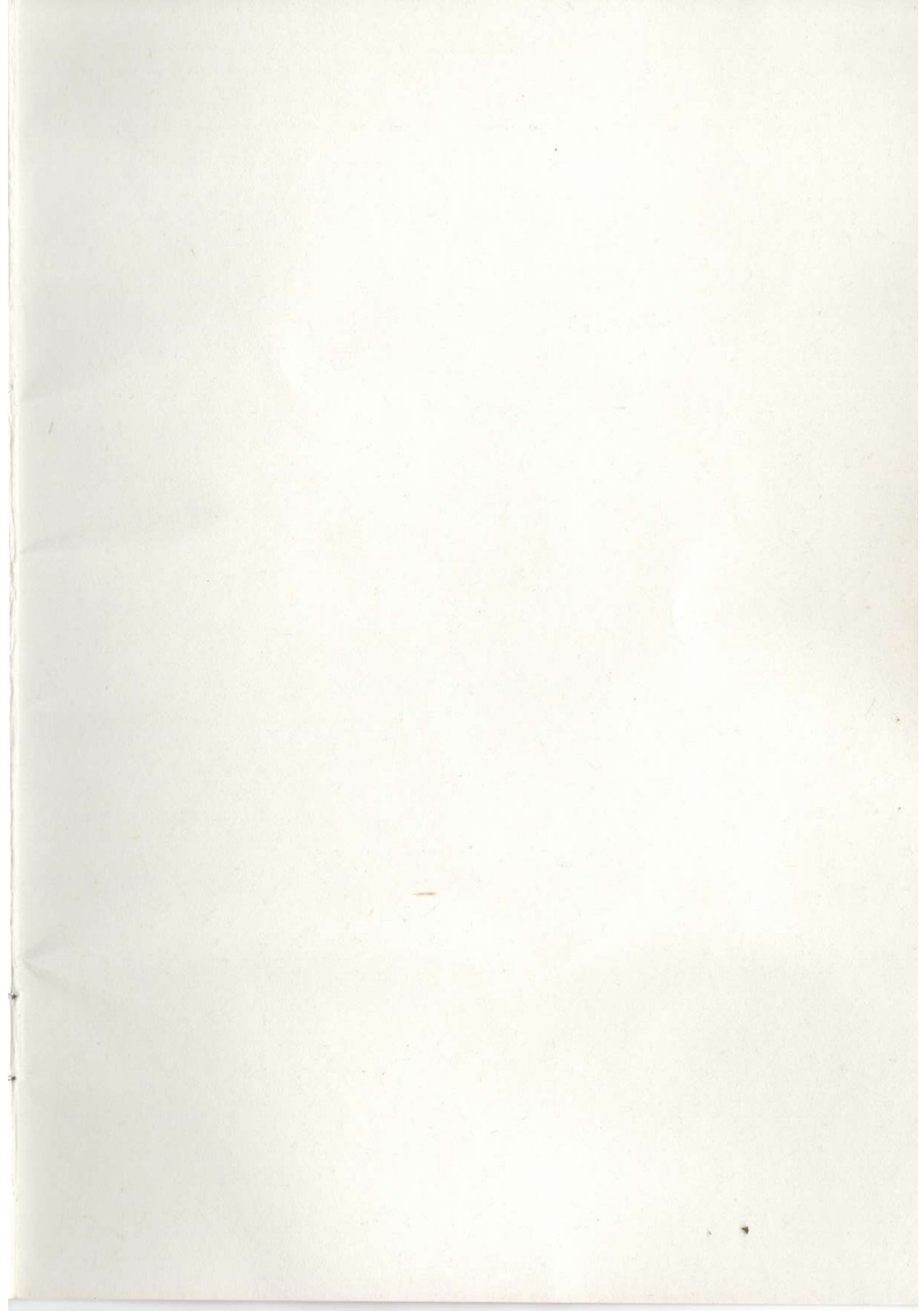


St. Edward's Parish

Airdrie



Silver Jubilee



Mary Scimomenetto

Silver Jubilee

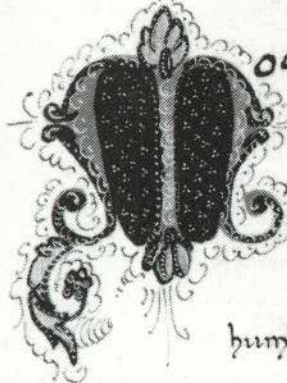
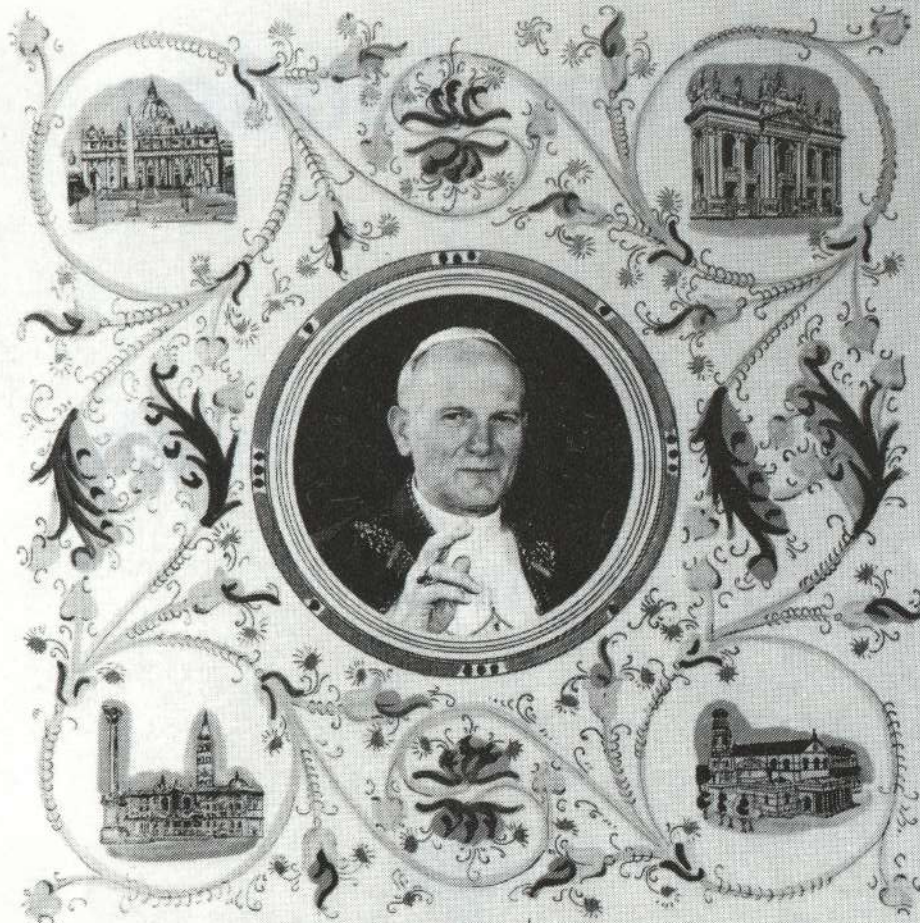
of

St. Edward's Parish,

Airdrie



On SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER, 1985



Most Holy Father,
 the Parish Priest, the Rev.
 Laurence Kenny and the
 Parishioners of St. Edward's
 Parish, Birnie



humbly beg of Your Holiness the
 Apostolic Blessing

on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Foundation of
 St. Edward's Parish, on 13th October 1885

Huius Omnium Benefactorum Apostolicam causabit
 Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, Romae, 25 Septembris 1985
 + Aedibus M. Birnie
 Archiepiscopus
 Eleazarus Simeon Pontifex



From the Right Reverend
Joseph Devine

25th September, 1985

Dear Parishioners of St. Edward's,

The occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the foundation of your parish clearly invites me to offer you the congratulations of the Diocese. I do so unreservedly in the light of all that has been achieved for you and by you over the last quarter of a century.

The late '50s and early '60s was a time of remarkable development throughout the Diocese. Many new parishes were established and churches built to meet the needs of the new communities being established in the larger towns of Lanarkshire. Those days of industrial, commercial, and domestic expansion are gone and the pioneering work of the founding fathers—clerical and lay—are over. To those men and women we owe an immense debt of appreciation for their vision, endeavour and generosity.

