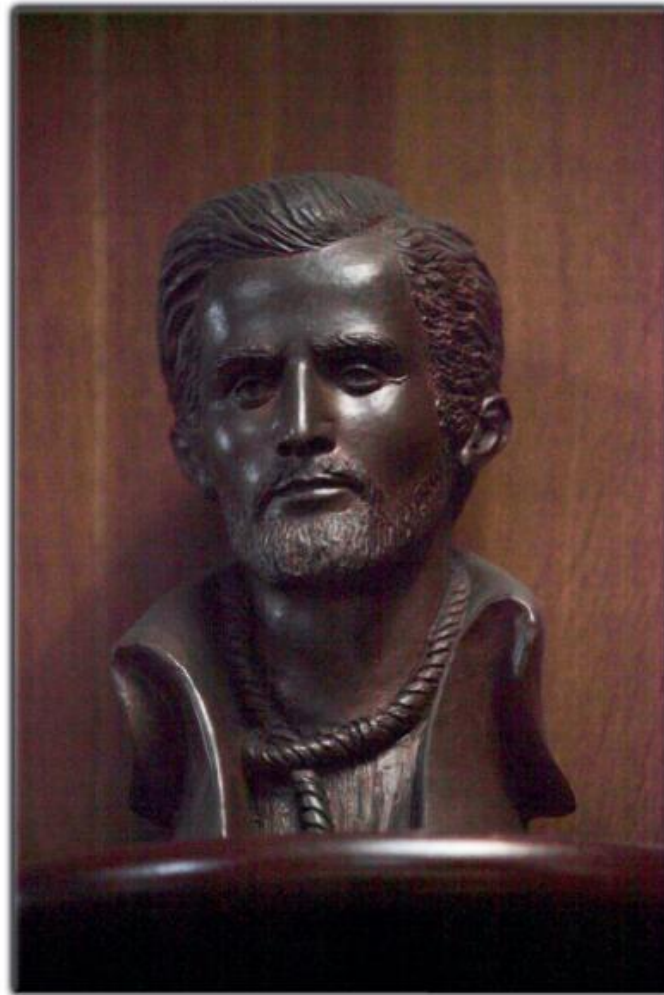


*St John Ogilvie's Parish
Edinburgh
1970 - 2020*



Golden Jubilee



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I send my heartfelt good wishes to you on the happy occasion of the 50th anniversary of St John Ogilvie's Church.

As you give thanks to God for the many years of grace-filled service of your pastors and the enthusiasm and hard work of yourselves and the many Catholics who have gone before you, I ask St John Ogilvie, your patron, to continue to inspire you to courageously hold on to our faith and to stand up for the truth.

With every prayerful good wish, I am pleased to impart my blessing to all of you.

Edinburgh, 18 January 2023

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠ Leo Cushley

Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh

*A Message from Fr Oliver Barry,
Provincial, Oblates of Mary Immaculate*



I remember well the excitement among us students when the Oblates took on responsibility for the parish of St. John Ogilvie, Wester Hailes during 1980. We were just ordained and anxious to know who would be appointed to this new mission. Peter Clucas got the prize much to the envy of those who were ordained with him. With Tony Clancy as Parish Priest, they then headed for Wester Hailes to engage in this New Mission which had been established as a parish in 1970. Since then, many Oblates of Mary Immaculate have served the people of Wester Hailes. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate fifty years of service to the Mission of the Church. During these times much has changed. The Church faces new challenges. The local faith community needs to provide its own leadership. People need to come forward and offer their service in all aspects of Church Life. This parish has been strong in Lay Leadership over the years. There has always been a strong emphasis on Justice and Peace.

In the days to come there will be major changes in Parish Life. How the future will evolve depends on the quality of local leadership. Leadership for parish life needs to be deeply rooted in the Gospel. The Parish is not just another organisation. It is the means by which the message of Christ is shared in the context of community and society in which we live. Celebrating fifty years of parish life provides an opportunity to look forward. Solid foundations have been laid. Now is the time to put in place what is needed for the future. We might take some inspiration from two great figures, Blessed Oscar Romero and Pope Francis. Oscar Romero said in a reflection attributed to him:

"We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are the workers, not the master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are the prophets of a future not of our own."

Pope Francis said:

"I dream of a missionary option, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's way of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for self-preservation."(*Evangelii Gaudium*)

I thank the Faith Community of St. John Ogilvie Parish for your faithfulness and I wish you every Blessing for the years to come.

Oliver Barry OMI

A Message from Fr Tony Quinlan



The parish of St John Ogilvie's was established in 1970. Fr John McQuade SJ was appointed first parish priest. Fr John set about building a community and a church. In 1980, the Jesuits withdrew Fr John for another ministry in northern Scotland.

In June 1980, an agenda item on the AGM of the Oblate Provincial Assembly was "Wester Hailes." This was the first time most Oblates had heard of the new development on the west of Edinburgh. Cardinal Gordon Joseph Gray approached the Provincial with the request for two Oblates to serve this new mission. Cardinal Gray was familiar with the pastoral care offered by the Oblates, his family had been domiciled in the Parish of Star of the Sea Leith which has been served by the Oblates since 1859.

In the 1970/80's many Religious Orders and Congregations made fundamental options to return to their roots, as missionaries, to focus on foreign missions and specialise in new ministries. The Oblates were part of that reflection. World conditions keep changing with the times, movement of populations have brought to our doorstep those we used to call "Foreign Missions". The debate in the Oblate Provincial Assembly of June 1980 was prolonged, by no means rubber stamped, but eventually was adopted on a simple majority vote. The Oblates made a positive response to the invitation of Cardinal Gray.

