of Newport was chosen to preach the funeral oration at the Requiem Mass, and that he was the 'dark horse' to succeed him as Archbishop of Westminster. The favourite, however, was Bishop Vaughan, born at Courtfield, the future Cardinal who built Westminster Cathedral.

Father Cavalli, who had been unwell for some months, died in March 1892 and the 'Star' recorded this with deep regret. "He had laboured in St. Mary's Parish for forty-five years and the zeal, the energy and the Christian life led by the deceased caused him to be held in equally high respect and esteem by all sections of the community of Newport," said the report. He lay in state for two days in the Church, and an immense number of people visited the sacred edifice; Protestants vied with Catholics to pay their last respects. He was a saintly, pious priest with a strong sense of duty and his nature was gentle and kindly.

Bishop Hedley made his visitation of the Church in June 1894, when he was received by the Very Rev. Fr. Michael Bailey, the new rector, and Fathers Knight and Bath. In the course of his sermon the Bishop said it "was one of the most precious blessings of God when a flock has devoted pastors. In Newport, chiefly by the exertions of Father Bailey and the teachers, the Catholic Schools were as good

as any in the town and district. Money was always a difficulty and it was gratifying to look back and see how the flock had, year by year, met the appeals of Father Bailey. (The total raised and spent on schools between 1880 and 1900 was a staggering £30,000, equivalent to £3 million today.) But money was not everything and it was to good management and unwearied personal superintendence that such consoling results were due."

The Bishop especially mentioned the continuation class or night school at St. Mary's, which had been carried on through the previous autumn and winter. Her Majesty's Inspector testified that it was admirably conducted and efficiently worked. The subjects taught included French, sewing, shorthand, music and ambulance work.

New Schools for the Parish

In 1896, St. Joseph's School was opened in Maindee, and in 1898 the old schools at the back of St. Mary's were condemned and they were replaced in 1900 by the fine schools on Queens Hill, built at a cost of £6,000.

Pope Leo XIII published his encyclical 'Rerum Novarum' at this time. It was a document referring to the social problems of the day, and a non-Catholic, Robert Blatchford, wrote the most widely read commentary on it. He was unimpressed, but he had a high regard for Catholic priests. "I have met them in the slums engaged in works of mercy. I have met them in Ireland fighting for the people; I am satisfied that they are the most devoted and unselfish of all clergymen." Ben Tillett sensed in Cardinal Manning an authority which seems to attach to the priestly office only when it is exercised by Roman Catholics. Kier Hardie opined, "There are many who think that the Roman Catholic is the most democratic of all the orthodox churches."

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In September 1902 the Catholic Truth Society of England and Wales held its annual conference in Newport. A large number of priests and lay people, together with several Bishops, attended the meetings held from Sunday to Thursday at the Tredegar Hall. There was extensive press coverage and on the first day High Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's by Bishop Hedley in the presence of the Bishop of Clifton. The organist was Miss Driscoll, a talented lady who had accompanied services since the age of fourteen. She had also provided the music at the opening of Holy Cross thirty years before. On the same day, St. Michael's was crowded for High Mass celebrated by Fr. Ottoway in the presence of the Bishop of Shrewsbury.

The inaugural lecture was on Secondary Education, by Rev. Dr. Hinsley (the future Cardinal). Colonel Ivor Herbert caused a sensation at this meeting when he said that he did not think that the general public should pay for the support of denominational schools. "If we Catholics wish to maintain our independence, we should pay for them ourselves." (Cries of Oh! Oh! and laughter.)

Other lectures were on 'Catholics and Social Life in England' by Miss Waddle of Newport (a member of the Board of Guardians in the town) and 'The Kelt in Britain' by T. Canning Esq. of St. Mary's.

On the last day three hundred clergy and laity, including Bishop Hedley, travelled by train to Tintern. The weather was beautifully fine. The ruins were thoroughly explored, then the whole party assembled in the main transept and sang 'Faith of Our Fathers'.

Death of Fr. Bailey

In May 1904 Father Bailey was seriously ill and was being cared for by his sister Ida in Mentone on the Riviera. There seems little

doubt that the burden of responsibility for the extensive building programme, the provision of necessary finance and the care of St. Mary's and St. Michael's had its effect on his health.

"The Doctor thought his condition so low that he could die at any moment. He sinks into a coma then he is able to rally, but although his mind is clear he cannot express himself - and this annoys him. He is thinking of the schools and tries to talk to the doctor and nurse about them," she wrote. He recovered sufficiently to be brought home, but now, confined to a wheelchair, he was pushed by the men of the parish up Queen's Hill to visit St. Mary's School.

In November, Father Bailey died and after a Dirge in the Church the body was taken down to St. Michael's. Bishop Hedley preached at the Requiem. Huge crowds formed into a procession through the town and up to the cemetery. All traffic was suspended.

For many years Father Bailey was assisted by Father Alfred Knight, who built the Church of St. Basil and St. Gwladys at Rogerstone, and founded the mission at Caerphilly. He established a Catholic Guild for the men of the parish which was the forerunner of the C.Y.M.S. He also wrote a life of St. David Lewis. Fr. Edmund Butcher was at St. Mary's at the same time and both priests were held in affection by the people of the parish.

The Presbytery

Shortly after Father Bailey's death, Father Daniel Hickey came to preach a mission at St. Mary's at the close of which he drew the attention of the congregation to the inadequate and uncomfortable accommodation for the clergy of the parish. As a result a fund was opened and the foundation stone of the present presbytery was laid by Bishop Hedley. The priests moved out to 72 Stow Hill while the building work was in progress.

Father Hickey

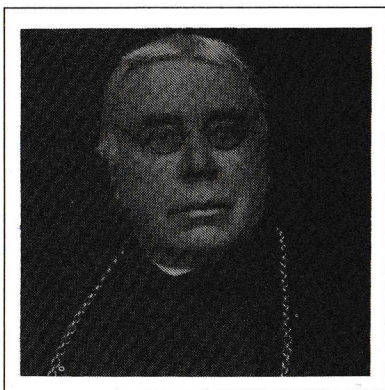


In 1904 Father Hickey, a native of Cardiff, became Rector of St. Mary's and, under his wise direction and the untiring efforts of his clergy, much progress was made in pastoral and educational fields.

Before coming to the town, he had taught at Ratcliffe for five years. A strict disciplinarian, he was the first organiser of games with other schools, and also the first at the school to pick up a football and run with it. His efforts to introduce rugby were frowned on at the time.

Parish Priest of St. Mary's for twenty-two years, he knew his people thoroughly, and in particular his care of the sick was admirable. He was prominent in the public life of the town and fought successfully for the rights of Catholic schools. In great demand as a speaker, he had eloquence and wit for any big occasion. Later he became Provincial of the Institute of Charity and eventually spent his retirement years at Ratcliffe.

In 1905 Bishop Hedley of Newport addressed the Fathers of Charity of Newport and Cardiff on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the founder, Antonio Rosmini. "He was one of the most notable figures of the first half of the nineteenth century," he said. "To him and to the sons whom he had inspired, Catholic England was indebted to a very great degree and more so in the Diocese of Newport than elsewhere." Many of his most trusted advisers, his best helpers and most intimate friends had been among the Fathers of Charity.



S.V.P.