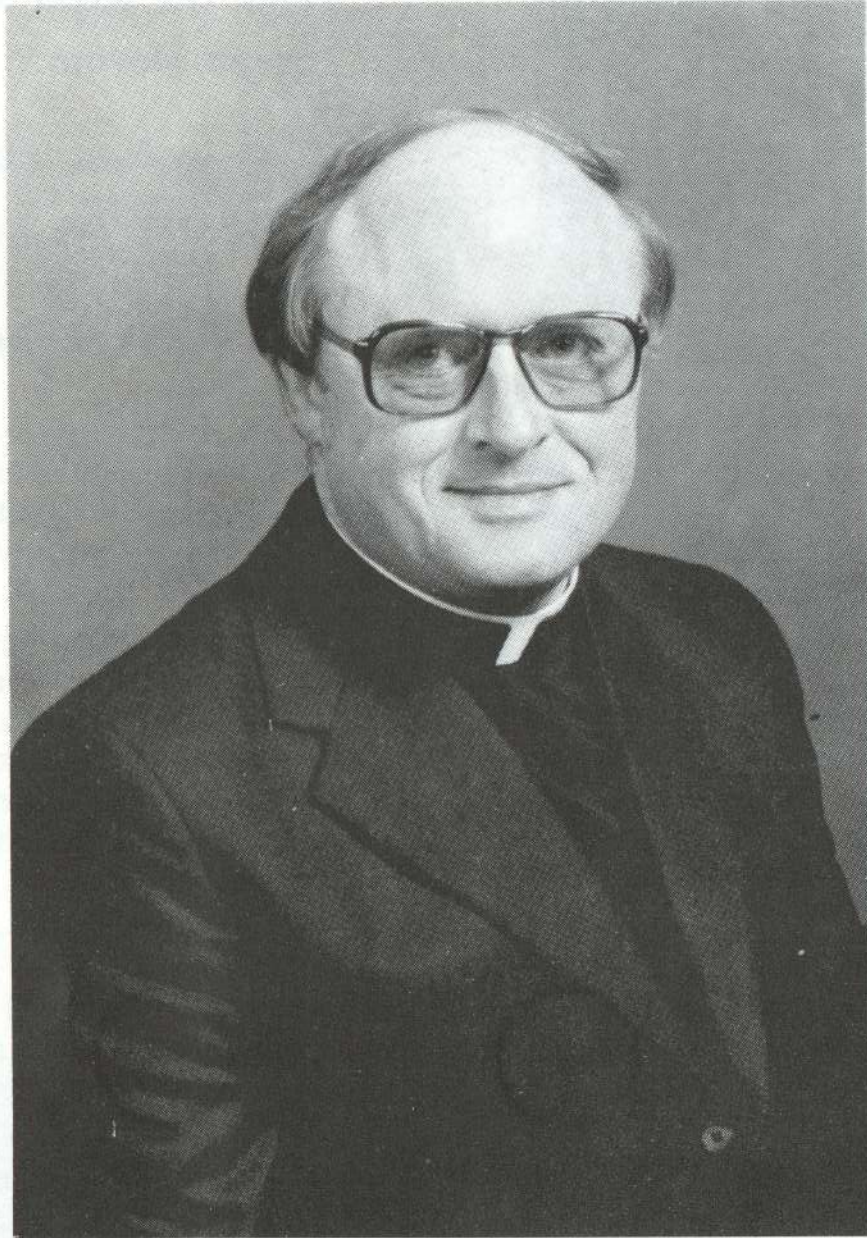
So, if you move past this significant marker—this parish life—it is to the future of St. Edward's that we must look. That future not only belongs to you: in a deeper sense it depends on you. It depends on the kind of choices you will make if you are to realise more fully the call of the Vatican Council that we be the People of God, a people set apart, a holy nation, a consecrated race.

All of those phrases tell us that we are invited to be a real community, a caring, sharing, loving, community. That caring should be open to all, that sharing in relation to those who are most needy, that loving most fully in the intimate circle of the family. Those are the great values of that Kingdom which we are called to develop over the earth, the Kingdom of God—the Kingdom of love, peace, goodness, and freedom. Under the gentle guidance of your spiritual leader, Father Kenny, and his long-time associate and friend Father Garrity, I have every confidence that you will help each other—and especially your many young people—to maintain and enhance the good repute of St. Edward's, Airdrie.