Over the years the Cardinal had always joined the Oblates in Leith to celebrate their Feast Day on the 8th of December. I expect this contributed to our decision in favour of Wester Hailes.

The Oblates who served at St John Ogilvie's over the past 40 years are mentioned in this booklet. Each contributed to a seamless pattern of community-building. The Oblate tradition in pastoral care is to encourage parishioners to take ownership of the mission. Volunteering is at the heart of how we live in St John Ogilvie's. Catechetical Programme, Liturgy, secretarial, financial management, husbandry, Justice & Peace, Safeguarding, etc are all carried out on a voluntary basis. We also cultivate an economical (some say frugal) lifestyle. Rather than a Golden Jubilee production from the pen of the parish priest, we have invited parishioners to write of their experience as members of the parish community.

St John Ogilvie's : 1970 - 2020

Commemorating 50 years of St John Ogilvie's parish will bring back many wonderful memories for a many people here in the parish. In this Golden Jubilee booklet, we want to share some of our memories with you and to give you a flavour of our history, particularly our early history.

We are a small but active Roman Catholic parish situated in the South-West of Edinburgh. We serve the areas of Baberton Mains, Calders, Clovenstone, Dumbryden, Hailesland, Murrayburn, Sighthill, Westburn and Wester Hailes.

Much of the early history of the parish is recorded in our Silver Jubilee booklet which was published in 1995. The booklet was edited by Fr John Lee who, at the time, likened the development of the parish to weaving a tapestry. He recalled that on a visit to a parishioner's house he had watched her as she patiently weaved many different coloured threads in and out of the cloth. He noticed that the many threads used, and the intricate stitching were all brought together to form a beautiful picture. Father John concluded that such was the life and work that had gone on in this parish during its early days. The parishioners working together in many ways to form a living, vibrant community that grows and develops with each stitch that is added.

So, where was the first stitch in the development of St John Ogilvie's parish woven? The parish was founded in 1970 in what was then the new housing estate of Wester Hailes. This was only a few months after the first houses in Wester Hailes had become occupied. Very little housing had been built at that time but plans for the area envisaged that the population would in a short time rise to around 20,000.

In October 1970, a priest from the Sacred Heart parish in Lauriston was "despatched" to Wester Hailes to set up a parish there. The priest in question was Father John McQuade, SJ who became the parish's first Parish Priest. The parish was, at the request of Father McQuade, dedicated to the then Blessed John Ogilvie.



Fr McQuade's first few months were spent making a survey of the Catholics in the area. The first parishioners, some 40 or so of them, were from Dumbryden and Murrayburn which were the only two parts of Wester Hailes that had been built by that time. The first baptism in the new parish took place on 20 December 1970.



First Occasion

BABY Anthony Rafferty made his debut last week — at the same time making a little bit of church history in his home area. He is the first child to be baptised in the Wester Hailes area of Edinburgh since the Jesuit Fathers took over the new parish which has grown out of

the older one of St. Cuthbert's.

Fr. John McQuade, S.J., officiated at the ceremony which took place in St. Cuthbert's. The whole Rafferty family were present at the baptism as is recommended by the new Baptismal Rite.

With there being no church building at the time, Mass was celebrated in parishioners' houses and in the near-by St Cuthbert's church. Later, and until 1978, services were held in two local schools. The first of these was Dumbryden School (the only school built at the time but now demolished) where we used the gym hall for Sunday Mass.

As it was a primary school, parishioners had to sit on tiny chairs provided by the infants' department. 'Chairs' have been a particular feature of the St John Ogilvie parish story. More about that later. The pupils in St Augustine's High School, which only opened the year before in 1969, made a portable altar which was kept in a parishioner's drying green during the week and carried over to the school by two men every Sunday morning. Our first altar servers! We had the use of the local Community minibus and two parishioners took it in turns to transport the senior parishioners to and from Sunday Mass each week.

In those early days, much of the work of parishioners was directed towards raising funds to build a church. Two prominent people involved in fundraising from the very beginning were Annie Clark and Mary Branney. Both senior citizens at the time, they worked tirelessly, and sometimes into the night, knitting, sewing and crocheting to make toys, ornaments and Christmas decorations to be sold at the sales of work which the parish organised. One early sale of work, held in Dumbryden School, was opened by "the undisputed lightweight champion of the world, Ken Buchanan. Ken was a major attraction on the day and, as a result, the sale of work was very well attended and raised a substantial amount towards the church funds.

"Wester Hailes Sentinel"

St John Ogilvie's Autumn Fayre
31 October 1987

GOING
GOING
GONE



Over 1000 people thronged to the Autumn Fayre held at St John Ogilvie's Church on Saturday October 31st. The Fayre was a bargain hunter's dream with stalls offering a wide selection of goods. Most popular was the auction (see pic above). A grand total of £2,400 was raised, which will go to the St John Ogilvie's building fund.

Sales of work were to become an annual event in the parish. In later years they became "the Autumn Fayre". The parish also raised funds through sponsored walks, beetle drives and dances held in local pubs and hotels and also in the halls of St Cuthbert's in Slateford.



It was, however, not all work. The parish also organised outings and picnics to such places as Linlithgow, Haddington and Vogrie Country Park as part of the social fabric of the tapestry. One of the very early picnics in 1972 was to Aberdour in Fife. In that year, the President of Uganda, Idi Amin, had ordered the expulsion of his country's Indian minority, giving them 90 days to leave the country. Not long after that, we had two families from Uganda who turned up at the Mass in Dumbryden School. They did not expect to be going to a picnic but they were warmly welcomed and joined the rest of the parish for a wonderful day out in Aberdour. "Welcome" has also been a feature of St John Ogilvie's.



