

**ST NINIAN'S R.C. CHURCH,  
MENZIESHILL, DUNDEE**



**OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE**

**1969- 2019**

**50 years captured in words and photographs**



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**Right Reverend Stephen Robson B. Sc. MTH  
Bishop of Dunkeld**



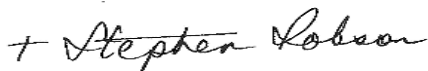
In the Crypt chapel of the Pontifical Scots College in Rome there is a beautiful mosaic in honour of Saint Ninian. In fact, the Crypt is full of reminders of Scotland as is the staircase joining the upper chapel, decorated as it is with the story of Catholic Scotland and its relationship with Rome mirrored in the stained-glass windows. In many ways these reminders of Scotland remind the countless young men who have studied and prepared for the priesthood of their homeland and of the Good Catholic People they will return to serve on ordination to the priesthood.

The mosaic of St Ninian has pride of place and the description says the following in Latin: *Sanctus Ninianus, Consecratus Romae, mittitur in patriam*. In English, this means 'Saint Ninian, consecrated in Rome is sent to the Fatherland'.

Tradition holds that Ninian was a Briton who had studied in Rome - even for a time a soldier in the Roman Army - that he established an episcopal see at a church he built, the *Candida Casa* (white church) in Whithorn in Galloway around 397, that he named the See after Saint Martin of Tours, who, again, tradition has it had trained him to become a bishop in Martin's own famous Monastery in Marmoutier, in Roman Gaul. Tradition also tells us that he converted the southern Picts to Christianity from his base at Candida Casa and that he is buried at Whithorn in a stone sarcophagus near the altar of his church. He died, according to tradition, in 432. Ninian is thus the earliest known and recognised evangeliser of our country. Together with Columba and so many other later Celtic saints the Faith has passed down to us and continues to underpin the great social and religious culture of contemporary Scotland.

My dear People of St Ninian's Parish, what a great Patron you have in Ninian! The Menzieshill area of the City of Dundee was indeed blessed when Bishop Hart decided to build your Church and dedicated it in 1969. I understand that when the church was built there was little building in this part of the city, but what a towering and great monument to our Catholic Faith this beautiful church was then and is now! And what a wonderful Catholic community has been built up here over the years.

You now are the heirs to this great tradition. As missionaries, may you carry the Faith forward also over the years to come from this church to re-evangelise our own culture. May you flourish, grow and prosper! And may the Lord continue to bless you in your work of witnessing to your Faith in your family, at work and in the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Stephen Robson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Stephen Robson  
Bishop of Dunkeld



**Rev Father Johney Raphael CST**

## FOREWORD

This year we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the life of our church, St Ninians.

Menzieshill as a community was only 2 years old when the parish of St Ninian was established but it was another 6 years before the church opened in 1969.

Menzieshill is the highest part of the city geographically, and the most westerly. From almost every vantage point you can look out over the whole town - to the East as far as the Tay estuary, to the North towards the Sidlaw Hills and to the West as far as the hills of Perthshire. Our most beautiful views are to the South, where looking out across the river Tay we see the hills and fields of Fife, almost as far as the ancient town of St. Andrews. However, In the early sixties Menzieshill was little more than a building site. The first street, completed in 1961 was Forth Crescent, two years before the first priest Fr Ross, was appointed. One of our parishioners fondly remembers moving into her new home there ...

Four years after the appointment of Fr Ross, Menzieshill's Catholic population had grown significantly and as a result, St Ninian's Primary school was built on the grounds adjacent to the site planned for our church. Thomas Nall of St Patricks' Primary was appointed the school's first Headmaster.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1969 St Ninian's church with its panoramic view of the Silvery Tay opened its doors for the very first time.

Since the opening of the Church the area has seen the building of many houses, shops, a library, schools and a Community Centre. One of the most important developments in our area however has been the NHS Hospital one of the largest teaching hospitals in the country and one which is universally renowned for its world class research work. The hospital was for many years served by the priests of St. Ninian's parish who visited the sick, celebrated Sunday Mass in the hospital chapel and often provided Requiem Masses for the many who sadly died in hospital and whose families had lost touch with their own parishes.

For our church and parish, the past 50 years have seen 9 parish priests, 8 assistant priests and a school which now has 186 pupils. The last half century has also witnessed many wonderful events in the life of St Ninians's. I hope that the following pages capture, in some small way, memories for all.