With every blessing.

Yours devotedly,

+ *Joseph Devine*
Bishop



A Message from the Parish Priest

Twenty-five years have passed since the late Archbishop Scanlan, then the Bishop of Motherwell, appointed Father Thomas Barry to establish the new parish of St. Edward.

Today it is with feelings of thanksgiving and joy we welcome Bishop Joseph Devine, to join with us in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the foundation of the parish.

A quarter of a century is a milestone in any situation and in the nature of things brings its changes. Much has happened since the 14th October 1960 that is quite unique. Surely the highlight was the formal opening of the new church of St. Edward on 10th December 1967, by Bishop Francis Thomson, then Bishop of Motherwell.

The opening of the new church seven years after the foundation of the parish was a matter of particular rejoicing that the residents in the west end of Airdrie should have been provided with a permanent centre of worship, which they had lacked for so many years. Airdrie Catholics had a long and valued tradition of a deep faith and active practice based on the oldest church in the Diocese of Motherwell, indeed one of the oldest churches in the West of Scotland. St. Edward's church, has perpetuated that tradition and at the same time in accordance with its modern design has projected to the Airdrie of today, that renewal of the liturgy and life of the Church which was called for by the Second Vatican Council.

The confidence of the first parish priest and vision of the first parish committee (many of whom happily are here with us today) has not been misplaced, as is exemplified in your love of the Mass which you recognise as the centre of the community's Life and the fulfilling of Christ's command. "Do this in memory of me."

The Second Vatican Council declared that, "the liturgy is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all her power flows" (Constitution on the Liturgy, Art. 10). In the same document the clergy are directed to concentrate their best efforts towards a worthy celebration of the Sunday Mass (CF Arts. 42 and 49).

It was a one-time British Secretary of State for Ireland, Augustine Birrell, who declared his conception of the source of the religious tenacity of the Irish people in the words, "It is the Mass that matters."

What an honour and a privilege is ours; let us pledge ourselves in this our Jubilee Year, to maintain and enhance, if possible, our devotion to the Mass. "Men have found no better 'way' than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for a bride and bridegroom—for a sick old woman afraid to die—for a schoolboy sitting an examination—by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively by an exiled bishop who has hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk—one could fill many pages with the reasons why men have done this, (to observe the command, "Do this in memory of me"). Was ever another command so obeyed?" (The Shape of the Liturgy).

LAURENCE KENNY

ST. EDWARD—HISTORICAL NOTE



Nine centuries ago almost to the year, St. Edward built his world-famous church, Westminster Abbey. After a life of piety, which earned King Edward the title of The Confessor, he meant this building to be his crowning achievement—and indeed so it proved.

This magnificent edifice was completed shortly after his death in 1066, and the saint's body was interred there. He was canonised in 1163, and was patron saint of England before St. George.

The Abbey was rebuilt in Gothic style by Henry III as a setting for a shrine into which the saint's body was transferred in 1268. The reconstruction, however, continued until completion in 1504 in the reign of Henry VII. At this time the Chapter House of the Abbey was used as a meeting place of the House of Commons.

It had originally been built as the church of a Benedictine monastery, but it was on a grander scale than many cathedrals. In 1540 the monastery was dissolved by Henry VIII, yet the church, which continued to be used, retained the name of Abbey.

The most sacred spot is behind the High Altar, the Chapel of St. Edward the Confessor. As well as the tomb of the founder, the chapel contains the Coronation Chair. This is yet another indication of the close link which has existed for centuries between the Abbey and the reigning monarch. Practically all the kings and queens of England have been crowned there, and even today the monarch rather than any bishop or archbishop has authority over it.

Westminster Abbey down the centuries has been a constant, ever-present theme in the unfolding tapestry of British history.

A Silver Jubilee Perspective

When a great milestone is reached in the history of a parish such as its Silver Jubilee, it is an appropriate opportunity to pause and devote some time to reflect on its origins and past history. This surely is due at least as a token of respect and gratitude to those who in difficult times and despite straitened circumstances, shouldered the tremendous responsibility of rallying round their appointed priest in establishing the parish of St. Edward, building the church and presbytery and maintaining them. Had they not done so, we would not have had anything to celebrate today.