But the welcoming was not just given, it was also received. Our two neighbouring churches, Holy Trinity and St Nicholas made us most welcome and allowed us the use of their premises for some of our social events. This was a great help to us and enabled us to hold events that we could not otherwise have held. One such event, held in St Nicholas, was the "variety concert". It was organised by the women's guild and involved all age groups in the parish. We discovered early on that "St John Ogilvie's has got talent", as we were to rediscover in 2019.

Moving through the 1970s, as Wester Hailes grew in size, so too did the parish. By 1972/73/74 Hailesland, Wester Hailes Park and Drive, Westburn and Clovenstone had been built and houses in Baberton Mains were becoming occupied.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society was one of the first groups to be formed within the parish. Its first meeting took place in St Cuthbert's Church Hall in March 1974. From the very start, there was plenty of work to do in the parish. The annual Senior Citizens Party began in that year with Fr McQuade obtaining an invitation to join the senior citizens of Sacred Heart Parish for a Burns Night celebration. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society organised a bus which collected our pensioners and then returned them home.

By 1976, the parish had outgrown Dumbryden School as a place for Sunday Mass. So, we moved to the larger Clovenstone School. Although the school was larger, the chairs were just as small and again parishioners had to sit on baby chairs!

It had been envisaged that Clovenstone School would become the Catholic primary school for the area, and Sister Margaret Jones, from St Catherine's Convent, Lauriston Gardens, was appointed as Assistant Head and became responsible for teaching Religious Instruction. However, the plan to have Clovenstone School as the local Catholic school did not materialise.

st Those early days also saw the arrival of two Sisters who added many valuable stitches
to our tapestry through the development of our religious life. They were Sr Margaret
Connor and Sr Joan Tierney of the Congregation of the Ursulines of Jesus. Both
al Sisters provided much-needed support for Father McQuade who by this time was
pastor of a growing parish, and a parish with no church, and with him having to
commute between Lauriston and Wester Hailes on a daily basis. The Sisters worked
particularly with the children and young people helping them prepare for the
Sacraments and guiding them through the various liturgies. Sister Joan played the
at guitar and she would lead the singing at our services.

In October 1976, our parish patron, John Ogilvie, was Canonised a saint by the
Church. This was an event of great joy for parishioners. From that point, the parish
became **St John Ogilvie's Parish**. A short history of St John Ogilvie's life and death
can be found at the end of the booklet.

r, Some more stitches were inserted into the cloth when, in June 1977, a site for a
church and presbytery was purchased from the local Council for £12,000. This was
ot after a lot of 'haggling' by Fr McQuade who recalled that the original price set was
el £50,000! Fr McQuade continued to commute from Lauriston to Wester Hailes until
July 1977 when he obtained the temporary lease of a flat in Hailesland Park.

g, In the summer of 1977, the foundation stone of the church was laid by Bishop
Monaghan. On 30th November 1978, the Feast of St Andrew, the church was
solemnly opened by His Eminence, Cardinal Gordon Gray. It was a very joyous
occasion and as far as most who attended knew, went off not without incident.
Unknown to most however, the lorry with our brand-new tables and chairs arrived
at the church less than two hours before the scheduled time of the Mass. But there
were plenty of willing hands to help unload the lorry and set out the chairs. Ask any
at Oblate priest who has served in St John Ogilvie's what is the first thing they
remember about this parish; they will say one word - chairs! For fifty years now, we
have had to set out, stack and rearrange chairs. The opening night was no exception!



Christmas crib figures were presented by the parish's Brownie Pack at the official opening; the Stations of the Cross, which were carved in Italy, cost £132 each and were paid for by the families of the parish; the crucifix above the tabernacle along with the processional cross were all donated by parishioners.

The fund-raising efforts did not stop with the opening of the Church. A parishioner recalls that "the first thing we did was to plant potatoes in the ground around the church and house to clear the ground before sowing grass seed. When the potatoes were ready, we bagged them and sold them at a table in the grounds to passers-by." Other efforts at fund-raising included dances, socials and fayres. By this time, we had the Cubs and Scout Group, Brownie's, Girl Guides and a Women's Guild. Prize bingo was run on a regular basis. It was a great fundraiser. In 1979, the senior citizens' party was held for the first time in our own church. This too became a regular feature and it continued on an annual basis in late January until Covid-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of the 2020 event.



A pride of Guides gathered to congratulate 15-year-old Jacquie Mackay (above) on the presentation of her Queen's Guide Award. It was a special occasion, for Jacquie is the first member of the St John Ogilvie Company to gain this coveted award. The presentation was made by Murrayburn District Commissioner, Mrs Anne George.

At the beginning of 1980, the Jesuit Provincial informed the Cardinal that Fr McQuade was to take up a new appointment in Aberdeen Diocese. There is no doubt that Fr McQuade had served the parish well in his 10 years as parish priest. He began with nothing except a dogged determination to establish the parish here in Wester Hailes. But not just a parish, also a living community. His legacy was lasting, and we continue to reap the benefits of his early work in Wester Hailes some 40 plus years later.

In May 1980, Cardinal Gray wrote to Fr Paschal Dillon OMI, then the Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, with a request that the Oblates provide a priest to serve the parish of St John Ogilvie. In the event, the Oblates provided two priest and on 15th October 1980 Fr Tony Clancy, OMI and Fr Peter Clucas, OMI arrived at St John Ogilvie's. And so began the weaving of a new pattern in our history. And it means that as we celebrate 50 years of St John Ogilvie's parish, we can also celebrate 40 years of service from the Oblate Congregation.

Fr Tony's and Fr Peter's vision for the parish was a very simple one - to continue the work of Fr McQuade by nurturing the spirit of openness in order to build up the parish community.