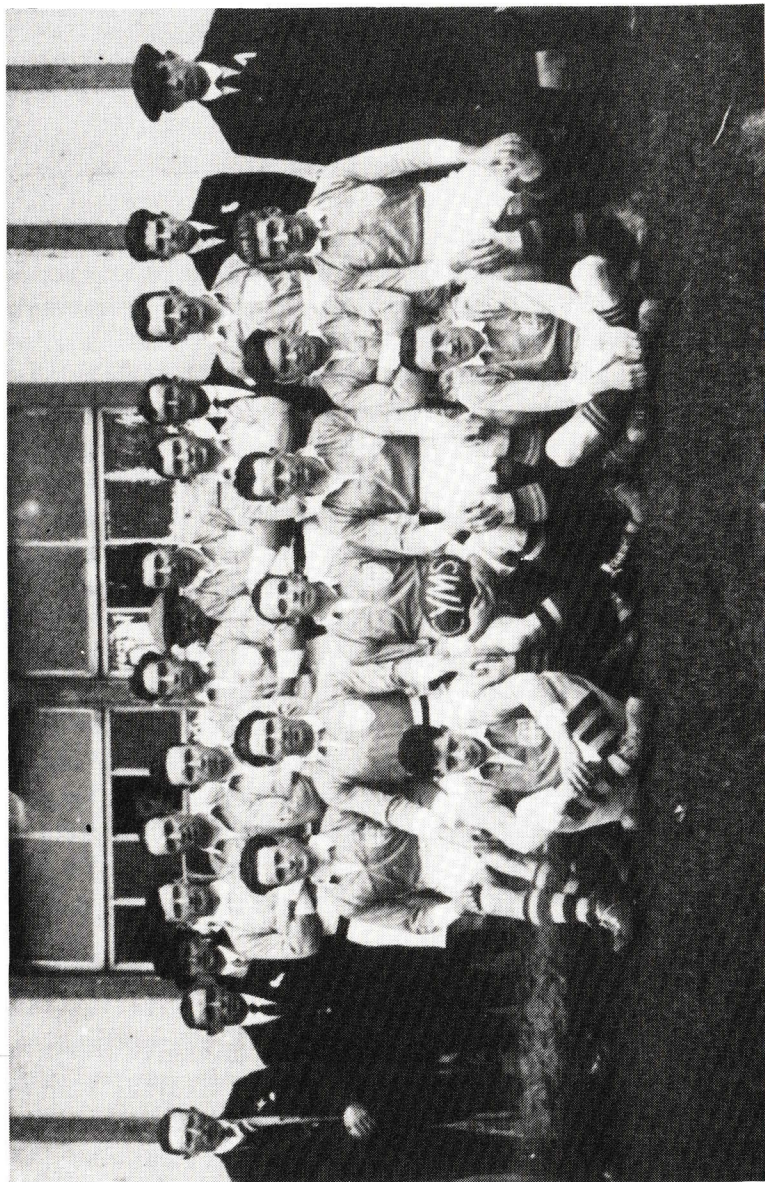
On 26th July 1908, the St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was inaugurated. The Chair was taken by Father Hickey, and Bro. Pike of Bristol described the work of the society. On Sunday 2nd August, the First General Meeting was held and officers were elected as follows:- President, Bro. F. R. Bates; Vice President, T. Donovan; Treasurer, H. W. Phillips; Secretary, P. J. Ryan. So began the work of the brothers of St. Vincent in the parish which still continues today.

Seventy years had now elapsed since the building of St. Mary's Church and, owing to the calls of Catholic education upon the resources of the congregation, little had been done in the way of improving and beautifying the building internally. Father Hickey now undertook this work with his accustomed zeal and energy. In 1913 a new and beautiful Lady Altar replaced the original altar which was the gift in 1845 of the officers and men of the 37th Regiment, literally a Catholic regiment. The new altar is a memorial, paid for by the townsfolk of Newport, to Alderman D. A. Vaughan in gratitude for his work on their behalf. In the same year the original pulpit was replaced by the elegant stone structure removed after the Second Vatican Council.

In 1921 the stone panelling in the Sanctuary, with painted decorations in the panels, was added and the sacristy corridor was built. In the following year the Sanctuary was remodelled and the Communion rail and flooring installed. At the same time, St. Patrick's Altar and the War Memorial tablet containing one hundred and ninety-eight names of men of the parish who had made the supreme sacrifice were erected. Mr. F. R. Bates was responsible for the design and execution of this beautiful work.

C.Y.M.S.

On Sunday 1st October 1922, a number of men of the parish met in St. Mary's Institute to form a branch of the Catholic Young Men's Society. Father Hickey presided and the officers elected were:- President, P. J. Ryan; Vice-President, Capt. B. M. Gorman; Treasurer, J. Murray; Secretary, M. Sullivan; Warden, T. Dunleavie.



St. Mary's C.Y.M.S. Rugby Team 1928

The twenty-first Annual Meeting was held on Sunday 3rd October 1943. Father Honan was Chaplain and the officers were Frank Murray, President; Tom Doherty, Vice President; F. Troy, Secretary; and P. O'Dwyer, Warden. A welcome home supper for members returning from the forces took place on Wednesday 23rd May 1945.

The Golden Jubilee was celebrated in October 1972 with a Dinner attended by a large number of old members. The Chairman was again Bro. Frank Murray and principal guest Fr. Tom Lenane, who entertained with his witty reminiscences. Bro. Bill Williams of St. Michael's was the National President of the C.Y.M.S. that year.

Separation

In 1922 St. Michael's became a separate parish, with Father Ernest Hill as Rector and Father J. Fevez assistant priest.

St. Patrick's also became independent in 1924, with Father J. Woodcock as Parish Priest.

Fr. Hughes

Father Hickey left St. Mary's in 1926 to become Provincial of the Order and in his place came Father Trevor Hughes who was also Provincial for ten years from 1916. Father Hughes, born in Monmouth, was a holy self-sacrificing priest. As a small altar boy, I remember him praying his office as he paced up and down the yard at the back of the presbytery. He was a Director of the Royal Gwent Hospital and a member of the Newport Home Nursing Association. A loyal son of Monmouthshire, he was deeply interested in the county's antiquity and historical associations. He died in 1938 after a long illness, and at his Requiem the church was so crowded that many could not get in. The altar servers and choir, led by Mr. Edward Curran, took part in the graveside rites. The Master of Ceremonies was Leo Driscoll and the bearers were from the C.Y.M.S. - Arthur Murray, Joe Gould, Bob Scott, E. Reardon, Bill Hard and Tom Doherty.

Kyrle Fletcher, the Newport antiquarian, wrote Father Hughes's obituary published in the local press.

Father Hughes's stay in the parish was a period of great activity and the Newport Catholic Magazine of the late 1920's provides valuable information about the Catholic community at this time. Societies, and school and parish sports teams were thriving and identified proudly with the Faith.

Some Excerpts of Interest

St. Mary's Social Guild Study Club, under the guidance of Councillor W. F. E. Smith, had nineteen members who were studying Local Government Administration. Meetings were held on Sunday mornings and the faithful few had to attend an early Mass, then rush home to breakfast and then return and sit in an uncomfortable chair in a cold room. It did not appeal to many, but, as

Mr. Smith said, "they were fulfilling the wishes of several of the Popes". William Smith, born in Newport was reared in Neath. His first job was as a conductor on a horse-drawn tram, then he became a foreman on the railway. He joined the Labour Party and attended the Catholic Workers College, Oxford. He was elected to the Newport Town Council in 1924 and Mayor in 1934. Mrs. Smith still attends St. Mary's (1989).



Alderman Wm. Smith - Mayor of Newport

Father Honan was President of the C.Y.M.S. Rugby Club, which included F. Ryan, H. Bennett, W. Rose and J. Canning among its members. They were planning a one thousand mile tour of South-West Ireland. A Ladies Committee was headed by Mrs. Hard.

The Junior Scout Section's Patrol Leaders were Phil Boyce, G. Jones (now Fr. Jones of St. Peter's), E. Masterson and John Keyes (killed in France in 1945).

School Teams

St. Mary's School Rugby Team had won all five matches played in the autumn of 1928. Six times winners of the Shield, four times winners of the Cup, they were on four occasions winners of both trophies in the same year. Jack Morley was playing for Newport First XV, and Magnus Spence and Sam Danaher for Newport Seconds. The latter not only played for Wales Schoolboys, but captained them.