Modern-day society depends on organisations and the Church is no exception. From the founding of St. Edward's, organisations which cater for the varied needs of the parish and its parishioners have been prominent.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society—As one of the original organisations the Saint Vincent de Paul Society occupies a special position in the parish. Founded in 1960, St. Edward's Conference in 1985 retains all the spirit, strength and ideals of its founder in 1833, Frederic Ozanam and its patron St. Vincent de Paul. Although small numerically, the Conference of Brothers and Sisters rivals and in many instances surpasses in activity and in dedication many Conferences from larger and longer established parishes. St. Edward's



Parish Committee, 1960-61

Conference in addition to dispensing financial aid to the poor and needy, a major task is visiting and counselling persons and families experiencing difficulties and problems of all types. Again the wider role of the Conference extends to a twin Conference in India, together with the visitation of local hospitals,—Monklands General, Wester Moffat, Hartwood and Assumption House—with visits to local authority Old People's Homes. Each year the Conference has the honour of entertaining the senior citizens of the parish to a Christmas Dinner. It is the continued privilege of the Conference to use all charitable donations wisely for the relief of the poor and underprivileged of all denominations.

Recent innovations in the liturgy of the Mass in the past few years have been very progressive, in so far as they showed a deeper involvement, and a more meaningful participation, in the Mass by the laity. There are three specific groups—Eucharistic Ministers; Lay Readers and Gift Bearers.

The function of the Eucharistic Ministers is to assist the priest when necessary in distributing Holy Communion at Mass; to take to the sick and housebound the Body of Christ, to comfort and console them that they may know that they are not forgotten, but are in our prayers and thoughts.

Lay Readers—their title denotes the duty they perform at Mass: to read the scriptural texts from the Old and New Testament, clearly and distinctly.

Gift Bearers—is a very significant and important role to perform and the family selected are greatly honoured and should always remember that they are representing the congregation in bringing to the altar the gifts to be offered at the Mass.

Altar Boys—are the same the world over; when vested in soutane and surplice, they look like little angels, but that mischievous twinkle in their eyes betrays them. Our boys are well coached in serving Mass; in all their movements, they act with great dignity; this tradition of good altar servers, has been handed down through the years and they are justifiably proud to be one of God's servers.

God's Charwomen—They are the ladies who take great pride in keeping God's House beautiful. You will find them in the church every Wednesday after the 10 o'clock Mass. Their names are not mentioned because they prefer to remain anonymous: one other, worthy of mention, is the lady who looks after the altar linen and keeps it spotless. We are most grateful to those ladies and proud of them for keeping the church so clean and beautiful.

Union of Catholic Mothers—Throughout the twenty-five years since the foundation of the parish, the UCM has been a power house in the spiritual life of the parish. They have taken it upon themselves to organise Retreats for the women of the parish; they also continue to be a source of financial help to Church Students and many other worthy causes have been the recipients of their generosity and their organisational prowess. It is our sincere prayer that the UCM in the next twenty-five years will be as co-operative and helpful as in the past.

Sacrament of the Sick—This Sacrament was formerly administered in private and still is, in individual cases, in hospital and in the home. Now it is also administered in a communal celebration at a special Mass for the sick and elderly, at least on two occasions of the year. This ceremony involves the whole parish; car owners are invited to ferry the sick and elderly to and from the church, and they do; the patients from Wester Moffat Hospital with their nursing staff, are brought to the church by ambulance buses. The whole atmosphere in the church is reminiscent of incidents in the gospel: when people heard that Christ was in the area, they flocked to him bringing their sick to receive his blessing. Peace of mind and happiness pervade.

Senior Citizens—The growth of the St. Edward's Senior Citizen Friendship Club reflects the maturity. Founded three years ago, the "Friendship Club" goes from strength to strength. According to its members, "Its the best wee club in Airdrie." Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, the club provides an invaluable social outing for its members. The club runs a number of fund raising events and organises a variety of socials and excursions for its members and their friends. Again it has made a number of significant donations towards the upkeep of the parish hall. Although based in St. Edward's hall, the club is non-denominational and extends a *cead mile failte* to all senior citizens in the area.

Primary Schools—St. Edward's School was in existence and flourishing before the foundation of the parish. Due to numerical expansion, St. Dominic's School was open in 1969 as serving a need that was overdue in the parish.

First Communions and Confirmation are "red letter" occasions in the life of every Catholic school. Preparation for these very important days in a Catholic pupil's life naturally involves many hours of patient preparation and instruction by the teachers responsible. In this respect the efforts of both staffs with First Communicants and Confirmandi over the years are particularly outstanding.

The school is only as good as its staff. Both schools are fortunate in having competent head teachers and dedicated teaching staff. Both schools had their share of success academically with many former pupils achieving success at college and university level. A number of vocations have come from both schools and in our senior and junior seminaries.

An aspect of the school that tends to be overlooked is the valuable social function it provides outwith normal school hours, being as both schools are, centres for a variety of activities especially those connected with youth groups and related organisations. For many years the association of parish and schools has been an invaluable element of Scottish Catholic life—long may it continue and flourish in St. Edward's Parish, Airdrie.

Those referred to are only a drop in the ocean. Very much in our thoughts are the silent majority of the faithful of St. Edward's. Those who have gone before us, we remember at God's altar, those whose fellowship we now share, for them we give thanks and praise.

Past Parish Activities





Present Parish Activities



S.V.D.P. Conference



U.C.M.



Altar Boys



Girl Guides

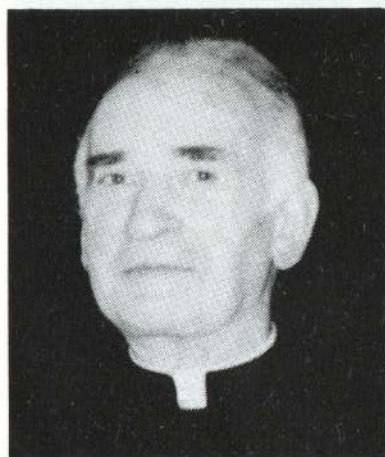
PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED IN ST. EDWARD'S PARISH

PARISH PRIESTS:

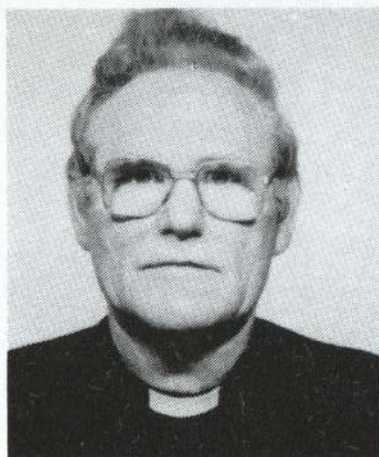
Rev. Thomas Barry..... 1960-1972
 Rev. William White..... 1972-1981
 Rev. Laurence Kenny..... 1981-

ASSISTANT PRIESTS:

Rev. Vivian Hayes..... 1964-1970
 Rev. John Cushley..... 1970-1972
 Rev. John Taylor..... 1972-1973
 Rev. Edward Doherty..... 1973-1981
 Rev. Denis Garrity (Retired) 1981-



Reverend Thomas Barry



Reverend William White



Reverend Denis Garrity

VOCATIONS FROM ST. EDWARD'S PARISH

Priests

Rev. James Morris..... St. Columba's, Viewpark
 Rev. Charles Morris..... St. Bride's, Cambuslang

Brothers

Brother Joseph O'Toole..... Franciscans
 Brother Martin McClorey..... Divine Providence

Nuns

Sister Maria Goretti (Theresa Feeney)..... Good Shepherd
 Sister Mary Clare (Agnes McMeekin) R.I.P..... Carmelite
 Sister Mary Michael (Catherine McMeekin) R.I.P..... Sister of Charity

PRAYER TO ST. EDWARD

*God,
who hast crowned thy confessor
the blessed King Edward
with everlasting glory,
we pray thee
grant that we may so revere him on earth
as to be counted worthy
to reign with him in heaven.
—Amen.*

John S. Burns & Sons, 25 Finlas Street, Glasgow. G22 5DS