As was the case at our very beginnings, much of our efforts at this time were directed towards fund raising. Although we now had a church and presbytery, we also had a parish debt of over £200,000! The hard work continued.



Some more stitches were woven into our fabric in 1982 when Fr Clancy, pastor for only two years, was assigned to St Theresa's Parish, Norris Green, Liverpool. He was succeeded by Fr Michael Phelan, OMI. Fr Peter Clucas remained on as assistant until 1986 when he was appointed as Vocations Director for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Not long after Fr Michael's arrival, Pope John Paul II (St John Paul) came on a visit to the UK. On 1 June 1982, an estimated 300,000 people flocked to Bellahouston Park in Glasgow to attend Mass celebrated by the Pope. This was the biggest crowd that had ever gathered in Scotland; and a coach load of parishioners from St John Ogilvie's were there too, led by Fr Michael and with our St John Ogilvie banner. Earlier that week, some of the men from the parish acted as stewards at Murrayfield Stadium when Pope John Paul addressed the **"young people of Scotland"**. There was a deafening cheer and thunderous applause when the Pope uttered those words. A number of our teenage parishioners were also present as pupils of St Augustine's High School.

Back in the parish, one of Fr Michael's first tasks was a stock take of what was happening, what groups there were and what more was needed. He re-established the Parish Council and encouraged the formation new groups. In 1983, he introduced First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes into the parish. This was an important initiative that sought to develop within our younger parishioners that sense of belonging which many of the older members had enjoyed. He also introduced us to the Passover meal at which we ate a traditional meal and read from the scriptures. Our friends at the neighbouring churches were invited.

Fr Michael became puzzled at discovering that the church and the house were not in the parish but were just outside the parish boundary in the neighbouring parish of St Joseph's. A very unusual state of affairs! In March 1986, Fr Michael was successful in negotiating to have the position regularised. The parish boundaries were redrawn and so Sighthill and the Calders were brought within the parish; and some more stitches were added to the tapestry

The work of building community continued with the appointment of Fr Pat Towe, OMI in 1986. Fr Pat was appointed to the specific task of establishing an RCIA project within the parish. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults had become the normal means for becoming a member of the Catholic Church. Fr Pat's enthusiasm left a deep impression on many people and not just within the parish. He became very involved with other groups within the Wester Hailes community, especially the Representative Council.

In September 1986, three sisters of Congregation of the Ursulines of Jesus, Sister Sheelagh Stapleton, Sister Mildred Ryan and Sister Margaret Nagel arrived to form a community in a house in Sighthill Crescent. In 1988, Sister Mildred was replaced by Sister Cecilia Conway. The sisters were involved in parish visiting and in many of the parish groups. Sr Bernadette Ryan, from the Sisters' community at St Margaret's Convent also came to the parish to assist with the First Communion and Confirmation Programmes. The sisters were an invaluable asset to our community throughout the whole of their 27 years with us. During that time, they engaged enthusiastically in the Bereavement Support Group, Eucharistic Ministry, Justice and Peace, Liturgy, Christian Meditation, the Parish Council, Sacramental Programme, SVDP and visitation of the sick as well as the work of the parish generally.



In July of 1986, John Lee, as he was then, was appointed to the parish following his ordination as a deacon. John, a young man himself, was soon to engage with the youth of the parish assisting them in their spiritual and social development. On the social front, he encouraged the formation of a group especially for young people. One of those young people tells her story: -

"Elaine, Carolyn, Stella and Pauline were already involved with the young people of the parish. We had the junior JOC's (John Ogilvie Club) for primary aged children, but we also needed something for the secondary children. And so, the Senior JOC's was set up. We had weekly games sessions in the church hall, indoor hockey being one of the favourites. We had movie nights, Halloween parties and outings too. We even managed a weekend to Perth. In addition, we brought the local community youth together through the discos and all young people were able to come from the various local secondary schools.

Running alongside this group was the junior SVDP group, where we had meetings and planned voluntary activities. One of these was visiting the elderly in the local sheltered housing in the Calder area. We also planned and organised Youth masses and were inspired by the masses we had been part of during SVDP youth retreats at Langbank."

In September 1989, Fr Pat moved to the Broadwater Farm Estate in London and in January 1990, Fr Joe Daly took over from Fr Michael as Parish Priest. In March 1990, John Lee was ordained to the priesthood in his home parish in London. He was personally delighted that so many of his friends from the parish could travel down for the event. Fr John remained in the parish and worked alongside Fr Joe, a formidable team.

Fund-raising was still necessary and in order to boost parish income, the weekly bingo began to offer cash prizes. This continued until 2015 at which point, over £75,000 had been raised for parish funds. But the bingo was not just about bringing in much needed funds. It was enjoyed as a weekly social event and involved the parish in outreach to others in the wider community.

The Autumn Fayre also grew during Fr Joe and Fr John's time with us. By that time, we were using a furniture van to collect goods to sell on various stalls and at the auction. The stalls included bric-a-brac, tombola, home baking, nearly new clothes, auction, etc. It was all hands-on deck to unload the van and unpack and sort the goods that had been collected. One parishioner recalls that while emptying one of hundreds of black plastic bags he unpacked an item of clothing. He shouted to one of the lady helpers: *"Hey Patsy, are you nearly new?"* What fun we had!

Also, around this time, we became involved in the "Scout post". Volunteers from the parish would collect, sort and deliver Christmas cards to families in the area. This also brought in much needed funding.

The parish also did fund raising as part of our outreach and raised many thousands of pounds via our weekly Bonus Ball with the money raised going to help fund a nurse who looked after babies in one of the Oblate's parish in Brazil.

