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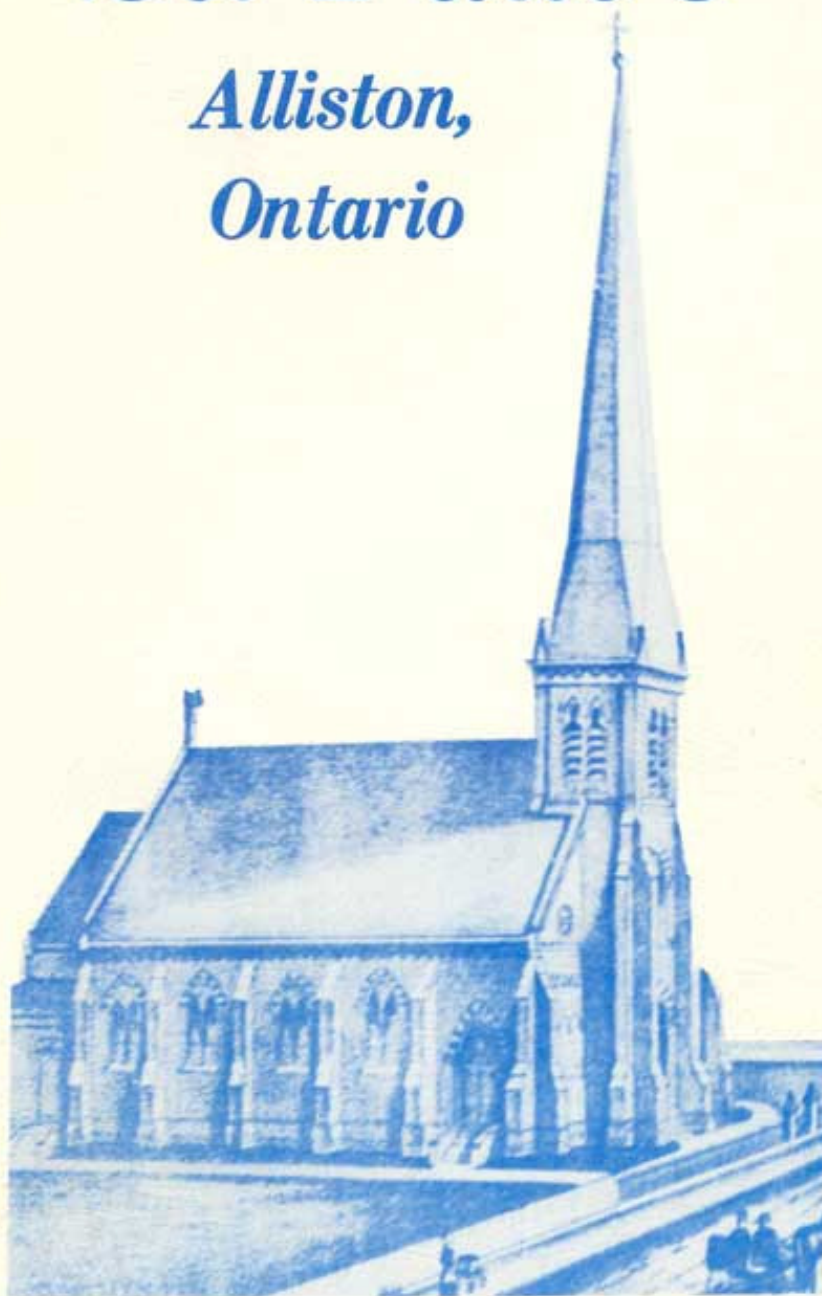
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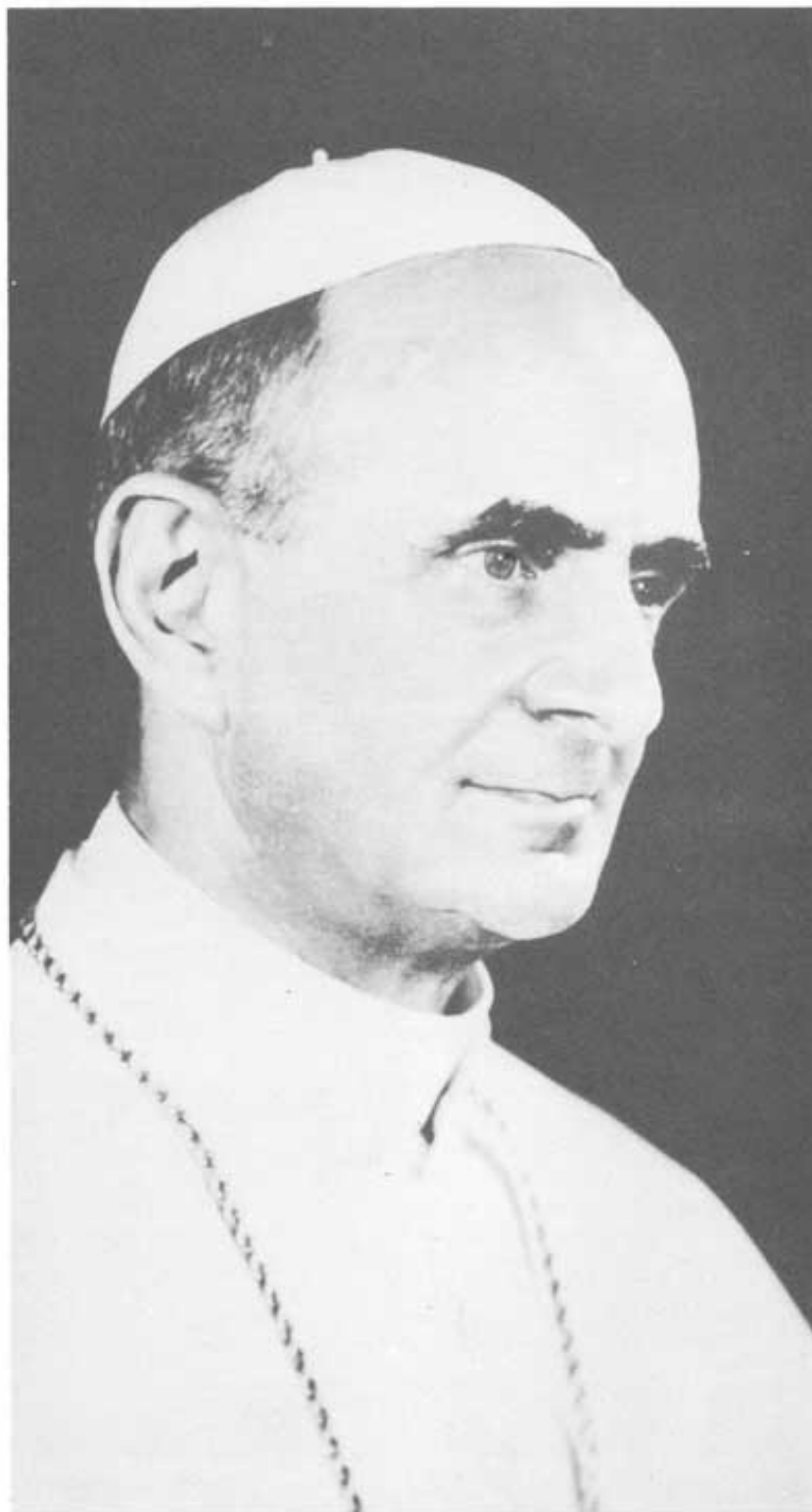
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# *St. Paul's*