**MARGARET MACPHAIL**

*On our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we want to thank God for being with us and those that have gone before us. As we look to the future, may the Lord be with the parishioners of St Ninian's always as we continue our journey of faith and service.*

## **Design and Architecture of the Church**

The church was designed by Peter Whiston K.S.G. A.R.S.A., of Edinburgh, and built by Walker Bros., of Kirkcaldy. Together they produced a church eminently suitable for the worship of God, according to the reformed liturgy of Vatican II.

Its striking exterior is matched by its interior layout, which guarantees the proximity of every member of the congregation to the altar or sacrifice. The high altar, of Blaxter stone, is the focal point of the building, standing on a raised sanctuary, well above the level of the nave.

A mural of the Last Supper, the work of Derek Clark, Senior Lecturer in Edinburgh College of Art, adorns the sanctuary wall.

The crucifix which was suspended above the high altar was the work of Alistair Smart, of Dundee Art College's Sculpture Department but was removed in the late 80's.

The triptych of the Baptism of Christ beside the copper-topped baptismal font and the statue of St. Ninian at the main door is also the work of Alistair Smart. (photo1)

The Lady Chapel contains one, that of Christ in Glory, of the two original examples of the tapestry work of Jacqueline T. Miller, of Edinburgh. (photo 4)

Over the years, the interior has been altered but in ways which have not detracted from the simplicity and beauty of the church. As parishioners' numbers fell, pews were removed from the back of the church to reduce noise level whilst the altar and the nave passageways were carpeted. This year church walls have been revived with a fresh coat of paint and the all-white appearance of the altar has been dramatically changed with the introduction of colour on the sanctuary wall behind the altar. The wine colour contrasts magnificently with the white and black mural of the Last Supper. (Photos 2 & 3- Then and Now)

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



## The Church through the Decades

### 1963-69

**Parish Priest:** Very Rev. John Canon Ross, 1963

**Assistant Priest:** Rev. James McGuire. 1968

Before the church was built Mass was celebrated by Fr Ross at Gowrie Hill Primary school at 9.30 and 11 am every Sunday. Weekday masses were held at 7am in Fr. Ross's Presbytery at 100 Earn Crescent where a bedroom had been converted to a small chapel. During the period from Fr Ross's appointment in 1963 to the opening of the church, records show that many baptisms were carried out there.

Building of the church began in 1967 and it was soon apparent that vandals were causing problems at the building site. Tom Brown, a long-standing parishioner, remembers how he and members of the St Vincent de Paul took turns to patrol the area in the evenings to deter the vandals when the building site 'watchie' had gone off duty.

### 1969 The opening of St Ninian's RC Church

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, Bishop Hart, Bishop of Dunkeld, solemnly blessed the new church of St. Ninian and consecrated its altar.

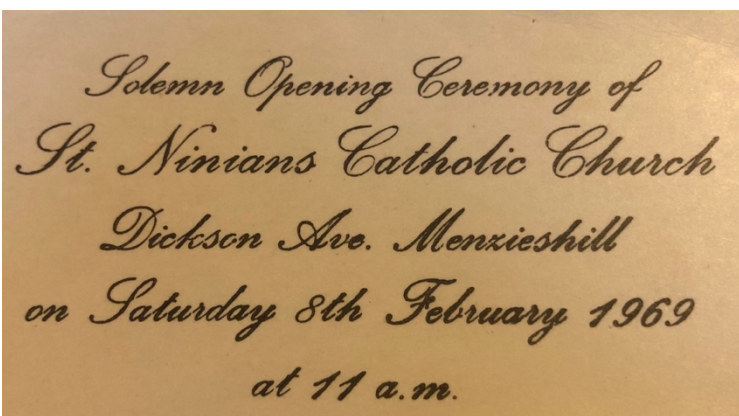
Bishop Hart, together with Fr. Ross, Fr. Klein, Fr. Cullerton, Fr. Felix McBride, Fr. Malaney and Fr. O'Farrell, concelebrated the first mass. The preacher was Fr. James Quinn, S.J.

The City of Dundee was represented by the local Ward councillors, including Bailie Dickson, after whom the street, Dickson Avenue, on which the new church stood, was named.