Fr. Hart and St. Mary's School Rugby Team 1921

Holy Cross provided the Captain of Newport Schoolboys in Alec Givvons, and Harold Dowd also played for the town and was later capped for Wales Schoolboys. Holy Cross won the Cup in 1928.



Fr. Honan and Holy Cross Rugby Team 1936

The Guild of the Blessed Sacrament's Chaplain was Fr. Hart, and Lily Nelson was secretary. Children of Mary were: President, Miss G. Campbell; Treasurer, Miss Bates; Secretary, Miss E. Campbell; Council Members, Mrs. Donovan, Mrs. Hard, Mrs. Tapson Jones, Misses Ciceri, Le Brasseur, K. Fitzgerald and F. Harrington.

The Thirtieth Anniversary meeting of the Guild of St. Elizabeth was attended by one hundred and forty members. The committee included Mrs. Hard, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Gush, Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Ciceri and Mrs. Saunders.

The Annual Sermon for the S.V.P. was preached by Dr. Downey, the Archbishop of Liverpool, in fulfilment of a promise made before his elevation to the hierarchy. The collection realised £75 - a record.

St. Joseph's High School examinees included Lily Madden, Madeline Hartnell, Marie Bennett, Hannah Clifford, Gretta Murphy, Olga McManus, Kathleen Windsor, Nell Capel, Annie Tristram, Lilian Porter and Doreen Durant.

The first Social Function of the Old Girls Association was a Garden party. The President was Dora Clissett and Mrs. Constance Grey was Secretary.

Hearty congratulations were offered to old boys of St. Mary's Raymond Wilcox and Tom Lenane, who had entered the Novitiate at Wadhurst; to Jack Wilcox who entered the Novitiate of Christian Brothers in Ireland, and to Sydney Stanley who joined the White Fathers Seminary in Belgium.

Jack Morley (Wales) was welcomed back from a British Lions tour. He and four other Catholic players had the pleasure of dining with the Bishop of Melbourne, Australia, who was ninety-four and the world's oldest bishop.

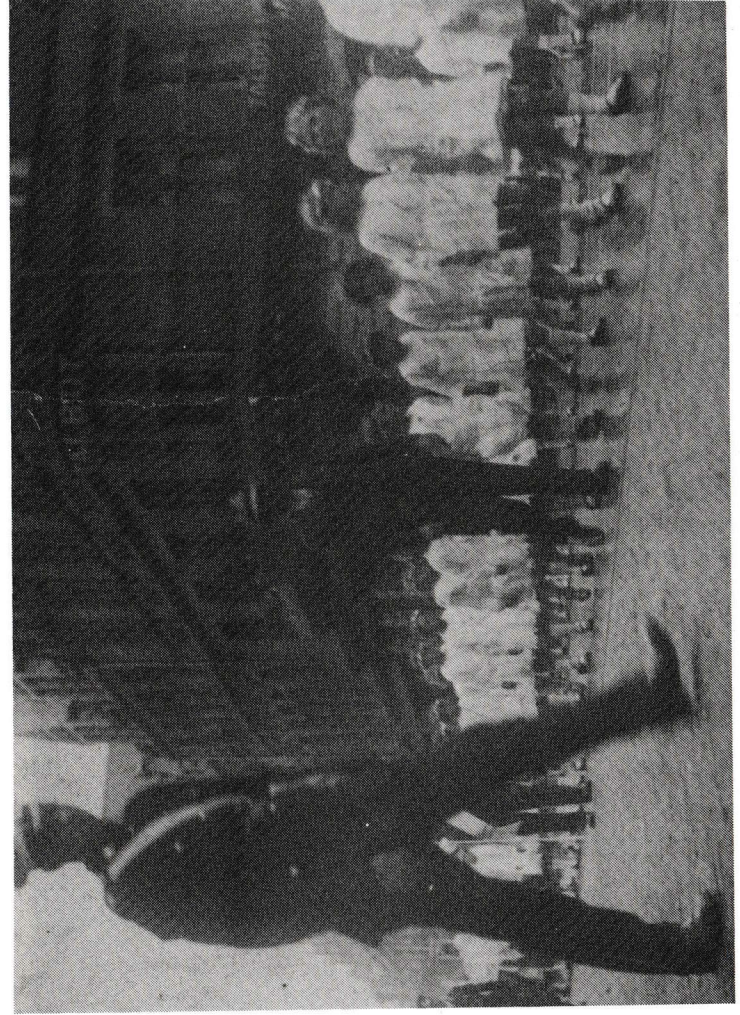
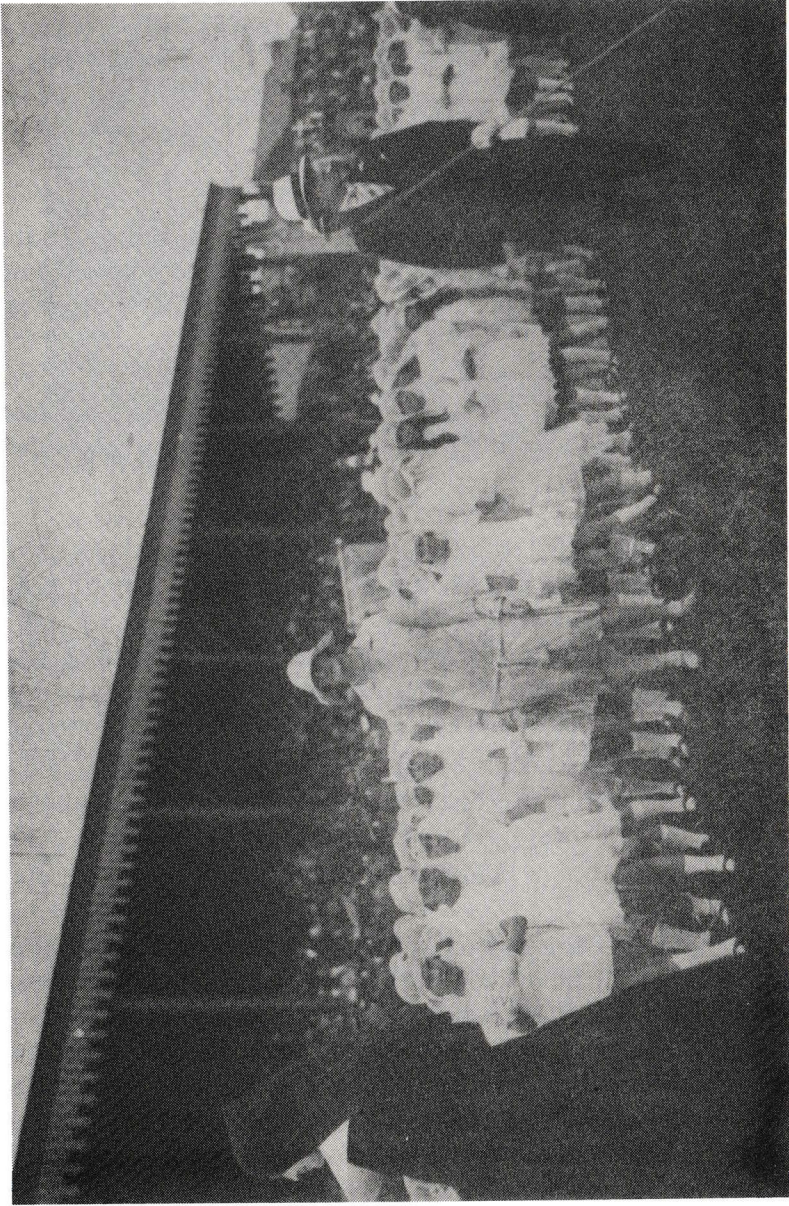
Captain R. O'Donovan M.C. of the Hope and Anchor Hotel, Dock Street, organised a Boxing Tournament in aid of the school building fund.