We also began the annual pilgrimage to Iona. A coach would be hired to take parishioners to Oban from where they boarded the first of two ferries to Iona via Mull. These trips provided a wonderful experience for the pilgrims.



In 1995, the parish celebrated its Silver Jubilee. It was hard to believe then that so much progress had been made in the formation of the parish community. We had a parish, we had a church, we had a community with committed parishioners and dedicated priests. It was a cause for celebration. And we invited all the past clergy and sisters to come and celebrate with us. If it had not been for their efforts, we would not have reached our Silver Jubilee year.



The year 1995 was also an epoch-making time for the Oblate Congregation as on 3rd December 1995, Blessed Eugene de Mazenod, Founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, was Canonised and became St Eugene. Some insights into St Eugene's life can be found at the back of the booklet. As was the case when St John Ogilvie was Canonised, the Canonisation of St Eugene was also a time of great joy for parishioners.

And so, began the second half of the tapestry as we moved into 1996. Fr Joe and Fr John were still with us but very soon thereafter Fr John was reassigned to our sister parish, St Mary's Star of the Sea.

Not long after that, Leo Philomin arrived to work alongside Fr Joe as a young Deacon. One of his early assignments saw him on the furniture van collecting goods for the next Autumn Fayre – a good training experience for a young man who was about to become a priest! After his ordination, Fr Leo gave a solemn, personal blessing to individual parishioners.

The Oblates continued to serve St John Ogilvie's with the arrival in 1998 of Fr Tom Scully (RIP) following the departure of Fr Joe and Fr Leo. What particularly marked Fr Tom's short time in the parish was the formation of a group specifically dedicated to justice, peace and integrity of creation. The group, the JPIC group as it later became known, had a very wide and remit embracing as it did much of Christ's

teaching about caring for God's people and God's creation. Yet the group comprised only four members; but what it lacked in numbers, it made up for in enthusiasm, energy and determination. Some insights into the JPIC group's work can be found further on.

Fr Tom was with us for only a short time as was Fr Frank Gormley (RIP), and then in 1999 Fr Michael O'Connor arrived. But he too was not long with us. The work of the parish still carried on under these priests and although their time here was short, it spanned two centuries as they took us from the 20th century into the 21st century.

The youth group enjoyed something of a revival as we moved into the new millennium. By this time, in 2001, Fr John McFadden had arrived at St John Ogilvie's. New youth leaders were appointed, and new young members were recruited. They organised various activities and trips, including a trip to London. Some of the youth also helped with the annual children's sleepover where the children would stay overnight in the church.



The children's liturgy also took place in what had been referred to as the altar servers' room but now became known as the children's room. This small room was not the best of accommodation for this particular activity, but the children loved it. Later on, they would also use the small chapel as an overspill venue, such was the popularity of children's liturgy.

As well as his day-to-day parish work, Fr John also undertook the role of prison chaplain at HMP Edinburgh.

The twice-yearly Pledge was started in 2003. The Autumn Fayre had passed its sell-by date by then and so too had many of the parishioners who had helped at the Fayre over the years. The Pledge enabled parishioners to donate to the parish the amount they would otherwise have spent at the Fayre. The Pledge brought in much-needed income as we were still paying off the original debt.

Fr Tony Quinlan arrived with us in 2004. Although a newcomer to the parish, Fr Quinlan knew something about our history as he had been the Oblate Provincial when we celebrated our Silver Jubilee. There was a lot going on in the parish when he arrived, even for a parish with two priests. Even so, Fr John continued as Prisons' Chaplain and Fr Tony became Chaplain to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. It was then that we started sending Christmas gifts to the patients of the Royal Ed as it became known. And even now when Fr Tony is no longer Chaplain, we still send Christmas gifts to the hospital.

We saw three new groups taking shape around this time. These were the Bereavement Support Group the Prayer Group and Christian Meditation. The Sisters were active members of those groups as they were in many other parish activities. A welcome development took place when the piety stall was "revitalised". As well as a wider range of cards, rosary beads, candles, religious mementos, etc, the stall offered cribs and crib figures for Christmas.

Fr John moved on to pastures new to the Oblate London Mission in Kilburn but we soon thereafter saw the return to the parish of Fr Leo in 2008/09. Our strong links over the years with Star of the Sea were reinforced when a *Centre of Mission* comprising our parish and the Star of the Sea and the priests of both parishes was established. Fr Leo became Mission Team Leader.

As we moved into the 2010s, fund raising was still a major pre-occupation. In that period there were notable examples of the charity and generosity of our parishioners. Father Tony, with help from some others, used to cut the grass in front of the church with a push-along grass-cutter. This was quite a chore, so fundraising started with a view to purchasing a sit-on, tractor-type mower. These cost around £3,500 at the time. But such was the generosity of parishioners that the £3,500 was raised within a few weeks. Father Tony used to say that he enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of mowing the grass just sitting on the mower. He also said that he used to prepare some of his best homilies while grass cutting!



We had some fast fund raising again when, following a suggestion that we should have a defibrillator available for ourselves and for people in the community, £1,500 was raised within 2 or 3 weeks and the defibrillator was installed. We know that it has been used a couple of times away from the church. If it saved a life then the £1,500 was a small price to pay.

A number of parishioners received training by St John's Scotland on how to use the defibrillator and how to administer CPR.

Our parishioners also helped send a young, local boy, Jakub, to America for an operation not available here. Jakub had sepsis and had lost all his toes and some fingers. He required special surgery in the USA to strengthen his limbs. The treatment was to cost £63,000. We set a target of £5000 to be raised by the beginning of March. We had raised £2,561 when Jakub's family advised us that their target had been met. They were most appreciative of our donation and Jakub had his operation later that year in the USA.