The Master of Ceremonies was Rev. Hugh Campbell and Rev. Peter Kaye was commentator during the ceremonial of the consecration of the high altar. Bill Butter and Davie Hart, members of St Vincent de Paul Society, laid a relic of St Ninian in the altar.

The guests at the ceremony were entertained to a buffet lunch at St Ninian's Primary School, organized and served by the Parish committee.

(An original invitation to the opening ceremony, kindly shared by Helen Neave)



## The 70's

**Parish Priests:** Rev Fr. John Canon Ross, 1963-75

Rev. Anthony Boyle 1976-1978

Rev. Hugh J. Sreenan 1978-1982

**Assistant Priests:** Rev Fr. Maguire, Rev. John Harty, Rev Matthew Leggat

**Mass times:** Sunday mornings at 9, 10.30 and 12 noon with a 6pm evening service.

**1970** The first of many First Communion ceremonies was held for pupils of St Ninian's School in the newly opened church.

**1973** Fr Ross was appointed Canon and presented with a cheque and an illuminated spiritual bouquet by the Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs.

**1974** Songs of Praise was broadcast live by BBC1 on August 11.



Maureen and Bill Butter's son, Andrew Butter, receiving his first Holy Communion from Fr. Ross in 1970



One of our original parishioners is in this photo (Betty Saunders-she's wearing a lovely hat). Can you spot anyone else?



The Christening of Ann Hughes '3<sup>rd</sup> daughter, in 1974.  
(N.B. Multis are still there!)



The Headmaster's daughter (Joan Nall) and the Parish priest's nephew (Duncan MacInnes) were married in St Ninian's by the Canon on June 1973



## The 80's

### ***Parish Priests:***

Rev Fr. Hugh Sreenan 1978-1982

Rev. Charles Hendry 1982 – 1987

Right Rev. Mgr. Benjamin Canon Donachie 1987 – 1990

***Assistant Priests:*** Rev. Matthew Leggatt, Rev. Kenneth J. McCaffrey, Rev. James H. High, Rev. Owen J. Reilly

***Mass times:*** Sunday mornings at 9, 10.30, 12 noon and 6pm with a 5pm evening service. A Saturday evening vigil mass was introduced in 1982.

1981 Right Rev Vincent Logan was appointed the 48<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Dunkeld on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

1982 Pope John Paul visited Scotland and thousands of happy, enthusiastic, vocal, young people descended on Murrayfield stadium for the 'Youth Mass'. (Stewards)

A 250,000-strong crowd which included many St Ninian's parishioners also gave Pope John Paul a very warm welcome at Bellahouston Park on Scotland's hottest day of the year.

1984 Parishioners enjoyed an ACROSS trip to Lourdes. (Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes).

1985 A service of thanksgiving to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Girl Guide Movement was held in St Ninian's on 3 November.

1987 On 5 November, St Ninian's parishioners made a presentation to Fr. Hendry who had spent 4 years as their parish priest.







*The following is an extract from the Dunkeld News*

### **Spring Fayre Raises £3000**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April saw the culmination of eleven weeks of hard work when Lord Provost Tom Mitchell accompanied by the Lady Provost opened St Ninian's Spring Fayre in Menzieshill Community Centre. When it was first announced that a fayre was to be held and a target figure was mentioned only Fr Jim High thought it was possible.

However, the target was reached and exceeded due to the generosity of parishioners and to many others out with the community who gave of their time and expertise.

Monsignor Ben Donachie managed get George Duffus to conduct a very successful auction in his own cheery style. As well as raising money Fr Owen (dressed as Donald Duck) and his camera crew provided fun for the children and adults alike. Apart from the financial success, £3000 was raised, the Fayre and the lead up to it created a tremendous community spirit.



## The 90's

### **Parish Priests:**

Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph Creegan 1990-1997

Right Rev. Michael J. Milton 1997-2001

**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Owen J. Reilly & Rev. Kevin J. Golden

**Mass times** Sunday mornings 10 and 11.30 with a Saturday evening 6.30 Vigil Mass.

- 1990 A Mass was followed by a Ceilidh in the Community Centre to welcome our twin city visitors from Wurzburg.



Rev. Kevin James Golden was ordained a priest by Bishop Vincent Logan on 23 November in Our Lady of Victories. He was appointed assistant priest at St Ninian's and St Joseph's parishes on 7 December.