*Alliston,  
Ontario*



*Centennial*  
*1876-1976*



**HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI**



ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO  
CHANCERY OFFICE

55 GOULD STREET  
TORONTO, CANADA  
M5B 1G1

March 19, 1976.

Your parish is this year celebrating its hundredth year in Alliston. On the 28th of May, 1876, the corner stone of the church was laid with all the pomp and ceremony suitable for that time and place. This was done by Archbishop J. J. Lynch, and a later Archbishop of Toronto, at that time Bishop of London, Bishop Walsh, preached. Less than a year later your parish was, on New Year's Day, Feast of the Circumcision of Christ, 1877, dedicated to St. Paul by Bishop Crinnon, Bishop of Hamilton.

But let us not forget that your ancestral faith had earlier roots in your neighbourhood. When the Irish came in the years before the great Irish famine of 1846-7 they brought with them the ancient faith of their country and at once sought the presence of a priest. As early as 1830 we hear of Father Gordon on horseback and on foot gathering the faithful of your countryside around South Adjala - saying Mass, administering the needed sacraments, preaching the message of Christ. As there was no Church he used the simple home which a Mr. Hugh Kelly had hewn for his family some three years previously. Although Bishop Alexander Macdonnell had visited the countryside in 1827 the above may be considered as the beginning of the church's story in your country.

For it is from this Church of South Adjala that the parish of North Adjala takes its beginning. Some twenty years later, or perhaps less, the parish priests had established a mission station in the home of a Mr. Hugh Ferguson where Mass was said every three months. By 1854 the decision was taken to build a permanent church on two acres of land donated by Mr. Ferguson and the church of the Immaculate Conception was built in 1855. However, the centre of population was changing. Father Gibney therefore built a second church in the parish dedicated to St. Paul and transferred the parish headquarters to the new church in Alliston.

Your Catholic story beginning so long ago and enhanced by the loyalty and faith of the parishioners is well told in the history of the last hundred years of your beloved parish. You have had a wonderful succession of faithful pastors. Your faith and that of your ancestors shines forth in the story of this church and its people. I do not need to speak of the number of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. I do not need to speak of the fathers and mothers and the children of this parish as their deeds speak for themselves.

May you read with pleasure the following pages - be proud of your church - live up to its lessons - follow the example of the past.

*Alfred J. Brock*  
Archbishop of Toronto





**THE MOST REV. PHILIP F. POCOCK, D.D., J.C.D.**  
**Archbishop of Toronto**



**THE MOST REV.**  
**FRANCIS V. ALLEN, D.D., V.G.**  
**Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto**



**THE MOST REV.**  
**THOMAS B. FULTON, D.D., V.G.**  
**Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto**



### *A Message from the Pastor - 1883*

... His Lordship (the Bishop) preached an impressive discourse upon the occasion of blessing the Church (St. Paul's) and warmly complimented the Parishioners and Pastor upon the good work accomplished and the bright prospects, the building of this Church afforded for the future of Alliston. It was a big undertaking, considering there were only some 60 families then attached to the new Church, but owing to perseverance and good management, we are happy to state that on Feb. 13th 1882 the last cent of debt was wiped out, the total outlay being \$9161.64 — not a bad showing for a little better than 5 years ...

(an excerpt from the historical  
notes of Rev. H. J. Gibney,  
dated June 26, 1883: p. 7.)



## *A Message from the Pastor - 1976*

As we receive congratulations on the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's parish how fitting it is for us, pastor and parishioners alike, to return thanks to Almighty God for all His graces given to us, to our parents and grandparents, and to all the former priests and members of this parish during the century of its existence.