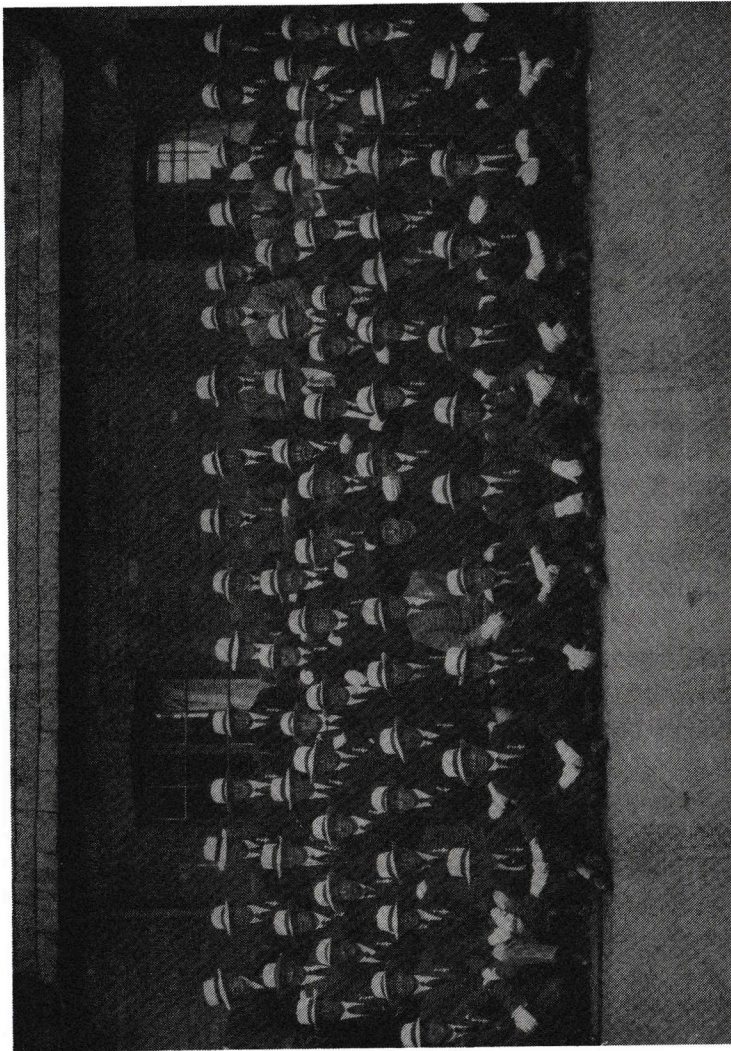
Captain Maurice O'Connell, great grandson of Daniel O'Connell, opened the new Father Hill Memorial School with a key of gold.

Mr. Fred Ryan was elected to Newport Borough Council. A group of pilgrims accompanied by Father Hart spent ten days in Lourdes in 1930. Sister de Chantal was appointed to Holy Cross School in the same year.

Corpus Christi

The Corpus Christi procession took place in fine weather. Parishioners assembled at the three churches and processed through the town, led by three bands (St. Peter's, Newport Tramways and St. Joseph's, Swansea) to the Athletic Grounds. One thousand four hundred children walked, and beautiful as they looked, perhaps more impressive were the serried ranks of their fathers and brothers who walked behind them. Twenty thousand people were present. "It was a picture which those who saw it will never forget", reported the Argus.





Father Hughes and Marshals of the Corpus Christi Procession - 1930

C.Y.M.S. Billiards team included E. Needham, W. Hard, J. Scannell, W. Holland, W. Bryant, B. Broad and W. Sefton. The C.Y.M.S. Literary Society was addressed by Bro. P. J. Ryan on the subject of Irish Poetry. C.Y.M.S. Table Tennis included Frank Murray, M. Spence and A. Murray.

The United Catholic Choirs of the three parishes held a Supper and Dance at the King's Head Hotel.

The Catholic Needlework Guild was established in the parish in 1890 to provide garments for the poor, under the Presidency of Mrs. Rotzinger, who was succeeded by Mrs. Ciceri in 1908, who was in turn succeeded by Mrs. Le Brasseur in 1919. Mrs. T. Donovan was Secretary.

The Captain and five of St. Mary's Company of Girl Guides camped at Bishopston, Gower. Miss H. Gordon was one of the Guiders.

The Hon. Evan Morgan (later Lord Tredegar) sent five Newport Catenians invitations to his wedding.

Mr. F. Ryan was presented with a gold watch as a tribute to his efficient work as organiser of Rugby Tours.

Mr. George Dibden was elected an official of the Association of Newspaper Proprietors.

Mr. Nichols More became President of the Incorporated Municipal Electrical Association.

The Home Nursing Association - for payment of one penny per week - guaranteed subscribers for self and family, visiting nursing care under medical supervision by the Queens Nurses. Mrs. Dearlove and Mrs. L. Ciceri will collect subscriptions from the forty-five members.

OLD BOYS

Mr. Thomas Pedrette visited St. Mary's School in September 1930. He was baptised in 1838 in the little chapel which the present church replaced. His mother taught in the first Catholic school

in the Old Tithe Barn opposite St. Woolos Church - on the corner of Severn Terrace. Mr. Dennis Collins also called. He remembered going to school in the Old Tithe Barn and was baptised by Father Metcalfe in the new church in 1840.

The C.Y.M.S. Swimming Team won the Newport squadron race at the Baths. The team was Carl Setterland, L. Setterland, G. Blanks and Bernard Broad. The C.Y.M.S. Baseball team included G. Blanks, J. Broad, B. Broad and W. Flannigan. Holy Cross Boys swimmers - F. Webb, T. Croston, G. Horton, H. Dowd and W. Millinship - won the Newport Boys Challenge Shield in record time. Fourteen schools competed.

Father George Payne, S.J., recently ordained, Monsignor Irvine, Vicar General of the Archdiocese, Father O'Neill, Father Roe and Father Probert all visited their home town of Newport in 1930. Bro. James Cappella also visited St. Mary's, his home parish. He had completed fifty years of teaching at Ratcliffe College and was about to become Librarian there.

Sister Lucy of the Sisters of St. Joseph had died at the age of 82 years. She had laboured sixty years in India, travelling in a rough wagon drawn by two white oxen, and had baptised over 40,000 children in that time.

Concerts on St. Patrick's Day were held at the Temperance Hall in aid of the school debt fund; Holy Cross children entertained. Mr. Pat Lenane (later Father Pat) brought a party of young performers from Dowlais, and other artists came from Cardiff.

William Lenane aged 11 years of the Holy Cross School dived into the strong running tide of the Usk and swam thirty yards to rescue a seven-year old boy.

Sister Agatha, who had looked after St. Mary's Sacristy for forty-five years, had died.

Newport Irish played Cardiff Irish at the Athletic Grounds in aid of St. Michael's School. Jack Morley captained Newport.

In June 1930, The Annual Conference of C.Y.M.S. of Great Britain was held in Newport. Four hundred delegates came from all over the country. There was a Civic Reception in the Town Hall and Pontifical High Mass at St. Mary's. Meetings were held in the King's Head Hotel. Afternoon tea was provided in the Drill Hall and, in the evening, a mass demonstration took place in the Olympia. The conference ended with a dance at the Westgate Hotel.

A number of committees were set up to organise this prestigious event. They were Hotel, Entertainments, Reception, Finance and a Publicity and Souvenir Programme Committee with thirty-eight brothers serving on them. A Ladies Committee composed of members of St. Elizabeth Guild, the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament, the Children of Mary, the Girl Guides and the Catholic Teachers provided sterling support.

Father Gerald Donohue O.P. said his first Mass at St. Mary's, his home parish, in June 1931. In the same year, the C.Y.M.S. Cricket Team was captained by Clem Glover, who still attends the Church in 1989.