- 1994 The 200 Club began in the August of this year by Mary Harwood. The lucky winner of the first draw was A??. Mulligan and September's winner was Rose Donaldson. Proceeds of this venture were used and still are used for the maintenance of the fabric of the Church.

In June, Jean McGilvery, the Cub Mistress retired. She was presented with 2 pictures and crystal sherry glasses. (the late Ann Murdoch chose the glasses because they both enjoyed a wee tippie)



- 1998 As part of a Diocesan initiative, a structural survey of the church was carried out and as a result, extensive work was required to upgrade and maintain the church. Under the guidance and support of Fr. Milton, the parishioners undertook many fund-raising activities to meet the cost of the repairs e.g. a 'Good as New' sale was held in the Church hall in June. A Parish Ceilidh was held in St Francis Church Hall in November whilst cake and candy stalls, bingo nights, cream teas and garden fetes were also great fund raisers.

## Parish Outings





## The 00's

### *Parish Priests*

Right Rev. Michael J. Milton 1997-2001

Very Rev. Mgr. Kenneth Canon McBride 2001 – 2018

**Mass times:** Sunday morning mass at 10am and Saturday Vigil mass at 6pm

**2000** On 10th June, Parishioners from St Ninian's and St Clement's shared a bus to Livingston to attend the National Jubilee event.

Several events were held that year in aid of Church funds: A Bingo night on 11 July, an Autumn fete on 21 October and a Scottish Night on 24th November.

A presentation was made to Fr. Michael who left to take up his new appointment as Parish Priest to the Cathedral.



### **2009: 40th Anniversary**

In **August** about 20 parishioners from St. Ninian's travelled with Canon McBride to the famous Cave of Saint Ninian at Whithorn - a small peninsula off the South Western coast of Scotland where it is believed that Saint Ninian first landed in Scotland and established his first religious house and Church.

The group went by coach and stayed overnight in a local hotel before making the crossing to the isle of Whithorn, where Mass was celebrated at Saint Ninian's Cave. The weather was not kind, but 'the pilgrims' took it philosophically and "offered it up"!



On 16th September, the Feast of Saint Ninian, the Parish celebrated its 40th birthday. Mass was celebrated and was attended by a huge number of parishioners as well as Bishop Vincent Logan, former Parish Priests and many other priests from the Diocese. The Lord Provost of Dundee, local MP and MSP and members of the City Council were also present.



After the Mass, a celebratory buffet and social event was held in the local Menzieshill Community Centre where the Social Committee had decorated the Grampian Lounge. Staff and management at the Community Centre were delighted with the event, as it highlighted the presence of the Church in the area and presented an opportunity for a true 'community' night.



## 2010+

### 2010 Papal visit to Scotland, 16<sup>th</sup> September.

The arrival of the Holy Father in Scotland, on the feast of St Ninian was a special joy for our parish, as for all the parishes in Scotland dedicated to Saint Ninian.

Our Parish priest Canon McBride, and a group of around 30 parishioners made the pilgrimage to Bellahouston Park in Glasgow. After the visit, Kate Hill -Thomson, a parishioner said.

"It was a magical day, culminating when the Holy Father passed within 15 yards of where we were standing. The Pope looked so serene in his Popemobile. It is a day I shall never forget. A big 'Thank you' to Canon McBride for his magnanimous gesture in sending the St Ninians parishioners for free, what a gift!"

### 2012 Monsignor McBride's Golden Jubilee Celebration, 21 June.

As Monsignor Kenneth McBride had dedicated 50 years of his life to the priesthood, the parishioners organised a fitting celebration to mark the occasion.

Bishop Vincent Logan of Dunkeld, priests, parishioners past and present and members of his family joined Mgr. Ken at the celebration, as did Lord Provost Bob Duncan and his wife Brenda and MP Jim McGovern and wife Norma.

The Mass was followed by a buffet and social event in the School Hall and there were at least 300 parishioners there - despite the dreadful weather that night. The cold and heavy rain didn't dampen anyone's spirits, and it was a night to remember.

Monsignor was presented with a cheque for £1500 for his chosen charity, Mary's Meals.



## 2018

Our Parish Priest, Monsignor Ken McBride retired

after 56 years of service to Dunkeld Diocese and 17 years to St Ninian's parish.