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As already alluded to, the Ursuline Sisters moved out of the parish in 2013 after 27 years of very active service in the parish. It is probably no exaggeration to say that the parish would not have survived without them. On Friday 28th June 2013, we had a Mass of Thanksgiving and a party to celebrate the Sisters' time with us.



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Regrettably, in 2014, the SVDP had to stand down after 40 years' of service to the people of the parish and to the wider community. During that time, as well as financial and material help, the SVDP provided caravan holidays for families.

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In 2015, a dark cloud started to pass over the parish when the Archbishop launched a consultation process to examine the possibilities clustering parishes within the Archdiocese. In the Archdiocese (as elsewhere) there was an ageing clergy and the shortage of new priests. Projections of numbers pointed to there being, in a very short time, more parishes than priests. Our parish was clustered with St Joseph's in Broomhouse, Our Lady's, Currie and St Cuthbert's, Slateford. During the consultation process, the Archbishop visited the parish and celebrated Mass with us. After Mass, parishioners took the opportunity to make their feelings clear that no matter what happened in the future, they wished to keep a presence here within Wester Hailes. It therefore was something of a relief when we learned at the end of the consultation that the church would remain open. However, it still remains a possibility at some time in the future the parish will be brought within St Joseph's parish.

The year 2017 saw Fr Tony reach 60 years of priesthood. On the actual day of his anniversary, 15th September 2017, we had another Mass of Thanksgiving and another party. A number of Fr Tony's family travelled from Ireland to share in the celebrations, as did Oblate and other priests, ministers of local churches together with some staff from the Royal Ed. Fr Tony received many presents and many good wishes, and he was overjoyed to receive a personal message from Pope Francis. It was another joyful occasion for the whole parish.



On Thursday 26th September 2019 we showed once again that **St John Ogilvie's got Talent**. That talent was on display when performers aged 7 to 88 provided an evening of joy and laughter in Music, Song, Dance, Poetry and Jokes. It was an Oasis away from the depression of Brexit. A truly international production, with contributions of Music and Song from Scotland, Ireland, Poland and Nigeria. Father Tony commented that like St Peter on Mount Tabor there was a feeling of "let us pitch our tent and stay here". The evening was very well supported with an audience that spilled over into the side aisles.



As the year 2020 approached, we began planning the Golden Jubilee celebrations. We knew it was a special occasion and one not to be missed. But miss it we did as Covid-19 took hold and St John Ogilvie's like the rest of the world was forced into lock-down. By the time we emerged from the full rigour of the Covid restrictions we had moved beyond our 50th year and we had to start rebuilding on the legacy of the previous 50 years. But that is a story for the next Jubilee booklet!

Since the turn of the century we have been privileged to see new faces come from around the world, from Europe including Poland, Germany, Ireland and Ukraine, from many of the countries in Africa and also even further afield around Asia and we have even had a family from South America. The parish is now a true kaleidoscope with each, and everyone welcomed into our community. Many of these 'newcomers' have taken the parish to their hearts and have become important members, adding to our own traditions and values but adding to these with their own cultures and their traditions.



1 The parish has always been a community and the parishioners have been enthusiastic in their participation in any thing that helps the life of the parish, from the various fund raising events, the numerous groups such as the PPC, Youth, Catechumenate, Liturgy, RCIA, JPIC and SVDP, but they have also been involved in other activities including the annual trips to Carfin Grotto and with the Youth Group to Lourdes.

Although the church building is relatively new, it has always been in need of some TLC, in particular the roof. It was not unusual to come to mass and have to step around the buckets laid out to catch the drips from the leaks. A number of repairs have been carried out over the years but we are now at a stage where a major refurbishment is required and this will be undertaken in the next year or so, this will no doubt mean that our now well oiled fund raising will be called upon again.

Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

The JPIC group was formed in 1998. Over the years since then, through the efforts of the JPIC group, we have become an Eco-Congregation, a Fairtrade Parish, supporters of various organisations helping the poor, homeless and prisoners, and campaigners against injustices of one kind or another. We engage in rallies, campaigns and even protests. A major event for the parish was the "Make Poverty History" rally of 2005. Many parishioners joined the rally to tell world leaders, who were meeting at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, that enough is enough and that we want trade justice, debt cancellation and more and better aid for the world's poorest countries.

On a less energetic venture, JPIC members put on a short drama for the pupils of the near-by Murrayburn School. The message in the drama was about how, through organisations like Fresh Start, homeless people could be helped. The young people were the very willing actors. The drama opened with a child sitting cold on the roadside who was gradually taken indoors, provided with kitchen utensils, cooker, and bed. It gave the message to the young boys and girls that we can all help the homeless not in the future but today by sharing. Such was the success of this event that it was repeated the following year.



One of JPIC's and the parish's "favourite" projects is the St Catherine's Homeless Project at Lauriston. JPIC organised various fundraising events in support of the work of the Project, including an annual tea and scones Sunday, the Christmas hamper, a towel and bathing products collection and produce donated as part of the Harvest Mass.

The Harvest Mass itself was organised each year by JPIC to coincide with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Parishioners are invited to bring to the service fresh produce that they have grown or non-perishable food items. After the Mass, JPIC members would take the bulk of the produce to St Catherine's Convent where it would be used as part of the daily meal the Convent provides for homeless people. Some of the produce would be held back for the parish food cupboard to be given out to local people experiencing difficulties of one kind or another.

Unfortunately, much of the JPIC work had to be suspended early in 2020 on account of the Covid-19 restrictions. But they will be back!