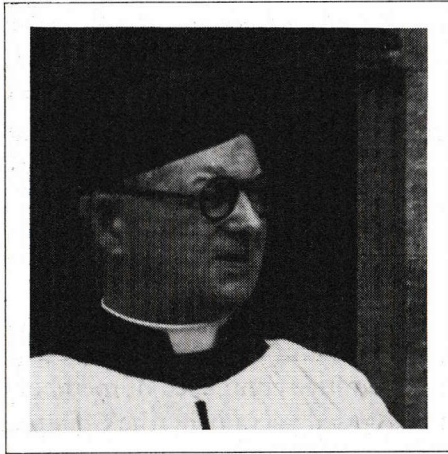
Owing to a decline in trade and extensive unemployment, the Annual Corpus Christi procession was cancelled. The parish magazines were also discontinued because "so many of our people are living on the dole and it is running at a loss".

Father Hart left St. Mary's after sixteen years. He was a devoted and much loved priest, and he was succeeded by Father John Colbert.

A meeting was held to reorganise the C.Y.M.S. in the parish. An advertisement urged Catholic wives and mothers to "ensure that your husband and sons are members". "Catholic girls, send your best boy (and others) to the 'stute, refuse to walk out with him unless he joins up".

The Catholic Swimming Club met on Friday evenings at Stow Hill Baths. The first gala was held in October 1931 and Dave Barry was the outstanding swimmer. The Parochial Social was held at the Baths, and four hundred attended.

Father Colbert



Father John Colbert became Parish Priest in succession to Father Hughes in 1936. A man of ready intelligence and practical acumen, he served the cause of Catholic Education and took part in civic affairs.

The Second World War was looming and the country was preparing for another frightful conflict.

Many young men of St. Mary's were taking part in activities offered by the C.Y.M.S. which included billiards, snooker, table tennis and even rifle shooting. The cricket team was a "force to be reckoned with" in Newport, and in 1939 won the Cup without defeat. Father Honan looked after the spiritual side of the branch and members received Holy Communion once a month on a Sunday at the 8 a.m. Mass. The Children of Mary met weekly in the Institute under the watchful eye of Doctor O'Riordon. Missions were preached at regular intervals in the 1930's and parishioners packed the Church to hear priests like Fathers Martin Dempsey, Owen Dudley and C. C. Martindale.

World War Two

World War Two was declared on Sunday, 2nd September 1939. The Second Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment marched from the Drill Hall next to the Church, led by their Bugle Band, to Newport station for active service.

St. Mary's young people were joining up and news of the first casualties soon brought grief to some families. The Memorial to those who died is in the Lady Chapel and records the names of forty-five men of the parish.

On 8th May 1945 Germany surrendered and the Church was crowded for a service of thanksgiving. The bells, after a long silence, were rung at regular intervals during the day.

The "Fifties"

Fathers J. Kelleher, G. Scott and J. O'Dwyer commenced their ministries in the parish in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Father John Whelton, an old boy of St. Mary's School was ordained in Rome in 1950. He is now Parish Priest at Bexhill-on-Sea. In 1953 Fathers Francis Ripley and Paul Thompson of the London Missionary Society preached a two-week mission here. On the final night, 1,500 turned up and 890 got in for the first service at 6 p.m. The remainder waited in the recently acquired St. Mary's Hall and then went in for a second service. John Horrigan, a devoted parishioner, died at this time. For many years he would open the church at 7 a.m. and spend most of the day there. Father John Colbert left for St. Peter's, Cardiff in 1953. Parish priest for seventeen years, he was cheerful and popular and parishioners were sorry to see him go.

Father Humphrey Holman, who had been at St. Peter's for twenty-four years moved to St. Mary's, but sadly he died within eighteen months and was succeeded by Father Tom Lenane - a native of Newport. His assistant priests included Fathers E. Manning and J. Brennan.

Father William Curran, son of Mr. Edward Curran, organist of St. Mary's and nephew of Father Tom Lenane, was ordained at the church in 1957.

Father Pat Lenane, brother of Father Tom Lenane, died in 1957. Educated at Holy Cross School, he was a secular priest in the Archdiocese.

SECOND PARISH MAGAZINE

In December 1958 the new parish magazine was launched with the blessing of Father Lenane, who reminded readers that he took part in producing "a similar magazine in 1926".

The following are extracts from editions published in the 1960's and 1970's.

Bernard Robson, a verger for thirty-five years, had made a miraculous recovery from major surgery after medical staff gave little hope to the family.

The population of the parish in 1959 was 3,698 and the Catholic community in the town numbered 9,000. The Parish of St. Anne at Malpas was founded in this year. The parish priest was Father T. Donovan.

Meetings were now being held to form a Catholic Parents and Electors Association to prepare for the much needed Comprehensive School.

The International Group led by Pam Smith held its first meeting with two Nigerians, a Jamaican, a Trinidadian and a Dutch girl.

The Thursday Club got off to a flying start. It was arranged principally for mothers to meet socially once a fortnight.

Father O'Dwyer was untiring in his efforts to organise the school collection around the parish. He was also the instigator of the talks for non-Catholics. Many were saddened when he was moved from St. Mary's to St. Peter's, Cardiff.

Father Kearns, a native of Cardiff who was ordained in 1956 after war service in the R.A.F., arrived at St. Mary's.

In 1960, St. Mary's Youth Club produced a Pantomime before an audience including the Mayoress, Mrs. Aston, and two former Mayors of Newport, Alderman Mrs. Dunn and Alderman W. F. E. Smith.

The condition of the church at this time was giving cause for concern: the floor was in a bad state and the seating antiquated. Father Tom set about the task of reconstruction with his customary enthusiasm. Services now took place in St. Mary's Hall. The old benches were removed and the floor taken up and replaced. The stained glass was removed for extensive restoration. The original box confessionals were also removed and replaced with spacious new additions to the church. The choir loft was extended out into the church and a new entrance made to enable the handicapped to be wheeled into the building. In September 1961 the restoration came to an end after months of dust and debris, and parishioners were able to worship once more in the beautifully refurbished sacred edifice.

A large number of workers, mainly Irish Catholics, were now engaged in the building of Llanwern Steelworks and a hostel to accommodate 1,000 was built, with a chapel attached, at Pye Corner. The attendance at St. Mary's at this time increased dramatically and, at some Masses, the church was so crowded that the congregation spilled down the steps and on to the pavement outside.

In 1963 Father Honan died in Ireland. He had devoted many years to the welfare of the men of the parish through the Catholic Young Men's Society and to the pupils of Holy Cross School. The new parish of St. Gabriel's at Ringland was founded in 1963, with Father T. Brennan as Parish Priest.

Benediction at Civic Centre 1963

The Corpus Christi procession was held through the streets of the town for the first time in many years. Parishioners from the Newport churches assembled in the Civic Centre grounds for Benediction given by the Archbishop, Dr. John Murphy.

The attention of the readers of the Magazine was drawn to the memorial, unknown to most people of St. Mary's, erected in the priests' gallery to Stephen Carr, Quartermaster 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers.

He shared in all the glories of the Regiment throughout the campaigns of the illustrious Wellington against Napoleon. He worshipped at St. Mary's for seven years prior to his death in 1847, aged 62 years. Another serving soldier was Bob Buxton, who left St. Mary's School aged 13 years 6 months in 1915 and was accepted into the 10th Welsh Regiment as an 18 year old. In 1916 he was wounded in the trenches in France and lay unattended from dawn to dusk. When his age was discovered, he was discharged, but finished the war in the Merchant Navy. He was an Altar Server for 25 years.

The 500th Meeting of the Legion of Mary was celebrated in 1964. The members had completed a door to door census involving personal visitation of over 8,000 homes in the parish.