It was with sadness we said farewell to Monsignor Ken as he had been a wonderful priest and friend to the people of St Ninian's: a truly "good and faithful servant" of God and of his Church. After a beautiful concelebrated Mass, a buffet and presentation were enjoyed by many of his parishioners, fellow priests, friends and family in the school hall.

As with sadness we bid *adieu* to Mgr. McBride, with great pleasure we welcomed Father Johny Raphael as our new Parish Priest. He is also Parish Priest of St Clement's.

Sunday Mass time had to be changed to 9.30 to allow Fr Johny to celebrate mass at St Clement's at 11; Still have 6pm vigil

A Parish Council was set up in November with Jim Hampton as Chair, Bill Butter as Vice Chair and Jillian Divers, secretary. Their first task was to plan the Jubilee Celebrations

## 2019 Jubilee Year

- Painting of the Church
- Spiritual Renewal Retreat to be held in August 17- a priest from Kinoull to lead this;
- Pilgrimage to Whithorn also in August and will join the diocese of Galloway
- Production Jubilee Booklet
- Prayer Card



## The Parish then and now

St Ninian's is not only a beautiful church and place of worship, it is a community. From the 1960's, it has been an active parish in a wide variety of ways and the following are only a few examples which some of our original parishioners have shared.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

54 years ago, in the very early days of the parish, before the church was even built, a vibrant St Vincent de Paul group was established. Over the years, they have helped many families with financial difficulties; helped and visited those housebound; organised summer drives and Christmas parties for older people and provided caravan holidays for parishioners and their families. They have also over the years sent sick and disabled children and adults with their nurses and carers to Lourdes; sent financial aid to our twin parishes in India and Sharpeville, South Africa responding generously to appeals in times of disaster.

It was after the savage massacre of African patriots at Sharpeville in 1960, that St Ninian's twinned with a church in that area and a prayerful and financial supportive relationship began. The priest was given a warm welcome when he visited our parish in the 70's. (Bill and Maureen Butter, Alec and Anna Small, pictured with the priest above.)



More recently, when many local people found themselves in financial difficulty and unable to afford food and basics for day to day living, the parish provided support to the Food Bank network. The SVdP society appealed to parishioners to support this ever-growing need with monthly collections delivered to the local Food Bank.

This initiative is a great example of how St Ninian's acts on their mission statement of the organisation:

'Our Mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.'



It was with great regret, that the President, Bill Butter, due to a lack of new members and ill-health of present members, was forced to close St Ninian's SVdP Conference in 2019. Many thanks to Bill for the sterling work he has given to our parish over the 50+ years and continues to do.

As one parishioner told me, "Bill has gone above and beyond his duty as a member of St Ninian's parish."



Parish Outing, organised by St Vincent de Paul Society, to Crombie Park, 1990



9 of the original St Ninian's St. Vincent de Paul group.



Bishop Logan & members of St Ninian's SVDP conference.

### UCM- The Union of Catholic Mothers

Sisters, Helen Neave and Mary Irons have many fond memories of this club which began when the parish was first established. Meetings were held weekly on a Tuesday evening at St Ninian's Primary school and were open to all women of all ages who supported their aims and objectives: *'prayer, love and active witness to marriage, family and Christian life in the world'* (from the membership prayer).



The President was Agnes McGeough, Helen was Secretary and Mary, the Treasurer. Mary remembers, Fr McGuire explaining the changes which were taking place in the liturgy at that time which she found very enlightening. The group enjoyed many activities together over the years and annually organised Christmas parties for the children and provided breakfast for the First Communicants after Mass. Helen and Mary also have happy memories of the many meetings with the Women's Group from Menzieshill Parish Church which strengthened their interfaith friendships.

### Pro-life Group

In the 80's, St. Ninian's had a thriving and hardworking Pro-Life Cell.

A small group of parishioners which included Theresa Stephen, a long serving St Ninian's parishioner, met fortnightly to help young pregnant women and unsupported mothers in Dundee. They provided them with baby layettes and to help raise the money, refreshments were served after Mass on Sundays and Bingos and raffles were also organised. The school helped too by allowing Theresa to hold cake sales twice a month. From the Pro-Life cell, Theresa moved on to become a councillor with The Society of the Innocents.