Music

Even before we had a church building, we had music. Throughout our 50-year history, music and hymn singing have always been something we have greatly enjoyed. Our first musician was Sister Joan Tierney who played the guitar and led the singing in Clovenstone School. Several other parishioners who also played guitar, came after Sister Joan and so there was continuity in our music making. It was not until 1984 that we had a regular and long-term organ player. A new arrival in the parish, willingly and enthusiastically responded to an invitation from Fr Michael Phelan to accompany parishioners singing at Mass and other services. Not long after our first organist's arrival, he was joined by another parishioner who led the hymn singing. And after another short period, another guitarist arrived to lead the signing, mostly at the vigil Mass. These three parishioners still provide the music at our services today. For quite a while during the 1990s and 2000s, a lady parishioner also led the singing unaccompanied. She always managed to hit the right key that other parishioners could sing along to.

Our organist and guitarist also formed part of what Father Tony later referred to as "our resident Quartet". The other half of the quartet was a parishioner who played drums and a bass guitarist, the husband of a parishioner. The band would play at dances and other functions and at the annual senior citizens' parties. One band member noted that he is now older than most of the parishioners attending the seniors' party!



Our Deceased

St John Ogilvie's has always remembered its deceased parishioners with, among other ways, weekly anniversary prayers and through the "November Mass box". The annual Mass for parishioners who had died during each year is also held in November.

We are blessed to have had two centenarians in the parish, Sam Martinez who lived to an amazing 105 and Laura Eadie who lived to 102. Both were regulars at Mass up until their deaths. RIP Sam and Laura.

And RIP all our deceased parishioners.

And Finally

Many of the artefacts and other objects in the church that have been created or donated to our parish by the parishioners over the years. These include the cross above the tabernacle, the stations of the cross, the statue of the Virgin Mary. We also have two stained glass windows in the day chapel. One is a depiction of our patron, donated by the confirmation class of 1988, the second is of the Virgin Mary, presented at the millennium in 2000 in recognition of the service to the parish of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Both were created by a young parishioner. The shield bearing St John Ogilvie's motto: **usque ad finem** ("to the end") was made by a parishioner who had been attending woodwork classes in a nearby community centre.



This then is the tapestry that is St John Ogilvie's parish. It has been drawn from the memories of only a few parishioners. It provides only glimpses of our past. Please excuse any omission and or inaccuracies with dates. Needless to say, there will be many more stitches and many more memories that are not recorded here, such is the richness and diversity of our parish and our tapestry. All of our parishioners will have their own memories, some happy, some sad. On the following pages, you can read about the memories of two individual parishioners. The first has been here since the very start of the parish, though she was only a baby at the time, the second is a "relative newcomer". We thank them both for their contributions to the booklet and for sharing their memories with us.

Golden Jubilee Memories

Elaine

The "Brogans" arrived in Murrayburn Wester Hailes in 1969 when I was 2 years old, a family of 7 children mum, dad and Uncle Thomas.

My earliest memory of attending Mass was in Dumbryden Primary School which was a short walk from the house. We had to set up the seats in the gym hall and clear them again at the end of Mass. In fact, a lot of my memories of going to Mass involve setting up and clearing seats! My mum ran the Repository and we would take the bus into Harkins on the Mound to buy the items to put on the stall and take them to Mass on a Sunday in a shopping trolley.

As I was a child at the time, I have no great memories of the talks and meetings that went on regarding the building of the church. I do, however, recall the fund raising events including when I was "Fozzy" bear from the Muppets in a variety show the parish organised. We also held and lots of Fayres or jumble sales as they were often called then. They were always busy events with anyone standing about given a job to do!

I was in the Brownies and Ruby Bush was our Brown Owl. We did lots of sponsored events to raise funds to buy the Nativity figures that we still use today in the crib in the church.

When we moved up to Clovenstone school for Mass, there we still had lots of setting-up of chairs. I remember around this time going to a friend's First Communion at St Cuthbert's in Slateford and being blown away by the fact that they had seats that didn't have to be moved! I thought every church had chairs of differing sizes that had to be put out and removed every week! I didn't appreciate that when we moved into our new building we would still be moving chairs!

Once we were in our new building in 1978, the fund raising continued and I helped out at the Tuesday bingo with my mum and Jane Straiton setting out the tables and going to the cash and carry to choose prizes.

On 1 June 1982 we travelled as a parish to Bellahouston to see Pope John Paul II. It was an amazing day.

We had made a parish banner specifically for the occasion. I felt so proud walking behind it and taking turns to carry it. It was an amazing experience. I also enjoyed the annual picnics and although we actually never travelled very far, it always felt exciting when we all got on the coach together. There were races for all ages including for mums and dads. Carolyn McGonagle and I always practised for the 3-legged race, although I don't remember ever winning!



As I grew up and got married and moved away to Kirkliston in 1995, I continued to travel in to Mass at St John Ogilvie's as it always felt like family to me. When my first child Rebecca was born in 1997, we found out that she was not going to survive, and Fr Joe Daly baptised her in St John's Hospital. I always remember when he was leaving the parish, he took me aside and promised me that he would come back to baptise my next child and that it would be a happy occasion. He was as good as his word and he came back when Cameron came along in 1999. He showed me and Allan great kindness during this time and offered us great comfort.

I have been a member of the JPIC group for a few years now along with Trish Muirhead and Trish Middlemist where we tried to raise awareness of global issues as well as issues close to home.

I have been asked in the past why I travel into St John Ogilvie's. It's an easy answer - I have never felt the same sense of "belonging" when I have attended Mass in churches closer to where I live, and I have always felt drawn back to St John Ogilvie's.

St John Ogilvie's has always played a large part of my life through good times and sad times and hopefully for many happy times to come.

Adeolu Michael Ayambowale and family -

With a great pleasure I'm delighted to reflect on my memories of our parish. I am from Lagos, Nigeria and have lived in Edinburgh since 2004 in Silverknowes, northwest of the city, in 2008 we moved to the Wester Hailes area, throughout these periods we have always attended mass in parishes we think are closer to us until we discovered St John Ogilvie.

Sometime in July 2012 while having a chat with Monsignor Duffy of blessed memory at the St Cuthbert's in Slateford, he got to know where we live. At that instance, he asked if I was aware there's a Catholic church closer to me, I said no; but he asked me that he doesn't want me to leave his parish but at the same time I should check out St John Ogilvie, that it might be handy on occasions.

The following Sunday in the same July 2012, my family and I attended St John Ogilvie and we fell in love straightway with the church because the people were all very welcoming and warm towards us; our children Calista and Funso as young kids then were happy too and we decided immediately this is our parish and we have never looked back since. As we come to church every Sunday, we found out that the people we meet are genuine people of the gospel and the parish priest Fr Tony Quinlan was very much the same, and we pray that God will always keep him in good health of mind and body.

The chairs and tables we move around and reset after every mass on Sunday appeared to be a focal point where we meet and even learned hand to one another while carrying and setting the tables and chairs for Bingo, we all got to know one another more and children were also engaged in helping to stack the kneelers away after mass. I believe this simple hand they give help them to experience the true spirit of the beautiful community in St John Ogilvie.

About one year after joining the parish, when spaces became available to join the Parish council, while arranging the tables and chairs after mass on a Sunday, Alan Wilson approached me if I would like to serve on the PPC, I tried to decline but as he encouraged me to try, I accepted, and I've been a member of the Parish council since. The culture of diversity and inclusiveness of the parish is reflected in the members of the parish pastoral council. As small as anyone might think our parish is, she is a worldwide church with large heart; our members cut across almost every continent of the world and this reflect how we all have been made welcome by the parish.

Though I've been married for about ten years earlier legally, the simplicity and approachable nature of Fr Tony helped me to regularize my marriage in the church on the 13th of October 2014. I'll be eternally grateful to all the parishioners for attending and making our day beautiful and fun. My wife Sola wasn't a catholic by birth, she went through the sacramental programme with the help of Fr Tony in the parish.

In June 2015, we moved to live in Gorebridge, and we were in doubt if it will be possible for us to keep attending the church but our children Calista and Funso made it an easy decision for us, when they insisted, they feel very comfortable in the parish, that they are not moving. Their answers resonated with our thoughts and here we are today. I could go on and on about our parish... May the love that radiate in St John Ogilvie parish continue to shine on us all.

St John Ogilvie

(1579 -1615)



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John Ogilvie was born near Keith in Banffshire of a Calvinist family. As a very young man, he was sent to the continent to be educated. While he was there, he became a Catholic. He joined the Jesuit order in 1608 and was ordained in Paris. He returned to Scotland disguised as a soldier. He was arrested in 1614 in Glasgow. He was put on trial, condemned and put to death on March 10th, 1615. He is a martyr of the Counter-Reformation. John Ogilvie was beatified in 1929 and canonised in 1976. Upon being arrested, John Ogilvie was never under any illusion of the fate that awaited him. He never lost his serenity nor his strong but typical Scottish sense of humour. The strength of his mind, the fruit of many long hours spent in prayer, could not be broken by his captors and interrogators. Shortly before his death, John Ogilvie pledged his loyalty to the King but made it clear that he was being executed for his religious convictions. He pardoned his persecutors and, praying till the end, he underwent his ordeal courageously and with great peace of mind.

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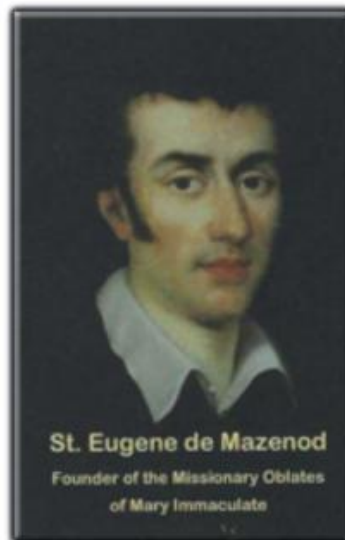
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What can we learn today from the life and death of our parish patron? The Scotland of today with its political stability, rule of law and a strong sense of Christian ecumenism is vastly different from the time of Ogilvie. His was a time of violence, of political unrest, of bigotry and brutal religious persecution. But it was also a time when many of various religious persuasions gave their liberty and lives for what they believed. The example of his life and death is an encouragement for all who take their faith seriously in a present climate heavily marked by indifference. In this our Jubilee Year, we honour our Patron by showing in our everyday lives our commitment to love his and our God. The heroic behaviour of John Ogilvie bears outstanding witness to the power of the Spirit who, in accordance with the promises of the Lord, will never fail those who, in the difficulties of life, try honestly to carry out the will of God

St Eugène de Mazenod

1 August 1782 – 21 May 1861



St Eugène (born Charles-Joseph-Eugène de Mazenod) was a French aristocrat. When he was eight years old, Mazenod's family fled the French Revolution, leaving their considerable wealth behind. As refugees in Italy, they were poor, and moved from place to place. He returned to France at the age of twenty and later became a priest. Mazenod founded the congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Initially focused on rebuilding the Church in France after the Revolution, their work soon spread, particularly to Canada. Mazenod was appointed Bishop of Marseille in 1837, and Archbishop in 1851.

Bishop de Mazenod was beatified on 19th October 1975 and was canonised twenty years later on 3 December 1995. The Catholic Church commemorates him with an optional memorial on 21 May, the anniversary of his death.

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Wester Hailes back in 1970s