When we recall its earliest years under Father Henry Gibney, who for over forty-seven years was its founding pastor, and the sixty or so earliest families, we marvel at the courage and piety of these original parishioners, as well as that of the priests and people who followed them who, through the difficult years of two world wars and economic depression, have passed on the treasures of their faith to us of this present generation.

We are encouraged by their example to press on to the objectives of our catholic faith, constantly unfolded to us by the Church's authentic teachings and aided by the graces poured out through holy mass and sacraments administered within the sacred walls of our parish church.

Finally, we rejoice in the fact that Jesus' abiding presence in the Blessed Sacrament has made our St. Paul's Church truly "The House of God" in our midst; and we pray that through Holy Mary's intercession, and that of our glorious Patron, St. Paul the Apostle, our Blessed Lord will prosper us to grow into an even fuller and richer spiritual life; that He will make holiness the adornment of every family. May He make more vigorous amongst us true christian brotherhood by strengthening the bonds making us members of His Mystical Body, which is His Holy Catholic Church.

Rev. F. R. McGinn  
Parish Priest

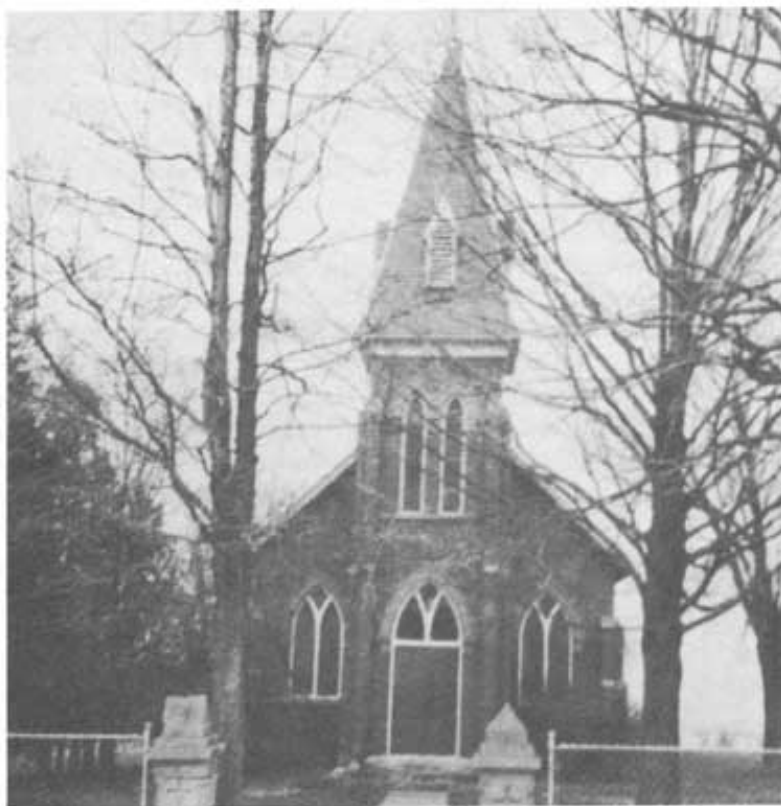
## *The beginning in North Adjala*

The first Roman Catholics to arrive in the Alliston area settled in what is known as North Adjala, i.e. the top part of Adjala Township that lies to the north of the Notawasaga River. The church authorities of the time deliberately encouraged Catholics to immigrate to Adjala Township as a kind of semi-official Catholic township of settlement. Though people of other faiths were also prominent among its early settlers in the 1820's and 1830's, still there was a preponderance of Roman Catholics in Adjala making it, in terms of density, the most Catholic of all the townships now located within the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The pattern of settlement followed the usual course of starting in the south of the township and soon moving north. The centre of the North Adjala Catholic community was the village of Arlington situated high on a hill on the fourth concession of Adjala Township between today's Highway 89 to the north and the 30th Sideroad of Adjala to the south. In the 1850's when the Catholics around Arlington were beginning to think of building a church, Arlington was still a larger centre than was Alliston and certainly had far more Catholics. Arlington was named after Portarlington, a town on the northern border of County Laois (formerly Queen's) where it meets the counties of Kildare and Offaly (formerly King's) from which general area in Ireland many of the early settlers of Adjala had emigrated.

Since the 1830's the priests from Colgan had made a regular stop at Arlington to say Mass at the home of Mr. Hugh Ferguson, one of the earliest settlers in the area. But the community of North Adjala was growing and wanted more of the finer things of life after the initial pioneer work of clearing the land and building the roads had been completed. The desire for a church of their own was foremost in the minds of the people; thus, under the direction of Father Rattigan, Pastor at Colgan, the first meeting to discuss such a project was held in Mr. Ferguson's house on the Eve of Saint Patrick's Feast, March 16, 1854. A committee was formed, plans were drawn up and funds collected so that construction of the very handsome frame structure could begin early in the following year. Father Rattigan over-saw the initial stages of construction and was typical of the church-building priests of his time. Transferred to Saint Margaret's Church in Tecumseth Township in August of 1855, Father Rattigan will always be remembered as the priest who started the North Adjala Catholic community on its way to being a parish unto itself.

His place was taken by Father Francois Xavier Pourret, the next Pastor of Colgan, who completed the new church and said the first Mass in it on November 25, 1855. The new church was dedicated to Saint Mary and her Immaculate Conception, which dogma had just been promulgated by Pope Pius IX the previous year on December 8, 1854 and which was most popular in the church at that time. It should also be noted that many of the early Irish settlers of Adjala used to say the Office of the Immaculate Conception daily as a basis for their private prayer life; thus, the Immaculate Conception was a particularly popular devotion after which to name the church.