In the photo, knitting layettes are Anna Small, Eileen Milton, Kathleen Butler and L Rizza,





### **Pensioners Club**

The Pensioners' Club was hugely successful for many years. It started in the mid-80s, with 70 members and a waiting list! It closed about 10 years ago, with only 12 members remaining. The merry group enjoyed over the years many activities including bus trips, local outings, Bingo and of course, the chat and friendship.



### **Drop-In**

In the 90's, a Drop-in Club was run by May McGeary who also was a member of St Vincent de Paul. On a Wednesday morning between 10am and 12, the church hall was open for anyone from Menzieshill to drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and "a natter". Many friendships were made here. This came to an abrupt end when it found itself competing with a Wednesday morning Line Dancing class in the Community Centre. As May said, "It was good while it lasted."



### **Keep Fit Club**

Also, in the 90's, Rita Hagan began a Keep Fit class in the Church Hall and it is still running today. This class has been a great source of enjoyment for Rita and of course for the



participants who have come and gone over the years but there remains a core group that have attended since the beginning almost 30 years ago. Each week there are approximately 8-10 people who attend. After the session, they enjoy “a cuppa and a blether and set the world to rights.” When they first started, the late Fr. Milton always seemed to arrive when the kettle had just boiled. Once a year they hire a coach for a summer outing and in December, they enjoy a Christmas Dinner and dancing at the Queen’s Hotel.

Rita, who is not as mobile as she was a few years back, still runs the club and is eternally grateful to her friends who ‘taxi’ her to and from the club weekly. I’m sure her class are eternally grateful to her too! (Rita is on the far right of the photo)



### Welcoming Ministry

May McGeary, Anne Hughes, Theresa Stephens, Lillian Geoffrey, Rose Donaldson are only a few of our many parishioners who have offered to ‘meet and greet’ the congregation as they enter the Church for Mass. These amazing ladies have carried out this and other duties over many years.

(Photo: May with Mary Harwood, another parishioner who worked hard for the parish)



There were many more organised groups over the years, including a Mother Theresa Group which was held in Mary Chiver's house; a Justice and Peace group, a Parenting Group run by Donna Brown; a youth group organised initially and run by Fr. High in the 80's. (photo).



Prayer Groups

**33<sup>rd</sup> Scout Group.**

33<sup>rd</sup> St Ninian's Scout Group was founded in the 60's with Sandy Lonie as the Scout Leader. The group went from strength to strength with Guides and Cubs and Brownies also available for the younger children. Dan Quinn and Mary Irons, parishioners served on the Parish Scout Committee for many years.

When Akela, (Cub Leader) Ann Henderson married David Robb in St Ninian's in 1970, the scouts and cubs formed a guard of honour. Graham, Mary Irons' son and Douglas Helen Neave's son were part of this guard of honour.



Due to a lack of leaders, the group was disbanded in the 80's but re-formed in 1988 when Brian MacGillivray offered his services as Group Scout Leader and his wife Jean became Cub Leader with Hilda Sellars and Ann Murdoch taking on the roles of Beaver Leaders. As a result of Brian's efforts St Ninian's became one of the first Scout groups to admit and attract girls to their ranks





Meetings were held in the school hall and the children enjoyed many memorable activities such as camping at Douglas Wood Scout Centre, taking part in the Dundee Gang Shows as well as a London sight-seeing trip staying in the Baden Powell House.

Their silver jubilee in 1991 was marked by a Papal Blessing which was displayed in the school and everyone was presented with a silver jubilee badge for their uniforms.



Sadly, once again, due to lack of leaders, the 33<sup>rd</sup> St Ninian's closed but joined 31<sup>st</sup> Hillside to form the 32<sup>nd</sup> Menzieshill Group in the mid 90's.

## Children's Liturgy

In the early years of the parish, the 10.30 Mass was known as the children's Mass and children from the school and surrounding area attended as a group. Over time, as Sunday Mass times were reduced from three to only one, a Children's Liturgy was and still is offered in Our Lady's Chapel, every Sunday during term time at the morning Mass.

Children aged from 3 up to First Communion age, are read the gospel in a suitable format by one of the team and then have activities to do before returning to the Mass at the offertory.

Bernadette Creegan and Denise Doig were two of the early volunteers.

The current team is managed by Gerry Dignan who recounts an amusing story from his experience of working with the children.

"Several years ago, coincidentally at Pentecost we had a group of children listening to the story of how the Holy spirit visited the disciples.

