

St Mary's Catholic Church

20th Anniversary



A few key moments in our history

1855 land purchased in Ewenny Road by Illtyd Nicholl from a Mr Thomas Thomas for the price of £210.

14th October 1855 first Mass on Ewenny Road celebrated in the school rooms next to the Church.

1857 Fr. Henry Ignatius Sutton O.S.B. was appointed as the first resident Parish Priest.

St Mary's parish continued to grow and thrive

In 1994 Canon Edwin Regan (1990-94) left Bridgend to take up the role of Bishop of Wrexham.

In 1995 Fr. William J. Isaac was appointed Parish Priest

November 1997 - last Mass held in the original Church

Christmas 1998 - first Mass celebrated in the new church 12th March 1999 Solemn Consecration

1 million pounds raised by the parish and repaid to the Archdiocese

And so here we are almost at the 20th Anniversary of the new building

What next?

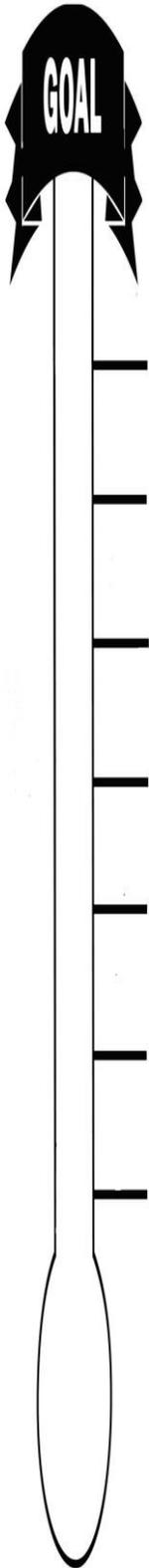
An Anniversary is an opportunity for us to thank God for all his blessings, to reflect on how much has been accomplished and to plan for what more we would like to do. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the consecration on the new St. Mary's, we know that we have much to celebrate. The challenge now is to identify what more we can all do to keep our parish a vibrant one. These days we all lead very busy lives, however we must realise that just as our forefathers built and maintained the old church for us, we must do the same for next generation.

As a member of the parish of St Mary's you can become more involved in many ways:

- You can join one of the groups or societies that run in the parish, for example the Society of St Vincent de Paul, The Knights of St Columba and the CAFOD group. These groups work to help those in our communities who have the greatest needs. **Could you help?***
- You can help the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish by joining one of the ministries which support it, for example as a sacristan, flower arranger, member of the church cleaning group, musician, chorister, reader, Eucharistic minister, or as an altar server, and collector or counter of the offertory. **Would you be able to help?***
- You can support other events and activities that the parish may benefit from, for example youth activities, social events, parish pilgrimages and parish retreats. **What sort of events would you like to help run and support? Could you help?***
- You can join the **Friends of St. Mary's** our main fundraising group and social events group. Have a fundraising idea? Why not present it at the next Friends meeting? You will be most welcome.*

You may have noticed that work has started on updating and refreshing our building. Work has been carried out in both the hall and the committee room to make these safe and inviting places to be and for health and safety reasons the parking area at the front of the church has had to be lifted and re-laid. However, with the 20th anniversary looming there is still much more work to do.

£40,000



When the new church was built we borrowed a million pounds from the Archdiocese. Via the setting up and running of the supermarket vouchers scheme the repayment of this loan was achieved in a little over ten years. Now a new fund-raising appeal is needed to cover the cost of refurbishment (approximately £40,000) for the 20th anniversary and beyond.

What are the funds needed for?

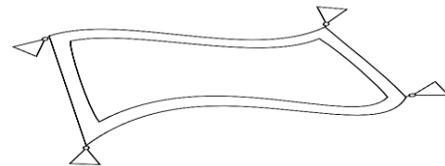
The updating and renewal of the lighting system in the church.



Deep cleaning and redecoration



New carpet



New vestments bought for our altar servers.

So what's the plan?

Firstly on the back is a response form which asks for your help. Please post completed forms in the box provided or return to a member of the clergy by Easter. Secondly once the parish accounts have been finalized there will be an appeal regarding our Sunday giving in the parish. Could you increase your weekly giving or join the gift aid scheme if you are a tax payer? Thirdly after Easter a Parish Forum will be held to discuss the ideas raised and plan the next steps.

In the meantime, please consider how you can support and enrich parish life. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your support.

With all good wishes

Father Tim

What is the parish doing well?

What other events and activities you would like to see in the parish?

How can we raise money to maintain and refurbish the Church?

How would you like to support parish life? For example would you be prepared to help organize/ run an event?

Contact details please

Name

email

phone no.

Please post your reply in the box provided or hand to a member of the clergy by Easter 2017.

Thank you for your support.

Father Tim