Death at Lourdes

Sister Evangelist, the Headmistress of St. Mary's School died on the first day of a pilgrimage at Lourdes. She had taught at the school for forty years and was dedicated to the children.

Edward Curran, organist and choirmaster of St. Mary's for 53 years, died in 1965. His skill as a church musician was known and respected far beyond the bounds of the church. His wife and daughter Mary were talented members of the choir. He was awarded the Bene Merenti Medal by the Holy Father.

A branch of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Centre opened in part of the Convent on Stow Hill. Married couples, engaged couples, and school leavers were helped by a team of trained counsellors led by Terry O'Donovan.

VATICAN COUNCIL

The changes in the liturgy as a result of the Second Vatican Council were gradually accepted by parishioners. The Mass in English, the priest facing the people with lay readers, was a startling innovation at first. Many regretted the passing of the Latin Mass, but the Dialogue Mass soon won the approval of the majority.

A refurbished St. Mary's Hall was re-opened in the summer of 1966. The St. Mary's Film and Camera Club met regularly and recorded some parochial events on film.

The Union of Catholic Mothers celebrated their twenty-first anniversary in 1967 with a dinner. Guests of honour were Father Tom Lenane and Alderman Mrs. Dunn, O.B.E. Mrs. Kath Carroll presided and Mrs. W. Marsh, the first President, was present.

Sister de Chantal retired from her post as Headmistress of Holy Family after nearly forty years in the Emlyn Street School. She then left for the Waltair Mission in India, where in 1989 she is still working.

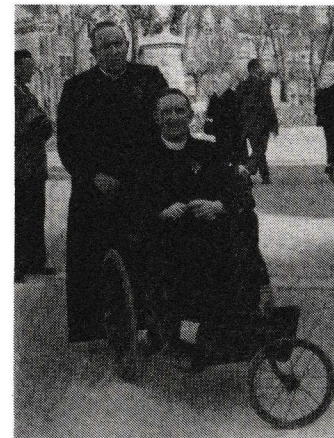
Opening of Comprehensive School

The St. Joseph's Comprehensive School for Catholic boys and girls of eleven to eighteen years opened under its Headmistress, Sister Pauline, in 1967 at Tredegar Park. The Sisters of St. Joseph, the Catholic School governors and the Newport Education Committee worked together to provide this new senior school.

The Church of St. David Lewis on the Bettws Estate opened in 1967, and the parish priest was Father Philip McAuliffe.

In 1968, Father Lenane left St. Mary's and was succeeded by Father Gilbert Jones, also a native of Newport, who came with Father Peter Eedy.

Father Tom



*Fathers Tom & Pat Lenane
at Lourdes*

Father Tom Lenane, educated at Holy Cross School, was an enthusiastic member of the C.Y.M.S. before becoming a Rosminian in the 1930's. He spent the Second World War in Rome and helped Allied servicemen to escape from the Nazis. On his return to Newport, he became Rector of St. Patrick's and his first task was to build a parish school, and then a fine new church, followed by a spacious church hall. In the later 1950's he came to St. Mary's as Rector.

In addition to modernising the church and hall, he was involved in establishing the new Catholic parishes and schools in Newport in the 1950's and 1960's. He was active in civic affairs and was popular with all sections of the community. He returned to Newport in 1978 and died a year later.

Frank Murray retired as Chairman of St. Mary's Youth Club after 30 years' service, in 1969. Presented with the Bene Merenti Papal medal, he continued to help the priests daily until his death. Alderman Mrs. Mary Dunn O.B.E., a life-long worker for the church and the town also received the Bene Merenti, together with Councillor Leo Driscoll, for many years the Correspondent Manager of the town's Catholic schools, and an Altar server at St. Mary's for over 60 years.



Presentation of Bene Merenti Medals

Bishop Mullins, Fr. Jones, Alderman Mrs. Dunn, Leo Driscoll and Frank Murray

In February 1969 St. Mary's Hall was sold. It had become a financial liability and the church authorities had no alternative. Father Jones left for Cardiff in September 1970. In his quiet way he was a tower of strength: kind, sympathetic and always cheerful. Father Barry Farmer was appointed Parish Priest. He had left Newport only weeks before for Derrys Wood. Father Tom Driscoll left in 1971 for Leicestershire. He was well liked in the parish. In his place came Father John O'Dwyer, who had spent several fruitful years in Newport in the 1950's.

The Repository

The Repository, the shop next to St. Mary's Institute where objects of piety and Catholic newspapers could be bought, closed in 1972. Owned by Mrs. Cappella in the early years of the century and later managed in turn by Miss Barry, Miss Peggy Rose, Mrs. McLelland and Mrs. Kath Iggulden, who arrived in 1937. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson took over in 1960. A faithful assistant for many years was Mrs. Frances O'Leary. Mr. Francis Hurley now provides the service in his shop in Charles Street.

The Seventies

In 1972 there were ten Catholics on the Town Council. Priests of the Catholic Missionary Society preached a Mission in 1973 to appreciative congregations. St. Mary's Film and Camera Club, led by Gordon Taylor and Bernard Davies, recorded parish events.

Centenary

The centenary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph was celebrated in September 1973. High Mass was sung by Archbishop John Murphy assisted by Bishop Mullins and Father Tom Kearns, Provincial of the Institute of Charity. Reverend Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph and 180 sisters, together with a large congregation, attended.

Lenten Station Masses once held in the early days of the church were revived in Newport in 1974.

NEW CLERGY

Family Care, the Housing Association whose Chairman was Father Tony Hamson of St. Mary's, opened its first house in Newport in November 1974.

Father Guise was here in 1974. He was ordained in 1915 and had more than one spell in the town. He had fifty years' experience as a bee-keeper. Father Michael Flook was ordained in 1975. Born in the parish, he worked for five years at Llanwern Steelworks and then studied for the priesthood with the Jesuits at Osterly. Father Chris Smith left the parish for the second time. Energetic and enthusiastic, he was involved in many activities. His successor was Father John Daley, a devoted hospital and sick visitor; his sermons captured the attention.

The Newport Catholic Society raised thousands of pounds for the parishes of the town through the football pools. It ceased in 1976, after many years of hard work by Mrs. Jean Marshall and Miss Buckley.



Fathers Guise and Huyshe

Deaths

Fr. Huyshe died in 1977 after twenty-two years' service. Chaplain to the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament, he won the admiration and respect of all. Fr. Richard Foley died in the same year. After spending ten years as a missionary in West Africa, he served at St. Mary's and then became Parish Priest of St. Michael's and St. Patrick's.

Aubrey Hames was Mayor of Newport in 1977. He became a long serving member of the Council.

Father Barry Farmer, Parish Priest, who had served St. Mary's for eighteen years, was moved to Cardiff in 1980. He was well liked, his manner was relaxed and there was an unassuming efficiency about his work.

Father Peter Eedy, who had served St. Mary's under Father Lenane, returned as Parish Priest.

Twenty parish organisations were listed in the Magazine in 1980.

Parish Council

Father Eedy announced his intention of setting up an elected Parish Council to assist in the running of the parish. Committees were formed to take responsibility for Liturgy, Building and Maintenance, third World Fund-Raising and for Social Activities.

Tony Clark, Provincial Grand Master of the Knights of St. Columba for South Wales, was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by the Pope.

Sister St. Brendan, one-time Head of St. Joseph's Convent High School, died in 1980. She had served the Catholic community for fifty years, and is remembered with love and affection by all who knew her.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement was introduced to St. Mary's through a series of talks.

In the summer of 1981, Father James Connelly died. He had been a Missioner in Africa and South America for many years. St. Mary's was crowded for his Requiem.