They had learned they were granted several gifts, such as love, patience, joy, courage and to keep things simple for them I said that the understanding gift was like when they had gone out to preach and everyone could understand them despite having different languages. So I said they had the gift of languages. (note the sound of that word 'languages')

Before coming out to join the congregation at the Offertory, I revised what they had learned and asked which gifts they could remember. They readily recalled most, such as 'the gift of love', 'the gift of joy', 'the gift of patience' etc and just as I was about to round it up as I heard the organ start, one child shouted out 'sandwiches!!!' (instead of languages).

I was doubled up but composed myself and knowing Canon Ken would like a laugh I left a note on the altar for him to read...asking him to mention this funny story which was received with great hilarity in the church. The gift of sandwiches!

**The team now**



## **The Church Now**

We appreciate the continuing work of parishioners, too many to mention individually, who have taken on the following responsibilities:

\*Altar Servers

Altar maintenance (Altar cloths, candles etc)

\*After Mass refreshments

Bidding Prayers

\*Cake and Candy

\*Music Ministry

\*Church Cleaners

Foodbank donation collectors

\*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (including those who take Communion to the sick in their homes)

Flower arranger

Leaf and snow clearing team

Prayer group leaders

Proclaiming the Faith

\*Readers

Repository

Sacristans

Safeguarding work

Pass keepers

200 Club

Website creation and upkeep

Weekly Bulletin

Welcoming Ministry

Last but not least, the generous businessmen who have given and continue to give their expertise without payment, to help maintain the fabric of the church.

\*photos

## Altar Servers



Ruairidh Cowieson recalls in 2009, when the family first came to the church. His sister, Hannah served on the altar and he helped Lillian who welcomed parishioners as they came into Mass handing out the hymn books and newsletters “It was good fun.”

Shortly after when he was preparing for his First Communion, he asked Canon McBride if he could defer the date as his dad was away from home on the planned day. He agreed on the condition he became an altar boy! And that was the start of his long altar serving career along with his sister.

Hannah remembers vividly her first day on the altar. She was overcome by heat because she was wearing too many layers of clothing and to her embarrassment, she fainted. Now laughingly she says, she checks with the new altar servers that they are only wearing light clothing under their cassocks before Mass and all the heaters are turned off.

Currently, Hannah, Ruairidh, Joe, Adele and Naomi, train the new and young servers and support them in the various roles.

St Ninian’s parish are very fortunate to have so many dedicated altar servers and we thank them for their continued support.







Current Parishioners











## **ST. NINIAN'S CLERGY**

### **PARISH PRIESTS**

1. Very Rev. John Canon Ross	1963 – 1976
2. Rev. Anthony Boyle	1976 – 1978
3. Rev. Hugh J. Sreenan	1978 – 1982
4. Rev. Charles Hendry	1982 – 1987
5. Right Rev. Mgr. Benjamin Canon Donachie	1987 – 1990
6. Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph Creegan	1990 – 1997
7. Rev. Michael J. Milton	1997 – 2001
8. Very Rev. Mgr. Kenneth Canon McBride	2001 – 2018
9. Rev. Johney Raphael CST	2018 –

### **ASSISTANT PRIESTS**

1. Rev. James McGuire	1968 – 1979
2. Rev. John Harty	1977 – 1978
3. Rev. Matthew Leggatt	1979 – 1982
4. Rev. Kenneth J. McCaffrey	1982 – 1986
5. Rev. James H. High	1986 – 1988
6. Rev. Owen J. Reilly	1987 – 1990
7. Rev. Michael J. Milton	1990
8. Rev. Kevin J. Golden	1990 – 1997

## St Ninian's Jubilee Prayer

O God, our Heavenly Father, we praise you for the 50 significant years that you have bestowed on St Ninian's Parish. The ever powerful and compassionate God, we glorify and thank you for the gifts of faith and fidelity to your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayers and send forth your Spirit upon us during this time of preparation, so that we might be a community that is reconciling and forgiving; faithful to your teachings; full of faith, hope and love; is just and seeks justice; is alive to the needs of others; is living out its call to proclaim the Good News, so that all people may come to know you as their Lord and Saviour.

May we, your Church, with the help of Mary our Mother and the intercession of St Ninian, become a true sacrament to the world.

This we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen