

# **Parish of St Catherine of Siena Didsbury**



1928 to 2018

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## Introduction

Imagine Didsbury at the end of World War 1 in 1918, coming home from the “war to end all wars” to a village still trapped in agricultural traditions.

Imagine Didsbury ten years later in 1928, still with large tracts of land not yet built on; no homes between Catterick Road and Kingsway, no Parrs Wood Hotel, a new school (Didsbury Technical) on what is now The Barlow site, and a field for sale at the junction of Ford Lane and Dene Road.

Into this rapidly growing village came Fr Wilkin to establish the new parish of St Catherine of Siena, with a small church planned and built very quickly on School Lane, a school built shortly after, and the site for a new church bought at Ford Lane/Dene Road.

Just eleven years later, as events in Europe led to some parishioners preparing to fight yet again in WW2, the parish grew, numbers at Mass increased, and influenced by the road-side shrines that our parishioner soldiers had seen in France, Belgium and Germany, the parish erected the crucifix on the site of the new church, only to move it to its current location when the Ford Lane site was sold off.

Let’s move on to 2018 and to the 90th Anniversary of the Parish of St Catherine of Siena. What of the parish now and its place in Didsbury, as we look forward ten years to the start of our second century? We have a church, a community centre, a primary school, a high school we share with other parishes in south Manchester, a presbytery, a healthy Sunday Mass attendance, numerous groups ranging from the Legion of Mary and the Scouts to the Refugee Support Group and the Beer Festival!

There are other ways of looking at our parish community, in our commitment to supporting each other, our development in faith and prayer, how we reach out to fellow Christians, and to those of other traditions or of no faith.

This booklet, with a focus on recent and current activities, is neither a sequel to Owen French’s “St Catherine’s: a Parish Story: 1928 – 1988” (you can read this on the parish website), nor is it an overview of life in the Parish of St Catherine of Siena in 2018. It is a small selection of what the parish has meant or means to those parishioners who have written their story. It is an invitation for each of us to have a view about what our parish does for us and what we do for our parish!

## Saint Catherine of Siena: a woman for our time?

Caterina di Giacomo di Benincasa was born on 25 March 1347 in Siena, Italy, to Lapa Piagenti, the daughter of a local poet, and Giacomo di Benincasa, a cloth dyer. Catherine grew up in this middle-class home, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and nearly the youngest child of the family and like all young women at the time, was faced with a choice of marriage or living in convent; Catherine decided on a different course.

Against the will of her parents, she devoted herself to prayer and working with the poor and sick, while the plague, known as the Black Death, ravaged much of Europe. Together with a small group of friends, and guided by Raymond de Capua, she joined the Dominican order but continued to live in the town and not in a monastery.

At a young age, Catherine was seen as having a wisdom far beyond her years, and she had strong views about what needed to be done in the Church. She travelled to Avignon, persuading Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome. She negotiated peace with Florence. After Gregory XI's death, Catherine returned to Siena, writing hundreds of letters, many to powerful and rich European leaders.

At that time the Church was divided between those who were loyal to Rome and others loyal to Avignon (the Schism of the West). Catherine went to Rome with a new but bad-tempered Pope, Urban IV, persuading him that he needed to be sweeter in his temperament and his words. She sent numerous letters to princes and cardinals in support of the Pope and a united church.



## Saint Catherine of Siena: a woman for our time?

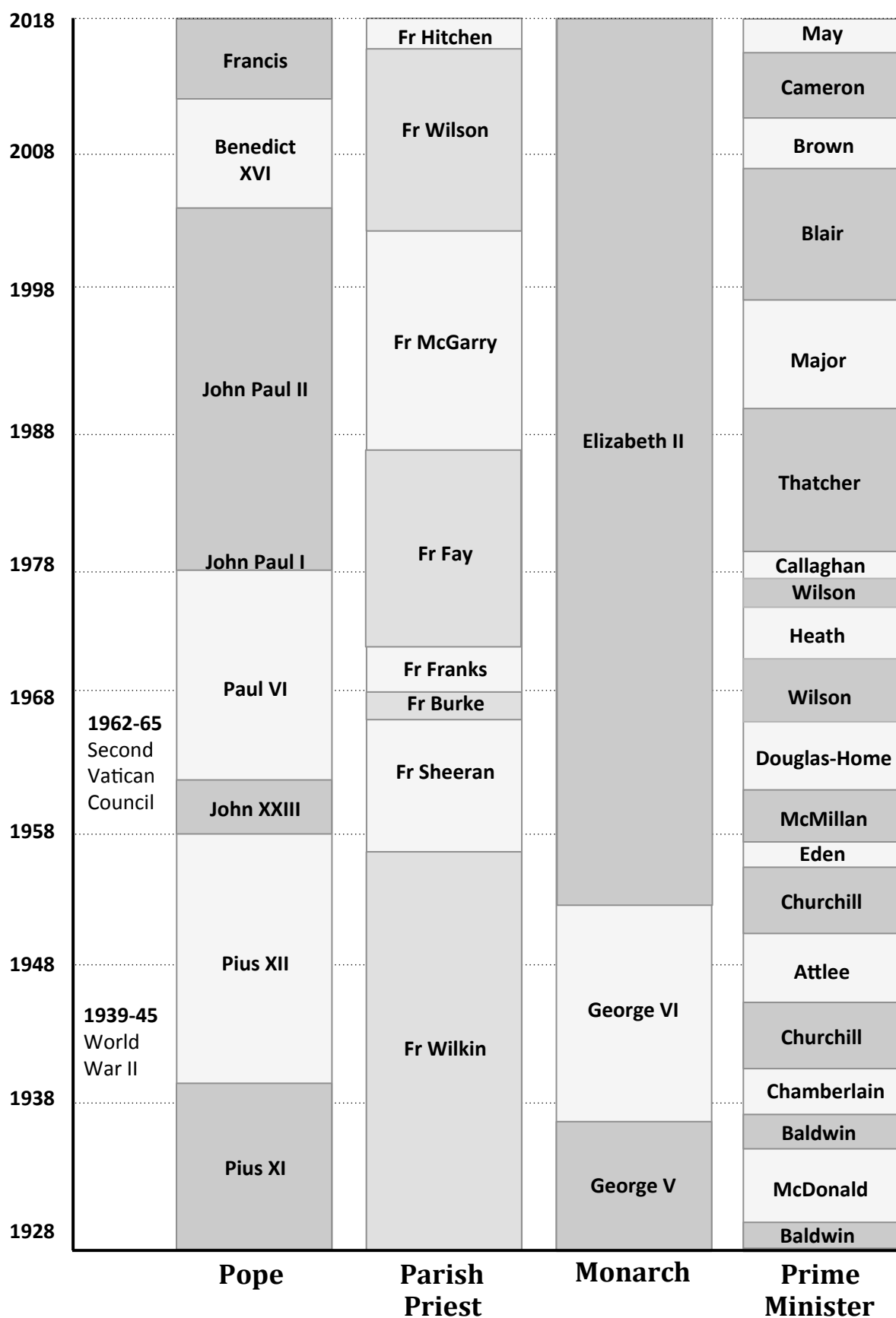
Catherine was known as a mystic, seeing visions of the Lord Jesus when deep in prayer. She was also reputed to be a stigmatic. Always at the service of others, she exhausted herself with her work with the poor and with lepers. At the same time she developed a reputation as a theologian, continuing to write to princes, the Pope, and priests, challenging their lifestyle and pleading for a Christ-centred Church.

Weakened by a lifetime of prayer and work for the poor and sick, Catherine fell ill in 1380 and died on 29 April which is now her feast day. Devotion to Catherine of Siena developed quickly after her death and she was canonised just 81 years later, a record at the time! Now she is the patron saint of Rome, of Italy, of Europe....and of our parish!

In 1970, Catherine of Siena became the first woman to be declared a "Doctor of the Church". Because of the influence, importance and impact of her letters and treatises, she is now also the patron saint of journalism, media and communication, a model for us all in these days of social media and fake news!



## Looking back over the past 90 years





## The birth of our Parish



*Bishop Thomas Henshaw laying the Foundation Stone of the Parochial Hall on February 16th 1929. Behind him are Altar Server Ray Danby, Canon Rowntree and Fr T Parker, Bishop's Secretary and later Bishop of Northampton.*



*Priests and servers on the steps of the Hall after the opening High Mass, June 9th 1929. Fr Charles Wilson, Fr Vincent Wilkin SJ and Fr F Burscough. Servers are Ray Danby, Herbert Torkington, Lauri Duffy and Alban Wilkinson.*

***(Photos are extracted from 'St Catherine's, A Parish Story, 1929-1989', by Owen French. The full book can be viewed on the Parish website)***

*"Stay with us, Lord, on our journey"*

## What does our Parish data reveal?

There are, as they say, lies, damned lies and statistics. But statistics can be helpful in revealing trends and activities where they are accurate... and these should be accurate since I have copied them from the last thirty years of the parish registers!

Only three parish priests in thirty years indicates that priests were happy to serve here in St Catherine's, which clearly speaks well of the parish. There have been several assistant priests who served for short periods, as was usual at the time, learning the ropes in preparation for becoming parish priests themselves. With the reducing number of priests, St Catherine's has not had an assistant priest since 2003.

Two priests have been ordained here at St Catherine's in recent years, and that's wonderful and speaks well of the parish. So, two parishioners were inspired to become priests through being members of our community, and this autumn another is going forward to commence training for the priesthood. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and encourage others to think about it.

The number of baptisms has declined but not dramatically. It is somewhat up and down, and more or less matches the sixty places in our school intake.