**Present Church of the Immaculate Conception, North Adjala, built in 1885.**



**Father Henry Gibney and Father William Harris [right], later Dean Harris, a noted pastor, scholar, and orator in the Archdiocese of Toronto.**

The church was blessed on Sunday, July 19, 1857, by Father Flannery, C.S.B., a professor at Saint Michael's College. Father blessed the church between the two Masses said there that day and then delivered the usual long sermon to end the festivities. There has always been a very close relationship between the Basilian Order, of which Father Flannery was a member, and the North Adjala parish which has given many of its sons to the Order including the Order's first Canadian priest, Father Michael Joseph Ferguson, C.S.B. Father Ferguson was the son of Mr. Hugh Ferguson, always a great friend and benefactor of the church. Not only did he give his son to the service of the Church, but he also donated two acres of his land upon which the new church and its surrounding cemetery were built, that is on the west half of Lot 31 of the Fifth Concession of Adjala Township. Other benefactors of the new church were from the families of the following: Wm. Dwyer, Matt Conway, James Foley, Mortimer Lynch, Andrew Conway, John McCarroll, James Heydon, James Nolan, Michael Ryan, Wm. Burke, John Quirk, Tim O'Hearn, Hugh Donnelly, Bernard Mullen, Thomas Kidd, Wm. Cassidy, Richard Hanley and Thomas Langley.

On January 1, 1865 North Adjala was established as a separate parish cut off from Colgan (which would henceforth be known popularly as South Adjala). It was upon this 1865 date that the parishioners of South Adjala based their 1965 centennial celebrations on behalf of their three geographically very close churches: Saint Mary's of Achil serving south-west Adjala, Saint James of Colgan serving south-east Adjala and Saint Francis Xavier of Tottenham serving south-west Tecumseh Townships. Father Patrick Conway was the first Pastor and he set about right away building a brick rectory in 1865-66. His successor, Father Philibert Rey, 1866-73, put on an addition to the church of some twenty feet and erected a belfry in which he placed a very fine bell whose tones could be heard for miles around as it rang out the Angelus or summoned the people to Mass.

Father Henry Joseph Gibney, Pastor from 1873 until 1920, renovated Immaculate Conception Church in 1879-80. The interior was tastefully decorated, the exterior painted a spotless white and the bell in the belfry recast. On February 16, 1885, the church and rectory at Arlington were burned to the ground. Within the same year a new brick church, the present one, was built, but without a rectory beside it this time. It was blessed on Sunday, December 13, 1885 by Right Rev. Timothy O'Mahony, the Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto. Permission to erect the Stations of the Cross was obtained on November 9, 1890. The new Arlington Church exterior is classic in terms of the symmetry of its lines and many an artist has sketched it. Arlington suffered heavily from rural depopulation and the accompanying decline of local industry that occurred after the coming of the railway to Alliston in 1878. Today, all that is left of Arlington village is our own church.

### *A list of the Pastors of North Adjala (Arlington)*

1865—1866 Rev. Patrick Conway	1941—1947 Rev. Joseph M. Murphy
1866—1873 Rev. Philibert Rey	1947—1950 Rev. William Joseph Hipkin
1873—1920 Rev. Henry Joseph Gibney	1950—1952 Rev. Michael T. Dodd
1920—1921 Rev. William Patrick Heydon	1952—1954 Rev. John Anthony Kelly
1921—1930 Rev. John Francis Kehoe	1955 Rev. Thomas McQuaid, S.F.M.
1930—1936 Rev. Simon Joseph Armstrong	(served as temporary pastor)
1936—1941 Rev. Harold Norbert Carey	1955— Rev. Joseph Majka



## *The Re-establishment of the Parish of North Adjala*

If the town and parish of Alliston continued to prosper with the coming of a second railroad, the Canadian Pacific, in 1906, the same could not be said for the church at Arlington. In the early part of the present century, it had only half the parishioners that Saint Paul's had; even those that it had were far fewer in number than those of twenty-five to fifty years earlier. Indicative of its declined fortunes was the fact that no new rectory had been built beside the new church after the fire of 1885. Of course, it was only four miles west of the Alliston rectory and hence within easy riding distance by horse there and back within the same day. However, developments had occurred to the immediate south that required a fresh look at the question of whether to rebuild a rectory at Arlington. In 1875 Saint Mary's Church was built at Achil, five miles to the west of Colgan, and in 1885 Saint Francis Xavier Church was built at Tottenham, three miles to the east of Colgan. As neither of these two new churches had a rectory of its own, they were both served by the priests from Colgan, a pastoral situation which usually required the services of two priests. As early as the 1880's there had been talk of setting up another parish in the general area so that each priest would have a specific mission church as well as his main church over which he could exercise exclusive pastoral oversight.

It was not until the arrival of Father John Francis Kehoe as a newly ordained priest and Curate at Alliston in 1918 that this idea began to bear fruit.

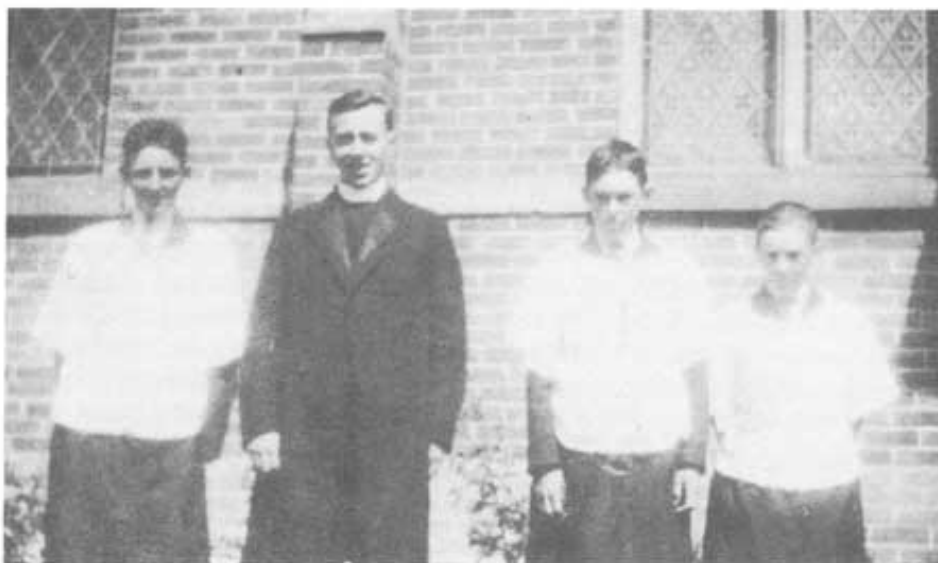
Father Kehoe saw the possibility of re-establishing the parish of North Adjala as a separate entity unto itself, this time with a new rectory at Arlington, and was assigned to that specific task in 1921. By 1923 the new brick rectory and barn were completed beside the older church at Arlington, all of which are still standing. To make the new parish more viable and capable of supporting a priest, Saint Mary's Church in Achil, eight miles south-west of Arlington, was added to the new parish as its mission church.

Father Kehoe stayed in North Adjala, of which he was its second founder, until 1930 when he reluctantly allowed himself to be transferred to the parish at Midland, Saint Margaret's.

Today Immaculate Conception Church still stands all by itself in splendid isolation on top of Arlington Hill. While one might be tempted to think that it is a relic from the past suitable only for priests of a particularly contemplative disposition, one soon realizes that North Adjala is a very active parish experiencing slow but steady housing development in its attractive rural surroundings. Though often regarded as one of the more remote and struggling parishes of the Toronto Archdiocese, its contribution to the past and present life of our church has been, and is, considerable. With one or more Masses at each church each weekend, the parish is showing ever more signs of life almost to the point that it is experiencing a third rebirth. Responsible for this slow but steady growth is its devoted Pastor, Father Joseph Majka, who this year celebrates his twenty-first year in the parish. We wish North Adjala every best wish for its future success, never forgetting that the story of our faith in the Alliston area began at Arlington which never hesitated to help its younger sister churches in so many ways, both spiritual and material.



**fr. Joe Majka**



**Father John F. Kehoe, pastor at North Adjala, with altar boys, left to right: Jim Ryan, John Small, Ambrose Small. c. 1921.**

St. Paul's Parish today takes in the southern half of Essa Township, i.e. south of Baxter and Thornton; the northern part of Tecumseth Township, i.e. that part north of Beeton; its eastern boundary goes as far as Highway 27, including Cookstown. Alliston's western boundaries now include only a little territory to the west of itself, i.e. only the seventh concessions of both Adjala and Tosorontio Townships. To the west begins North Adjala Parish which encompasses all the rest of Tosorontio Township, all of Mulmur Township, and the remainder of Adjala Township north of its 20th Side-road, which runs north of Loretto and just south of the Nottawasaga River, in an east-west direction.



**New rectory at North Adjala, built c. 1922.**



## *St. Paul's*



The R.C. Church deserves more than a passing notice here. It is called St. Paul's and is an off-shoot of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Arlington, the pioneer Church of North Adjala. Both churches are presided over by Rev. Father Gibney, whose incumbancy of the last named was so successful that it necessitated the building of St. Paul's, a beautiful and substantial Gothic brick structure in 1876.

This gentleman was born in Toronto in 1846 and received his preliminary education at the Christian Brothers' school, his classical course at St. Michael's College, and his theological course at the grand Seminary of St. Sulpice, Montreal after which he was ordained in August 1872 by Archbishop Lynch.

His great success in advancing the North Adjala Mission from it's state in 1873, when he took charge of it, to a condition requiring an additional church of such extent and beauty as St. Paul's, carries it's own comment upon a gentleman equally popular with all classes and creeds.

"Historical Sketch of the County of Simcoe"  
Belden Atlas, 1881

## *The growth in Alliston*

Though developed later than Arlington, Alliston soon became the leading community in the area. The third Pastor of North Adjala, Rev. Henry Joseph Gibney, decided that another church should be built to serve the needs of this rapidly growing village. For this purpose he had already purchased an acre of land in Alliston and obtained the permission of the Archbishop of Toronto, his Grace, Most Rev. John Joseph Lynch. A meeting was held on March 19, 1875, where it was decided to proceed with the building of the new church — but in a year's time, in order to draw up plans and collect funds. The parishioners of North Adjala also contributed generously to the building fund for the Alliston church. Likewise, ten years later, the Catholics of Alliston would help their neighbour by contributing to the rebuilding of the burned Arlington Church. In both cases swift action followed prompt generosity as both churches were built in a remarkably short time. As for the sixty Catholic families of Alliston, with some help from the outside they managed to pay off the entire cost, almost \$10,000.00, of the new church by 1882 as a result of their perseverance and good management.

Construction of the present Alliston church began in the spring of 1876 and the corner stone was laid with much ceremony on Sunday, May 28 of that year by Archbishop Lynch who dedicated the new church to Saint Paul. The preacher for the occasion was his Excellency, Most Rev. John Walsh, then Bishop of London, Ontario, and later to become Archbishop of Toronto. He preached of the perpetuity of the church before an unusually large crowd gathered for the occasion. This event has become the specific occasion for the centennial celebrations of Alliston parish to be held on Sunday, May 30, 1976, the closest Sunday to the laying of the corner stone of the church exactly one hundred years ago.

Saint Paul's Church was solemnly blessed and opened for public worship on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 1877, by Right Rev. Doctor Crinnon, the Bishop of Hamilton, who only managed to reach the church after a very long and hazardous sleigh ride through a sudden snow storm. Bishop Crinnon complimented the parishioners and Pastor upon the good work that they had accomplished and the bright prospects that the new church offered for the future of Alliston. On July 23, 1878, Archbishop Lynch returned to Saint Paul's to administer its first confirmation to fifty-six children and he rewarded Father Gibney for his many successful labours in building such a beautiful church so quickly and efficiently by granting him three months leave to visit Rome and the Holy places of Europe.

A few words are required to describe this most exceptional and devoted Pastor whose only major pastoral charge was Alliston and to whom there is a plaque in Saint Paul's Church. Father Henry Joseph Gibney was born in Toronto on August 10, 1846. He attended the local Christian Brothers' School and Saint Michael's College, Toronto, graduating from university in 1869. He attended the Grand Seminary of Saint Sulpice in Montreal and was ordained a priest by Archbishop Lynch on August 25, 1872. After some short pastoral experiences elsewhere, he was sent to North Adjala as Pastor in the summer of 1873. His fine qualities of leadership, organization and administration stood him in good stead for the many buildings he would have to construct. He also had a scholar's sense of history and his brief account of the parish up to 1883, the time of writing, has been of great help in writing this history. He remained in good health until about his 70th year when he required the services of an assistant priest, Father John Francis Kehoe, who served as his Curate from 1918 to 1920. After forty-seven years and two months as Pastor of the Parish, he retired to a



**Interior of St. Paul's — 1976**

private house at 138 Wellington Street East in his beloved Alliston. Two years later at seventy-five years of age, and only months short of his fiftieth anniversary of ordination, he died on Wednesday, March 29, 1922. He was buried in the Alliston Roman Catholic Cemetery and his imposing tombstone and the plaque to him in the church are reminders to us of the great love which his parishioners, and people of all creeds and classes, bore him.

In his 1878 confirmation visit, Archbishop Lynch intimated to the parishioners while complimenting them on their beautiful new church that a rectory was now needed to make Alliston a complete parish unit — which it should be, since it was the most appropriate place for the parish priest to reside. The Archbishop's hints were not lost upon the people and their Pastor. No sooner had the debt from the church been paid off and episcopal permission obtained, than was the handsome brick rectory which we now see begun and completed in 1882. As usual, the debt was completely paid off within a few years, the cost of the rectory being \$2,300.00 — in those days! During the next few years stables and various outside sheds were built near the rectory and a fence put around the entire property, all of which have now been taken down.

During the late 1870's and early 1880's, a considerable number of property transactions were conducted on behalf of the parish to gain possession of the 2½ acre parcel of land on which the presently well-landscaped church and school complex now stands. In view of the straitened circumstances in which so many other Catholic communities now find themselves, we may thank Father Gibney for his real estate acumen in purchasing this spacious area now bounded by Wellington Street to the north, Lorne Street to the east and Nelson Street to the South.

In 1879 Father Gibney also purchased (for \$212.00) from the Fletchers, the founders of Alliston, three acres for the Catholic Cemetery which originally was surveyed into plots with walks, avenues and spaces for shrubbery. It is situated two blocks south-east of the church and is bounded by Nelson Street to the north, the town limits to the east, Albert Street to the south and Fletcher Street to the west. The new cemetery was solemnly blessed in November of 1879 by the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Msgr. Francis Patrick Rooney, D.P. The principal benefactors of the cemetery who contributed fifty dollars or more were from the families of the following: P. D. Kelly, James Heydon, Thomas Walsh, Michael O'Connor, Thomas McMyler, Patrick Foy, Michael Thompson, J. C. Hart, Timothy Heydon, J. & J. Keogh, James Burke, Patrick Lynch, John Mullen, Timothy O'Hearn, James Cassidy, John Small and the Pastor himself, Father Gibney.

The final honour that was to come to Alliston with its new rectory and spacious grounds was the official transfer of the principality of the parish from Arlington to Alliston on January 11, 1883. Thus its official name changed from being the parish of North Adjala to that of Alliston. The two churches continued to remain in the one parish under the same pastor and to serve the same total area as previously, but henceforth the principal official residence of the priest would be the rectory at Alliston. Mass continued to be said every Sunday and Holy Day in both Saint Paul's and Immaculate Conception Churches, except that until 1885, when Saint Cyprian's at Granger was attached to Orangeville as a mission, Mass was said there instead on the last Sunday of each month. More than anything else the move from Arlington to Alliston was a sign of the changes in the times from the former self-sufficient mainly rural based economy to one that has become more industrialized and urbanized. As the railways imported new labour-saving farm machinery into the countryside, they were exporting people from their rural homes into the factories of the ever growing big cities.