Staff of Holy Family Modern Secondary School c 1960

Miss McCarthy, Mrs. Geraghty, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Reardon, Mrs. Milner, Mrs. Clarke
Miss Thomas, Mrs. Curran, Miss O'Sullivan

Extension

The sanctuary at St. Mary's for some years had been found to be too small, particularly for episcopal occasions and High Masses. In 1982, therefore, the sanctuary was extended into the church by fourteen feet.

At the same time, a Parish Mission was arranged to prepare for the visit of Pope John Paul II to Britain. As the church was unavailable owing to the work being done, the Dean of Monmouth kindly offered St. Woolos Cathedral as a venue. Father Little, the Provincial of the Institute of Charity, conducted the Mission, and he preached at all five evening services.

Papal Visit

The humble Holy Father, son of Poland, captured the hearts of all from the moment he set foot here. During the visit to Manchester, Pope John Paul II ordained twelve priests, one of whom was Father Bernard Rumsey, who was born in the parish and attended St. Mary's School before going to Ratcliffe College.

On 2nd June, Pontcanna Fields in Cardiff became a vast open-air Cathedral with a congregation of over 100,000 for the Papal Mass. To help with the distribution of Holy Communion, a number of extraordinary ministers were provided by each parish, and they were commissioned by Archbishop Murphy at a special service. Later in the day, 37,000 young people from all over England and Wales packed Ninian Park in the City to give His Holiness a tumultuous welcome.

Third World Visit

In 1983, Father Eedy visited his cousin, Father Crowley, a Mill Hill missionary in Uganda. He returned with photographs of African nurses wearing uniforms given by St. Woolos Hospital, Newport. Beds no longer needed had also been sent, and St. Mary's Third World Group raised enough money to buy a new, four-wheel drive Ambulance and a complete set of spares for the Mission.

Mission

A mission was preached at St. Mary's in November 1984 to large congregations. The three missionaries visited every family in the parish, infecting all with their enthusiasm. The event culminated in a Mass, during which a baby - Emily Winter - was baptised: a symbol of new life in the parish.

C.M.S.

Mr. Bill Williams was awarded the Papal Decoration of the Order of St. Gergory for his service of many years to the Catholic Men's Society.

Religious

I have already mentioned some parishioners who have entered religious life. There are many more, including Canon Handford, who was chaplain at the convent before his death; Father Jack Sheehy, R.I.P., and Brother Jim Tomlinson, who served on the altar for many years before entering the novitiate at Wadhurst. He now assists in the Rosminian Parish in Swansea.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy includes many names from our parish families: Sister Berchmans Josephine (Marie Bennett), Sister Teresa Alphonse, R.I.P. (Madge Mahoney), Sister Mary of Lourdes (Peggy Scannell), Sister Mary Teresa (Kathleen Walsh), Sister Catherine (Teresa Curran), Sister Julianna, R.I.P. (Margaret Walsh), Sister Michael Mary (Mary Hurley), Sister Gregory (Beatrice Hale), Sister Jean (Cole) and Sisters Calasancius (Eileen Wilcox) and Elizabeth (Teresa Lenane), who have attained their Golden Jubilees. Sister Christopher, who has been working in St. Mary's Parish for most of her religious life, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her profession. Teresa Lenahan entered the Order of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre and is now Mistress of Novices.

More Rosminians

Father D. Cuddihy and Father D. Raynor served at St. Mary's before moving to St. Patrick's, and Father A. Tynan who contributed poetry to the magazine, moved to Cardiff from the Parish.

R.I.P.

Arthur Gush died in 1985. A Governor of the Catholic Schools, Editor of the Parish Magazine for twenty-five years, he was also Chairman of St. Joseph's Fete Committee and a devoted worker for the Church.

The untimely death of Joseph Witherington, Headmaster of St. Joseph's High School for twenty years, was a cause of great sadness to the school and to the community. His services to Catholic education in Newport were recognised by the award of the Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

Chapter 7

CONCLUSION

Father Peter Eedy was moved to East Anglia in 1986. He had worked with great zeal at St. Mary's inaugurating the Parish Council and changes under the new Education Act in Catholic Schools.

The present Rector is Father Eric Willett, who was Head of the Rosminian School in New Zealand. Since his arrival Holy Cross School, which was no longer needed, has been sold. The Institute has been renovated and made into a Social Club and the Presbytery and Sacristy have been entirely refurbished.

He is assisted by Father William Jackson, who taught in New Zealand for seven years and was once a chorister at Christ Church, Oxford, and by Father Bernard Rumsey, a native of Newport.

Bro. Jim Furlong, a Rosminian for fifty years, is a devoted visitor to the house-bound of the Parish. Eugene Coqueral, a popular figure at St. Mary's and right-hand man to the clergy, and Bro. Graham Venn, a student of a local college, are also resident at the Presbytery.

Father Tom Kearns, once Provincial of the Institute of Charity, and Father Peter Fenwick have recently served at St. Mary's. Father Laurence Hogan, who was here in the 1960's, is returning in 1989 for a short period.

Other priests also remembered with affection in the Parish include Fathers M. Stokes, J. Jermyn, J. Kelleher, J. Hughes, J. Walker, T. Stockham, J. Brennan, E. Manning, J. McKernan, J. Lynch and P. Downey.

The Bene Merenti Medal has been awarded to Miss Doris Pocock, Miss Doreen Fryer and Mr. Terry Ryan for service over many years to the Church.

*Memories of St. Mary's of some of
our Older Parishioners in 1989*

Mrs. Margaret Farmer (nee James) started school at Holy Cross in 1906. She remembers taking part in a debate on Capital Punishment during her school years. Sister Aquinas was on the staff, and Sister Antonia was her religious teacher. At the children's Mass on Sundays, St. Mary's occupied the left side of the church and Holy Cross the right side. They sang the Latin Mass with an element of competition. She remembers Father Hickey wore a top hat. He trained a choir of children to sing at Requiem Masses, playing the piano himself. Only people of substance had Requiems in those days. A service in the Mortuary Chapel in the cemetery sufficed for most. The building, she said, was invariably damp and "smelt of death". The better singers in Holy Cross were sent up to St. Mary's Institute to sing to the ladies of St. Elizabeth's Guild and they were rewarded with tea and biscuits. Before he left the town Father Hickey was given a great send off in the Empire Theatre in Charles Street.

Mrs. Ivy Cook (nee McAvoy) was married in St. Mary's in 1927 by Father Hart. She had attended Holy Cross School where Sister Antonia prepared her for First Communion. Father Hickey sang "Little Brown Jug" at the children's breakfast afterwards. He was popular with all and would place his hand in blessing on the children when visiting the district, irrespective of religion. There were many funerals of little ones in those days and the Rector would pay the bill for poor families. The Holy Cross children visited the bereaved and said prayers at the open coffins of the departed. The school provided a children's choir for the church and a mischievous Tom Lenane pumped the organ.

Mrs. Mary Smith (nee Sullivan), wife of Alderman William Smith, Mayor of Newport from 1934-35, attended Holy Cross School and, during her husband's public service met Her Majesty the Queen, Field Marshal Montgomery, Sir Thomas Beecham and Sir John Barbirolli.

Phil Boyce, an old boy of St. Mary's School and an altar server in Father Hickey's time, recalls his commitment on Sundays: Mass at 7 a.m. at the Convent, the Children's Mass at 9 a.m. followed by

High Mass at 11 a.m. Catechism at 3 p.m. then Benediction at the Convent at 5.30 and finally Vespers and Benediction at 6.30 p.m. Phil remembers that the Newport Schools Rugby Union was always pleased to have a St. Mary's - Holy Cross Cup Final at the Athletic Grounds because of the revenue produced by the large crowd.

As a small boy Phil served the Nuptial Mass at the wedding of Doctor McGinn's daughter. He was a parishioner of St. Mary's and Mayor of Newport in 1911. He lived in Cross House which still stands at the corner of Havelock Street and Stow Hill. It was named after the medieval preaching cross (c 1450) which stood on the pavement in front of the house, the base of which was still there at the beginning of the century and is now in St. Woolos Churchyard on the north side of St. Mary's Chapel. The top of the Cross - depicting Our Saviour, Our Lady and Saints - was knocked off and thrown into the Usk in Puritan times. It was found, deep in the mud, when excavating foundations for the present Newport Bridge in 1925, and is now on display in Newport Museum.

Phil was awarded the Bene Merenti Medal for his services to the Church.

Miss Teresa Innes and her brother and six sisters attended St. Mary's School before and during World War One. Her sister Connie is now Sister Immaculata of the Sisters of Mercy, and was at one time Rev. Mother Assistant General of the Order. Teaching staff at the school included Sister Winefride, Sister Austin, Sister Perpetua, Sister Felicitas (sister of the Abbot of Belmont), Miss Jordan, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Driscoll, Miss Walters, Miss Knapman, Miss Dixon, Miss J. Murphy, Miss F. Murphy (Mrs. Paciello still living in the town) and Mrs. Keyes.

The sisters never walked home alone from school. A pupil was always delegated to accompany them to the Convent door. Frequently one was sent to E. G. Taylor or Baker and Manhire shops to ask for various printed cotton samples, which made very good patchwork quilts.

The Girl Guide Company of St. Mary's was inaugurated by the Hon. Mrs. W. Roche of Llanarth Court in 1918. Miss H. Farrow, Miss Q. Francis and Miss M. Canning were appointed Guide Officers. It was a very happy company.

Miss Josephine Murray (a cousin of the late Frank Murray) became a Nun and taught at St. Peter's, Cardiff.

Father Winsborough, who was Parish Priest at Caerphilly, was a brother of Mrs. Dixon of St. Mary's Parish.

Father Michael Steward said his first Mass at St. Mary's in recent years and is now serving at Westminster Cathedral.

Today's Clergy



Left to Right Front - Fr. Bernard Rumsey, Fr. Eric Willett (Rector), Fr. William Jackson
Back - Eugene Coqueral (Lay Assistant), Bro. James Furlong

The Parish Today

A number of sodalities, societies and associations are connected with St. Mary's in 1989.

The Catechists are a group of men and women who undertake the instruction of converts and children who attend non-Catholic schools.

St. Mary's Cubs and Guides meet regularly under the leadership of Miss Bridie Logan, who has given many years of devoted service and was awarded the Bene Merenti Medal. The Brownies are led by Mrs. C. Wysome.

The Handicapped Children's Trust is a national body which organises pilgrimages to Lourdes annually. A parish group is involved, led by Tony Turner and Paul Wilkinson.

The Legion of Mary, dedicated to apostolic work, has been active at St. Mary's for many years.

The Catenians, an association of Catholic professional men, meet regularly in the parish.

The Union of Catholic Mothers have been at the service of the parish over a long period. Mrs. Kath Carroll has been president for many years and has been awarded the Bene Merenti Medal.

The Catholic Marriage Advisory Council provides a family counselling service for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

A ladies choir led by Miss Doris Pocock sing at the High Mass on Sundays, accompanied by Mr. Patrick Carney, the church organist. A boys choir, trained and conducted by Father William Jackson, assisted by Mr. Carney, sing at the Saturday evening Mass. At the Sunday evening Mass the singing is led by a Folk Choir accompanied by instrumentalists.

The Catholic Needlework Guild provides clothing for those in unfortunate circumstances.

The Charismatic Prayer Group meets weekly to deepen the prayer life of its members.

The St. Mary's Parish Council is a working organisation assisting the Parish Priest in the day-to-day running of the parish.

The Rosary Circle meets to give honour to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and to pray for special intentions, for priests and vocations and peace.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is engaged in visiting the elderly, the sick and the lonely of the parish.

The Altar Servers led by Mr. Francis Hurley belong to the National Guild of St. Stephen.

The Third World Group, under the leadership of Mr. George Blackborrow, provides regular support for missions in under-developed countries.

Many parishioners belong to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith.

Eucharistic Ministers assist at Mass and also take Communion to the sick.

Vergers assist at the Sunday Masses. The Liturgy at the children's Sunday Mass is arranged by a group of parents. The offertory collection is counted by a group of parishioners. The beauty of the Church is enhanced by weekly cleaning and polishing undertaken by groups of ladies.

The priests are also helped in the Presbytery by a willing band of workers who clean and cook, print and type, and answer phones and doors.

Stained Glass Windows

Before concluding, it may be of interest to give an account of the stained glass windows of St. Marys.

Standing at the back of the church facing the altar, the first window on the left portrays Jesus saving St. Peter from the waters.

It was placed by a parishioner in thanksgiving for the safe return of his son from naval service in the Second World War. The next window is one representing St. Ann, given by the congregation in memory of Sister Mary Antonia of the Sisters of Providence, Headmistress of St. Mary's Girls' School. It was placed in 1866 at the cost of £40. St. Thomas the Apostle is pictured on the adjoining window, provided by Doctor Robert Woollett in memory of his brother Thomas who was lost at sea in 1840. The cost was £37 11s. 6d. when it was placed in 1859. The St. Joseph window in the Lady Chapel is a memorial to Mr. Joseph Beaumont and his wife who died in 1849 and 1870 respectively, the gift of their son, James Beaumont. The adjoining window was presented by Mrs. Hawkins in memory of her husband, Dr. James Hawkins, in 1866, and cost £45. Under the figure of St. James was a representation of the worthy doctor engaged in his professional duties, now to be seen in St. Patrick's Chapel.

The St. Kevin window was erected in memory of Kevin Moore, R.N., who was killed by enemy action in 1940. On the left side of the sanctuary is the window of St. John the Apostle presented by Mr. John Arthur Herbert, whose arms impaled with those of his wife are at the base.

The three light windows over the high altar form a beautiful representation of the Assumption of Our Lady and replaces the original windows of the Assumption, St. David and St. Woollos, which are now placed on the right side of the church. On the right side of the sanctuary is the St. Edward window, placed by the congregation in memory of Father Edward Metcalfe in 1859 at the cost of £33 17s. 8d. The window depicting the Baptism of Our Lord in St. Patrick's Chapel was placed in memory of Mr. Gibbon who died in 1957. The Mater Dolorosa and St. Margaret windows were the gift of Mrs. Hawkins in 1882. Two skylight windows cost £3 each in 1882.

The Future

As we enter the final decade of the twentieth century, we are grateful to those who built St. Mary's one hundred and fifty years ago and to those who lovingly maintained it to the present day. We pray that it will continue to inspire the Faithful in Newport during the twenty-first century and beyond.

STRIKES AND STRIKING

THE

REV. FATHER RICHARDSON

WILL DELIVER A LECTURE ON

“STRIKES AND STRIKING,”

IN THE

ALBERT HALL,

ON

The MONDAY EVENING after XMAS DAY

30th DECEMBER, 1889,

TO BE FOLLOWED BY A

LITTLE CONCERT

BY

LITTLE PEOPLE.

The Band of the League of the Cross
will also play Selections of Music.

TICKETS, 6d. EACH.

The best Seats reserved for Workingmen and
their Wives, 3d. each.

TO BE HAD AT MRS. CAPPELLA'S, STOW HILL.

TO COMMENCE EXACTLY AT 8 O'CLOCK.

SECURE YOUR TICKETS SOON & COME EARLY,

The 40th Anniversary of the Union of Catholic Mothers 1986



*Right : Mrs. M. Doveswell, Mrs. Carew, Mrs. M. Pring, Mrs. K. Regan, Fr. Delaney, Fr. Willett, Mrs. K. Carroll
Mrs. W. Marsh, Fr. B. Rumsey, Mrs. M. Bennett, Francis Jones, Fr. Raynor
(South Wales Argus Photograph)*



St. Mary's today