The number of marriages has declined in line with the pattern across the UK; but it's not as bad as

the figures might indicate, as we prepare couples to marry both here and abroad. To date in 2018, seven couples married at St Catherine's and seven more were prepared to marry abroad, in Ireland and Italy!

The number of confirmations has been generally consistent. The large number in 1988 is related to the beginning of the new Diocesan programme and the need to confirm all children between eight and fourteen years of age. Since then the average of about sixty again more or less matches the school intake. Can someone please shed light on why there were no confirmations in 1999? There have been none since 2015 as the Bishop has decided that confirmations will take place in Year 9 of secondary school. It will be interesting to see how and whether the new programme changes the Confirmation numbers pattern in future years.

So finally, there is lots that is really good here in St Catherine's. However, we mustn't be complacent; we have experienced decline just like everybody else. I don't have mass attendance figures which will have declined over the years. What we can and must do is live out our Christian faith and show people that it does make a difference! On a personal note, I thank you all for making me so welcome here and for being so supportive. God bless you all.

**Father John**



## 2/241st Manchester (St Catherine of Siena) Scout Group



In 1993, our Scout Troop accompanied by Father McGarry, travelled to Rome to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the first trip where our Papal flag was blessed by Pope John Paul II. Although a very successful trip in many ways, including two Papal audiences, it was marred by the theft of the 60-year-old Papal Flag on the last day of the trip!

Since the trip to Rome, our Group has been very fortunate to go to two World Scout Jamborees, the 18th in Holland in 1995 as participants and the 22th in Sweden in 2011 as visitors. Overseas trips have also taken place at the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg in Switzerland and several visits to both Northern Ireland and the Republic. This shows the commitment of the leaders to give the many children attending the same outdoors experiences as envisioned by the Founder of the Movement, Robert Baden-Powell (Chief Scout) when the Scout movement was founded in 1907. Last year, the Scout Group celebrated it's 85th Anniversary with a family camp, including all the Beaver, Cubs and Scouts at our County campsite, Linnet Clough. Some of our Beavers

had only joined the week before and were desperate to be involved.

Although we have modernised in many ways, we are still proud of our heritage and long sponsorship by the Parish. Our youngsters continue to be given every opportunity to develop as young people, allowing them to make positive contributions to society. The aim for them now is to continue to develop their personal, team and life skills, and gain their Chief Scout Award.

Since we wrote the last Parish history in 1988, over 400 young parishioners have been members of the St Catherine 2/241st Scout Group; it is always good to hear of their successes in life and hopefully Scouting has played a role. Former members of the group are always welcome to come back and join in the fun!

New members are always welcome to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, although there may be waiting lists at certain times of the year. More information can be found on the Parish website.

## Our CAFOD Group

St Catherine's Parish has an amazing record of supporting CAFOD's work. Its beginnings were in 1960, 32 years after our Parish was founded, when three Catholic women organised the first Family Fast Day. They were responding to a request from the people of the Caribbean island of Dominica to help raise funds for a mother and baby healthcare programme. In October 1962 CAFOD was established by a formal resolution passed by the Bishops of England and Wales, preparing for the 2nd Vatican Council in Rome, as their official aid and development agency. It would address the needs of some of the poorest in the world.

In Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor's words marking CAFOD's 50th Anniversary, 'CAFOD is a living embodiment of the option for the poor that is at the heart of the gospel'. It is timely that as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Parish in October, Archbishop Oscar Romero will be canonised in a ceremony in Rome. His human rights work in El Salvador ultimately cost him his life. CAFOD worked closely with the Archbishop as he turned his archdiocese into a refuge for whole communities fleeing from military repression, whose lives were devastated by conflict. CAFOD's history is closely bound up with many historic events: the Ethiopian famine in the 1980s and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004.

St Catherine's Parish has always responded with great generosity to any call for a collection in times of emergencies, as with this year's Summer Concert for the people in Yemen's forgotten war and through fast days and other fundraising events for long term development work, supporting communities to lift themselves out of poverty, through income generation programmes. Our targeted CONNECT2 fundraising is for water and other programmes in Ethiopia. The profits from the monthly fair trade stall go to these particular programmes.

The Parish has also supported CAFOD's crucial campaign work over the years, including the recent 'walk around the world' in solidarity and prayer, to highlight the plight of refugees, ahead of the UN meeting in September and other campaigns around climate change.

CAFOD's official computer records of Parish fundraising go back to 1990. As of 14th August 2018, our total for St Catherine's is an amazing £119,979.64!

St Catherine's CAFOD Group thanks you all and looks forward to your continued support.



## St Catherine's Community Sponsorship Group (also known as the Syria group!)

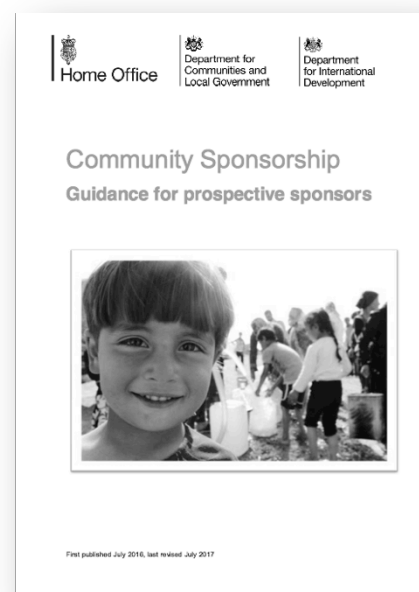
Our Community Sponsorship Group was formed following an invitation to Sean Ryan, Caritas Diocese of Salford, to a meeting with Father Bernard Wilson and a subsequent invitation for Sean to speak at all the Masses on the weekend of 17th June 2017. A further meeting of those interested led to the official formation of the group the following month. We now have 30 active members and a further 30 interested members, all of whom receive notification of, and notes from, all meetings.

We meet every 3 to 4 weeks. We have a project leader, chair for meetings, secretary, and five team leads for Family/Welfare, Finance and Fundraising, Education including English Language, Accommodation and Benefits and Employment. Our purpose being to resettle a family displaced by the conflict in Syria, under the Government's Home Office Scheme known as the Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme. To this end, we needed to raise funds, complete a two year resettlement plan and secure accommodation.

We had a retiring collection on Sunday last November and an appeal for parishioners to sign up to a standing order if they felt they could. One parishioner ran the Greater Manchester Run in May to raise further funds and we now have £12,400 and £450 per month in standing orders and await additional funds from Gift Aid and from the proceeds of the recent Fashion Show.

We finally secured the promise of accommodation from Southway Housing Trust in May 2018 and have been paying rent on the property since August 2018. The property needs decorating and furnishing, including white goods and carpeting. It also has an enormous garden which will need a lot of work.

We have interim approval of our Group following a meeting with the Home Office on June 29th 2018. We await formal notification and selection of a family for resettlement. We are very much looking forward to supporting the family when this happens, and of our work coming to fruition for the benefit of a family caught up in the events of the war. We thank you for all your support thus far and know we can rely on your generosity and offers of help to ensure that the arrival and two year resettlement period, for which we are responsible for, goes smoothly.



## St. Catherine's RC Primary School

The first chapter in the life of St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School began when the doors opened on 26th August 1929. Miss Conway was the Principal Teacher and 84 children were admitted, including 13 three year olds. Apparently, these 13 children were excluded a few days later as they were deemed to be too young. The school building was a little unusual, the former Tennis Clubhouse and pavilion in the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Didsbury Lodge.



The Foundation Stone of the new building was laid on 10th October 1936 and the new school, on the current School Lane site, became operational the following April. By this time there were 140 children on roll. This compares to 440 children currently on roll, including 54 three and four year olds.



The school went from strength to strength through the appointment of talented staff, motivated children and supportive families. Successive headteachers have been privileged to take up the baton which Miss Conway first picked up nearly 90 years ago. This was first passed to Mr White, then Mr Johnston, Mr Hotham, Mrs Duffin, Mr Hennessey and now to Miss Chwastek.

Reading the History of St. Catherine's School, a book put together by Owen French to celebrate the 60th Anniversary in 1989, it is clear that St. Catherine's has a long established reputation for high standards and for the strong sense of community. This is something we are as proud of today as ever before. Music is a thread that has woven its way through the history of our school and still continues through Mrs Dewsnap and our school choir.

Our school has lived through World War II and the invention of, amongst other things, the jet engine; ballpoint pen; colour television; microwave oven; velcro; computers; the internet and mobile phones. The world has changed in the last 90 years, in some ways, beyond recognition. However, the values and ethos of St. Catherine's School hold strong.



St. Catherine's  
RC Primary School

In 2016 we adopted the words of St. Catherine of Siena in our Mission Statement. These words inspire us to ***'Be who God wants us to be and so set the world on fire.'*** This quote means so much to the current school community and the words inspire and challenge us every day. However, they also embody the work and community of St. Catherine's throughout the last 90 years.

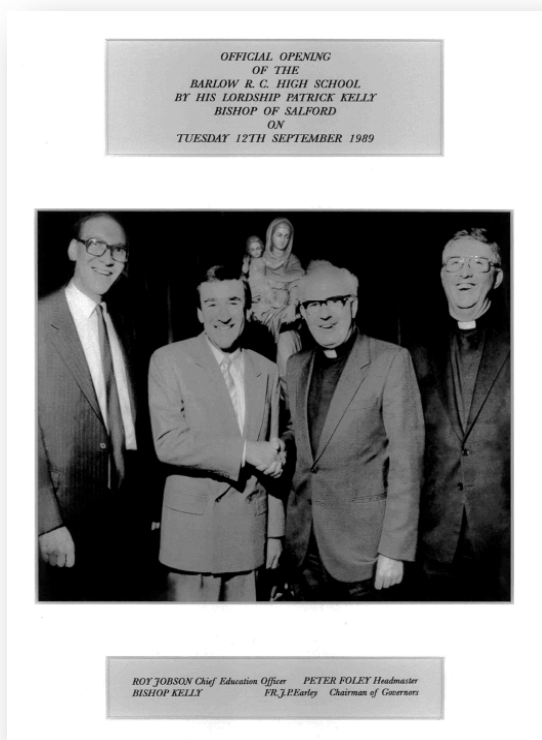
## A school for the future – The Barlow RC High School

Dedicated to St Ambrose Barlow, a local Martyr and Saint, the school was first established in 1985 to support the education of the children from the parishes of St Catherine's, St Bernard's, St Cuthbert's and St Ambrose.

Situated on School Lane, Didsbury, the school was originally formed by the amalgamation of The Hollies RC High School for Girls and St Mark's RC High School for Boys.



The school was opened in September 1989 by Bishop Patrick Kelly the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford. Mr Peter Foley was Headteacher and Fr Earley, Parish Priest at St Ambrose, was Chair of the Governing Body.



The school is now in its 33rd year of serving local parishes and while its strong Catholic ethos, high standards and dedication towards helping others remain – much has changed. For instance, the school educates both boys and girls. It achieved Science College status and in August 2012 – a brand new state of the art school building was unveiled.



The Barlow is now recognised as one of the highest performing schools in the city, with its students going on to study at our Catholic 6th Form Colleges of Xaverian and Loreto – with many going on to Russell Group Universities and indeed Oxbridge.

*"Stay with us, Lord, on our journey"*



## From St Catherine's to Bolivia: 2002 to 2018

In 2002 our friend Sister Josephine invited us to visit her in the orphanage Rosa de Anze which she had founded in 1997 in QUILLACOLLO, COCHABAMBA, Bolivia. Thanks to so many friends, family and especially The Barlow High School, we set off with 128kgs of goods, plus cash, the beginning of a wonderful adventure.

Bolivia is a landlocked country in South America bordered by Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Brazil. Initially we went only for three weeks, but since then have stayed for as long as six months. But generally for just over four months each year.

The orphanage Rosa de Anze, a home for about 28 youngsters, closed due to lack of finance in 2008, because of the global economic crisis. It was replaced by Sister Josephine's thriving primary school with about 300 pupils, administered by a community of Mexican Sisters. The community also runs a bakery!

Since the closure of the Rosa de Anze orphanage, we keep in contact with the youngsters who moved to other homes and with older ones who went to live independently. We visit and offer support where needed; and we are now godparents to some of their children and are blessed to be called their honorary parents and grandparents.

With the closure of the home we thought our work in Bolivia had come to an end, but we were invited to stay with the Sisters of Bethania, a Latin American order, with houses based in challenging communities in Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala and Colombia.



Every year we are made to feel part of this community. Together with the Sisters, we are actively involved in the parish of St Ildefonso and the Shrine of Our Lady of Urkupiña. We visit and stay in small communities in the outback of Bolivia, assisting at assemblies for young people, many who walk for up to six hours to attend these reunions. These have been truly memorable experiences, linked by challenging and frightening journeys, but so worthwhile.

Emma Rojas is director of an orphanage, Salomon Klein, a home for up to 170 orphaned and abandoned children aged from birth to 7 years. Emma has been working there for over 36 years. The children are well cared for, nourished, loved and educated. It is extremely challenging work.



On our first visit to Bolivia, Sister Edith a former teacher at The Barlow, told us about her communities in Peru and Bolivia. Over the years we have stayed in their houses in Cochabamba and Peru, and visited their missions in Ilo, Arequipa and Moquegua, experiencing their dedication to the local people. Tres Soles is another wonderful home for children and young people offering them hope for the future.

We are blessed with many friends here in Bolivia, and during the year we have fundraising activities supported by our many friends back home. Monies collected are given directly to a number of projects, to individual families, in payment for medicines and hospital visits etc. While we are here, we really do appreciate the National Health Service back in the UK as here if you cannot pay, treatment is not available.

Today we are based in a really bustling city, noisy with people cooking food and selling every kind of goods on the street from early morning until late at night. We buy donkey milk, which is said to be very good for the lungs! The place is colourful, despite its poverty, with women dressed in their traditional costumes. It is rare not to hear music playing. There's always something to celebrate, and if there is nothing to celebrate then celebrate that!

To finish, a special mention for Joan Dillon RIP from St Catherine's. She started afternoon teas to raise funds for street children in El Salvador. With the help of friends this became an annual lunch at St Catherine's, enjoyed by so many. Similarly, The Barlow High School continues to raise funds each year for the children and families of Bolivia. It is good to see firsthand how these funds really make such a difference. Thank you!

Mother Teresa said, "One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody." Poverty here is just everywhere. We see elderly on the streets alone and abandoned, street children who appear to be nobody to anybody. We are blessed to have Bolivia as our second home, and as Desmond Tutu said, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

**Lynda and Peter Waine**

## Thank you St Catherine's!

I recently marked my Silver Jubilee as a priest in the Diocese of Salford and was privileged to celebrate Mass at St Catherine's as part of this important landmark in my vocation journey. At that Mass I acknowledged the very significant part St Catherine's parish played in my journey leading to ordination.

The Featherstone family are effectively 'interlopers' to the Diocese of Salford, as we only arrived in 1980 when I was aged 21 years, hailing originally from the North East via 13 years in Buxton. I confess my initial attraction to St Catherine's was the 8am Sunday Mass, or as Fr Jack Fay jokingly called it, "the Mass for the spiritually elite!" My brother Paul and I were regulars at this Mass because it enabled us to take part in our respective Sunday sporting activities; namely his football and my cycling! Our first involvement thanks to Fr John Mackie, was running a "spot the ball" stall on the Christmas Fair for a few years, which though very small, enabled us to start feel we belonged.

I was a naturally shy young man and the Personnel Officer at Simon Container Machinery where I was working advised me to get involved in something to bring me out of myself. I volunteered to become a reader at mass. I found this very nerve-wracking at first but I gradually got more confident and I am very grateful for this opportunity to come out of my comfort zone!

All of this was coinciding with a struggle that was going on within me about what direction my life should take. I was regretting that I had not got better qualifications at school and college and was therefore in a low paid job. One day I was riding home on my bike in the pouring rain through Cheadle and was beating myself up about how little I had achieved in my life, when something amazing happened. I felt someone speak to my heart. "David, I want you to serve". At the time I didn't know where this came from nor what it meant, but I did know it was important. I have since come to believe it was the Lord who spoke to my heart that day.

I spent the next few years frantically trying to work out what "I want you to serve" meant. After trying lots of different things, I responded to an item in the Parish Newsletter asking for adults to run a voluntary youth club and this was to open up a whole new chapter in my life. I had also resolved to do something about my lack of qualifications and went to evening classes in St John's College in Manchester to do the Institute of Export course. Significantly it was there that I met Eddie Clare and he also was eventually to get very involved in the life of St Catherine's. He is now a well-respected priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham but that's a different story!

In the 1980s, Fr Martin Saunders arrived from St Dunstan's, Moston

and within a few months asked me whether I had thought of the priesthood and I admitted that indeed I was thinking about such a vocation. Very wisely, he never asked me again about this. I am very grateful for Fr Saunders introducing me to formational youth work at St Catherine's, through a YCW based discussion group he started for teenagers. He invited me to come along and for the first few months I was not very sure about it and sat quietly in the corner and mainly just observed Fr Saunders lead this Gospel-based discussion group. Just before Christmas, he asked me if I would take the lead on the group in the New Year. The prospect of this terrified me but as requested I had prepared something for the first session. So I went to the presbytery to ensure Fr Saunders was coming and significantly, he told me, "Start without me, I'll be along in five minutes!" This was really important for me, it was sink or swim time! I made a start and after a few minutes I realised this was something I could do well. Fr Saunders eventually came along, 90 minutes late!

What Fr Saunders did for me that night was the best thing anyone has ever done for me. From a confidence point of view, I have never looked back.

I had the time of my life running this and other youth groups at St Catherine's for a few years in the mid

1980s. It was an amazing time for everyone involved. I was growing in confidence and also progressing better in my career, thanks to my new qualifications. However I was in a dilemma, because what I was doing voluntarily in my free time at St Catherine's was fulfilling me so much more than what I was doing for a living. I was also a member of the Parish Council at St Catherine's, which was great fun and very enlightening.

I changed jobs in 1986 and moved to my own home in Darwen, Lancashire from whence I went to Ushaw College to train as a seminarian for the Diocese in September 1988. That was when I first met your current Parish Priest, Fr John Hitchen, with whom I continue to be good friends. I always returned to St Catherine's for Mass during the holidays and was encouraged at that time by Fr Michael Cleary and Fr David McGarry. I was ordained priest at St Catherine's by Bishop Patrick Kelly on Sunday 11th July 1993.

I hope by sharing part of my vocation story, you may glean the significance of welcoming and encouraging new people as I was here, to play their part in building the Kingdom and thereby grow in their own faith and desire to serve the Lord in his Church. I am very grateful to so many living and departed in the parish for all that you allowed me to become, and to go on to achieve in my life.

**Fr David Featherstone, now Parish Priest at St Mary's, Burnley**

## Personal memories of Rome, again and again!

I am extremely lucky to have travelled to Italy at least six times and to go with St Catherine's on at least four occasions. Pilgrimages led by Fr David McGarry, who was a great spiritual advisor, were just beautiful. He had great knowledge and great love for Italy, especially for St Peter's, the Vatican and the Square. My mother and I travelled in the 80s and had the most amazing experiences and our two meetings on different occasions with Pope John Paul II were indeed the highlights of my religious and my dear mum's spiritual life.

The first trip in 1983 was when I met Pope John Paul for the first time. St Catherine's had joined with St Kentigern's parish on this inspiring Roman pilgrimage. On the Wednesday the whole group made our way to St Peter's Square. My mum Kathleen and I joined the queue; I was in my wheelchair and mum was pushing. It was so exciting to think the Pope would say Mass for so many thousands of people and that we were about to take part in this celebration.

In 1983 and again in 1988 almost identical things happened. One of the Swiss Guards approached me and asked if mum and I would like to sit near the podium and meet Pope John Paul. It felt such a privilege and such an amazing experience.

The Mass was in English but greetings were spoken in many different languages and cheers went up from the representatives of each country taking part in the Mass. After the Mass had ended in 1988, the Pope stepped down from podium and came over and spoke to us. He asked where we were from and I remember saying Mmmmmmmmanchester! I was so nervous but he was lovely and said, "Where in Manchester?" and I said "St Catherine's Didsbury!"

Afterwards Fr McGarry said to me, "Cathy, in seven years' training for the priesthood here in Rome, I never met any Pope close up!"

Pope John Paul II gave us a blessing and memento prayer cards and we had our photograph taken with him. Each Pope must write out dozens of these cards each day to keep up with demand!

The whole group went back to St Peter's Square the following Sunday when the Pope gave his weekly address at the Papal window and St Catherine's got a mention. I am sure that Pope John Paul had remembered me and that was just so special.

On our return to the UK, Fr McGarry asked if St Catherine's might have one set of the Prayer Cards and Blessings, which are in Latin, for the School and Church archives. I was still working then so I had a morning off work and presented one of the Prayer Cards that Mum and I had received at Fr McGarry's mass.

I found the whole experience wonderful and spiritually uplifting. I should also add that at the time I had no idea that in speaking to the inspirational Pope John Paul II, I was in fact meeting and speaking to a future saint...twice! I have found these experiences so comforting over the years and I see them as a grace from God.

### Cathy Smart



*"Stay with us, Lord, on our journey"*

## A quiz for all the family

- 1) Where was St. Catherine of Siena born?
  - a) Naples
  - b) Brindisi
  - c) Siena
  - d) Zurich
- 2) Which Order did St. Catherine of Siena join?
  - a) The Dominicans
  - b) The Franciscans
  - c) The Capuchins
  - d) The Norbertines
- 3) Who of the following was St. Catherine of Siena's confessor?
  - a) Padre Pio
  - b) Raymond de Capua
  - c) St. John Vianney
  - d) St. Albert the Great
- 4) When the Great Schism broke out whom did St. Catherine of Siena support?
  - a) Clement VII
  - b) John XXIII
  - c) Martin V
  - d) Urban VI
- 5) How many children did St. Catherine of Siena's parents have?
  - a) 10
  - b) 12
  - c) 14
  - d) 25
- 6) How old was St. Catherine of Siena when she died?
  - a) 16
  - b) 21
  - c) 33
  - d) 78
- 7) Where did St. Catherine of Siena die?
  - a) Avignon
  - b) Florence
  - c) Rome
  - d) Paris
- 8) When was St. Catherine of Siena canonized?
  - a) 1461
  - b) 1487
  - c) 1500
  - d) 1512
- 9) When is the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena?
  - a) 11 March
  - b) 29 April
  - c) 4 November
  - d) 25 March
- 10) Name one place or profession of which Catherine of Siena is Patron.



**From here on double your points if you get the answer without reference to Google!**

11) Catherine of Siena help resolve the Western Schism. What is the Eastern Schism?

12) What is a Doctor of the Church? About how many are there? Can you name some!

13) There are four Women Doctors of the Church. Can you name them?

14) Catherine of Siena was famous for her letters. About how many letters did she write? (Trick question; there are two correct answers!)

15) What are Mary Magdalen and Manchester's Ellen Wilkinson reputed to have in common with Catherine of Siena?

16) Nigella Lawson and Catherine of Siena have something in common! They both recommend a recipe using ..... to improve sweetness!

17) What is the link between Assisi, Siena, Pietrelcina, and if you're really well-informed Holywell, Flintshire, and about twenty other places worldwide?

18) What did Catherine of Siena say about how we each "set the world on fire"?

**And to finish, two questions unrelated to Catherine of Siena:**

19) What baptismal name links Barlow Hall with Douay in France, Valladolid in Spain, and the Benedictine Order?

20) The clue to this question might be Scottish but what is the unique connection between an English Pope and a certain Roman Emperor?

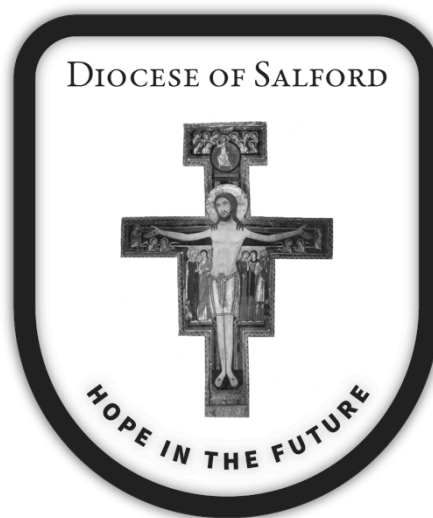
**Well done! Sorry, no prizes, but answers will be posted shortly on the Parish website!**

## Forming missionary disciples, building missionary parishes

'Hope in the Future' is an invitation to every parish in the Diocese of Salford to recognise and develop their missionary identity and their call to evangelise. First and foremost this process needs to be rooted in prayer and sustained by prayer which is why we are encouraged to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*"I ask for your active participation in both prayer and action. If we were all to undertake just one task in our parishes we would transform the witness we give and make a difference to the lives of so many people."*

**Bishop John Arnold**



**God our loving Father,**

**We thank you, for blessing our parish with all that we need,  
to respond to our vocation to be a missionary community in our  
locality.**

**We thank you for all our parish members who, in response to your call,  
give of themselves so freely to enrich our parish life  
in the ways of love and service.**

**We ask you now, to pour out afresh the gifts of your Spirit, upon each  
one of us that we may be inspired to serve you in new and creative  
ways as missionary disciples, bringing your Light to the world.**

**We ask your blessing upon us as we journey together in hope,  
through Christ Our Lord**

***Amen.***

*"For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives,  
how can we fail to share that love with others?"*

**Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 8**

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## Thanks and acknowledgements

A big thank you to those who contributed to and produced this publication celebrating the 90th Anniversary of our Parish. However our thanks need to extend far beyond this group to those who established and developed the Parish with all its great variety of activities, and to those to lead and participate in these groups and activities today.

This booklet is a celebration of what the Parish of St Catherine of Siena means to us. The challenge for each of us is to add to the list below as an acknowledgement of those who have helped us, taught us, listened to us, challenged or rebuked us maybe, prayed with us or for us, played with us, saved us from big or little mistakes, given us gifts or flowers or kind words, or just been there for us!

We say thank you to Father John and the priests who preceded him, and in no particular order to:

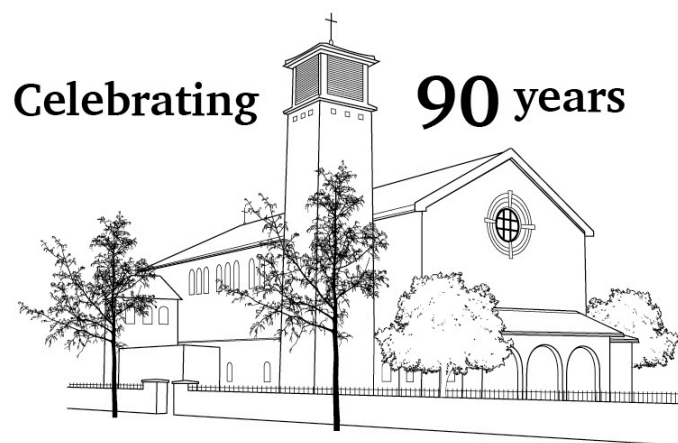
Those who read at Mass, the Minsters of the Eucharist and those who visit our sick and housebound, St Catherine's Primary School, The Barlow High School and all our school governors, the Parish Liturgy groups, the choir and the music groups who support our Masses, those who manage the Mass collections and who count the funds afterwards, those who help with Gift Aid and managing Parish finances, Cornerstone, the Gift Aid team, Yoga, leaders of the Sacramental Programme, our Parish safeguarding

champions, Parish pilgrimage leaders, the Rescue Society or Caritas as it is now known, the pre-school playgroup and the wrap-around care group, the Scottish dancers, the Beer Festival and the Gin Festival, the Scout Group including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the after-Mass coffee groups and those who prepare refreshments for Parish events, Francis House and the Rainbow Family Trust, Sister Aloysius RIP, the coffee mornings, the Christmas and Summer fairs, the Community Centre team, Swingin' Affair, the Pantomime Group, the Luncheon Club, the Community Sponsorship (Syria) group, CAFOD, the Legion of Mary, the SVP, the Ladies of St Catherine's, the altar servers, the Over-60s Group, the church cleaning team, the grasscutters, our Prison Visitor, but also to those families and individuals who simply sit, kneel, stand and pray alongside us, and greet us with "Peace be with you!"

Apologies to the "forgotten" who are not listed above. Your contribution is appreciated, and if you let us know, your work will be acknowledged in the list on the parish website.

Now you may wish to list just for yourself or your family those individuals or groups who have made a difference in your life at St Catherine's.

**Thank you one and all!**



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