In terms of design Saint Paul's has changed much less than many churches built in the same epoch. On March 7, 1880 permission was granted to erect the Stations of the Cross, an ever popular source of devotion for the people. In 1898 the church was thoroughly renovated giving the interior the appearance that it has today. The subsequent periodic repaintings and redecorations have not substantially altered the original beauty of the church, built in the Gothic style. When built the exterior of the church was ninety feet by forty and had a fine spire of some one hundred and thirty feet high from the ground to the top of the cross. The church, both inside and outside, radiates an aura of calm and devotion that were such marked features of nineteenth century spirituality.

When first built Saint Paul's was definitely in the east end of Alliston, a fortunate choice as it turned out since it missed the ravages of the great fire of 1891 that destroyed some thirty acres of property in the centre of the town. Though not exactly central in its location today, it is certainly conveniently situated with the Banting Memorial High School on its eastern doorstep. The exceptionally beautiful setting and contours of Saint Paul's, along with the substantial size, actually encouraged other Catholics to move into Alliston. Thus while there were only about five Catholic families there in 1860, by 1880 there were sixty families and by 1900 there were eighty. The latter figure coupled with forty families at Arlington accounted for about 10% of the area's total population. Father Gibney made a very wise decision, almost as if it were an investment, in building such a large church at the time for what was a rather small Catholic community.

Today with the coming of more industry and commuters the population of Alliston and area has continued to expand to some 5,000 people, of which 15 to 20% would be Roman Catholics of many different ethnic backgrounds. Saint Paul's Church now serves some 250 Catholic families according to their various pastoral needs. The present Pastor, Father Francis Roy McGinn, has carefully and successfully guided the parish through the often upsetting, yet ultimately hopeful, changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council. His cousin, Father Frederick J. McGinn, also served the Alliston Parish temporarily in 1936 as Administrator, and Father Roy likes to think of himself as very much belonging to the Alliston Parish family. He was baptized in Saint Helen's Parish, Toronto, by Father William Patrick Heydon of Alliston, who in turn was baptized by Father Gibney, founder of the Alliston Parish. Hence, by "baptismal succession" — if one may be permitted to use the expression — Father McGinn has the "Spirit of Alliston" within him. We wish him every success in his belatedly rediscovered home for which he has done so much especially during this centennial year.



**REV. HENRY J. GIBNEY**  
1846 — 1922

"... Fine qualities of leadership, organization, and administration . . ."

"... a scholar's sense of history . . ."

"... the great love which his parishioners bore him . . ."

"... a gentleman equally popular with all classes and creeds . . ."

*"Keep them, O Lord, for they are Thine, Thy priests whose lives  
burn out before Thy consecrated shrine."*



**Pallbearers carry Father Gibney's casket from St. Paul's, after Requiem Mass: Frank Adams, Barney Holland, Ambrose Ryan, Leo O'Brien, Herb Merner, and Leonard Fardella.**

## ***A LIST OF THE PASTORS OF ST. PAUL'S.***

1883—1920	Rev. Henry Joseph Gibney
1918—1920	Rev. John Francis Kehoe (served as a Curate of Alliston)
1920—1921	Rev. William Patrick Heydon
1921—1928	Rev. John Patrick O'Brien
1928—1936	Rev. Francis J. Sneath
1936	Rev. Frederick J. McGinn (served as Administrator of Alliston)
1936—1938	Rev. Francis Michael Caulfield
1938—1943	Rev. Felix Coffey
1943	Rev. W. Vincent Egan (served as Administrator of Alliston)
1943—1944	Rev. Patrick Joseph Kirby
1944—1948	Rev. Thomas Louis Healy
1948—1956	Rev. James E. Keelor
1956—1962	Rev. Vincent L. McGivney
1962—1964	Rev. Clement J. Schwalm
1964—1968	Rev. John T. Bolger
1968—	Rev. Francis Roy McGinn



**Rev. H. J. Gibney**



**Rev. J. F. Kehoe**



**Rev. F. J. McGinn**



**Rev. F. M. Caulfield**





**Rev. Felix Coffey**



**Rev. James E. Keelor**



**Rev. Vincent L. McGivney**



**Rev. Clement Schwalm**



**Rev. John Bolger**



**Rev. Francis Roy McGinn**



**THE COMMUNITY . . .**  
Fr. Gibney and Fr. Kehoe attend Armistice Day gathering at King & Church St., Nov. 11, 1918.

## *The Pastorate...*



**MARRIAGES:** above, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Morrow after wedding in St. Paul's.



**BAPTISMS:** left, Martin Joseph Andrews is baptized by Fr. F. R. McGinn. With parents and grandmother, 1970.

**OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**  
... Fr. Keelor attends  
the graduation of  
parishioner, Mrs. Shirley  
McKeown [McDonald].



**FIRST COMMUNION:**  
Above, Fr. McGivney  
with two first com-  
municants.

**MISSIONS AND  
RENEWALS:** Right, two  
Passionist Missionaries  
visit St. Paul's; they  
bring to mind the old-  
style Parish Missions.



*...Through  
the  
Years...*

## *LOOKING AHEAD—1875*

The lot purchases shown on the next page are outlined in the Church records as follows:

- 144 and 145 were purchased on Nov. 10, 1875; they are the site of the present Church.
- 146 was purchased on Dec. 29, 1876; 147 and 148 were purchased on April 24, 1877. These three form the site of the present Rectory.
- On Feb. 10, 1879, the lot west of the Church, numbered 143, was obtained. It is now the site of the school.
- On May 11, 1883, lots 153 and 154, on the south-west corner of the block, were obtained. They are now part of the school yard area.
- Finally, lots 150, 151, 152, were purchased on Oct. 2, 1883. The Nelson St. end of the school building now rests on this land.

The transactions listed above have culminated in the picture below, taken c. 1965.



156	155 M <sup>c</sup> DONALD	139	140 ST.	141
149 ← NELSON ST.		142 WELLINGTON ST. →		
150	SCHOOL			143
151	<div> <div>CHURCH</div> </div>			144
152	<div> <div>RECTORY</div> </div>			145
154	153	148	147	146
LORNE ST.				

# *The History of Catholic Education in the Alliston Area*

The story of Catholic education in the Alliston area has had more than its share of controversies, both past and present, but then such is par for the course for many an Ontario Catholic community. The less edifying aspects of the problems connected with the establishment and continuation of Catholic schools, both here and elsewhere in Ontario and beyond, need not be emphasized to the point that they obscure the positive results obtained. Today we may look back with pride at our new Separate Elementary Schools and let bygones be bygones but perhaps the struggles of the past to obtain a good Catholic education in our area were worth it. That such a large proportion of the vocations to the priestly and religious life from our parish chose orders which stressed excellence in education, such as the Basilians, is certainly a fine testimonial to the seriousness with which our forefathers strove to obtain a Christian education. Even without formal schools catechism was well taught in our churches and in private homes every Sunday and the lessons were learned equally well.

The only separate school of the one room variety that our area ever had was the one situated south of Arlington on the south-east corner of the Fifth Line and the 25th Sideroad of Adjala Township. It is now converted into a private dwelling. Established in the latter part of the last century really as a public school under Catholic Trustees it continued its existence as a one room school until about 1950 by which time it had long since become a regular Catholic Separate School. For years its one teacher taught a number of students that fluctuated from ten to thirty until in the 1950's the students left for the larger and more comprehensive Roman Catholic Separate School of Adjala at Colgan which was one of the first in Ontario to unite a number of scattered Catholic School Boards under one roof. The old one room separate school may appear very modest beside some of today's modern pedagogical complexes but, measured by its results, it educated very well. Some of our great Catholic university professors have come from it and similar schools.

Premier Robarts began a new era in the building of Roman Catholic Separate Schools in Ontario and thus our large new schools in both Alliston and Angus were opened for the 1960-61 school year. Also instrumental in the building of these two schools at the time was the then Pastor, Father Vincent McGivney, who spared no effort to see that all children of the parish could attend a Catholic school next to their regular church. In January, 1970, all three schools serving our area, i.e. the schools at



**ST. PAUL'S, Grades 1 & 2, 1965, with teacher Mrs. K. Quinlan.**

Colgan, Alliston and Angus were brought under the jurisdiction of the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board with its offices in Barrie. This ended an era whereby each Catholic elementary school was attached to a specific parish. As for Camp Borden, the school system there comes under federal rather than provincial jurisdiction and as such has no specifically Catholic or Separate Schools. However, religious instruction can be given in all four schools on the Base during regular school hours so that there is little need for special Catholic schools.

Thanks to the help given by the present principal, Mr. Desmond Carroll, and our local historian, Mrs. Carmel Lynch, we have the following details concerning the building and opening of Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School in Alliston. The school was begun in the summer of 1960 on land owned by the parish just west of the church. The cement block and brick structure opened for classes in the fall of 1960 with 113 pupils in three class rooms. Mrs. Guthrie was the first principal. ORIGINAL Teaching Staff included Martina McKeown, Mrs. A. Carr, and Mrs. Charbonneau. Mrs. Guthrie was followed the next year by Mr. T. Campbell who, in turn, was succeeded by the present principal, Mr. D. Carroll, in 1965. Mrs. Theresa Keogh has been vice-principal since 1966. The school was officially opened and blessed by the Most Rev. Francis A. Marocco, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, on Friday, October 27, 1961. In each of the years, 1961, 1963 and 1964 two more classrooms were added to the school. In the latter year, the gymnasium was added as well, and officially blessed by Bishop Marocco on January 31, 1965. Three more classrooms were added in 1966 and today, in 1976, the L-shaped school has thirteen full-time teachers for some 300 students, a high point of 354 students having been reached in 1967-68. We wish the students every success in their studies as they strive to carry on the fine religious traditions begun by their forefathers here many years ago.



## *In Earlier Days...*

Catechism classes were held after mass on Sunday mornings. Mass was usually at 9:00 a.m. and you fasted until catechism class was over and you walked home. If you lived in the country, the parents waited for their children.

Miss Annie Reynolds taught for several years, also Miss Mae Heydon, sister of Father Wm. Heydon. Michael Moran conducted the senior classes for many years and was in complete control — this was quite an achievement as there was always a comedian in the crowd. Lessons were assigned and each Sunday afternoon or Saturday evening was spent learning them. One parent was always around to keep the students busy.

Confirmation was held at infrequent intervals and some children reached their teens before receiving this sacrament.

Before we had our own Separate School, the Sisters of St. Joseph (from Toronto) ran a two week summer school for children making their First Communion, usually in July.



**Sister Mary McKenna and Father Keelor with First Communion class, 1954.**





**Outstanding athletes at St. Paul's: Mike Legault, Elaine Rivett, with competitor from New Lowell.**



**The late Bishop Marocco with school staff, and pastor Father McGivney, at official opening in 1961. From the left: Mrs. Mary Lynch, Mr. T. Campbell, Cecile Guthrie, Joanna Wilson, and Mr. Desmond Carroll.**



**Sister F. M. Treacy**



**Rev. J. V. Burke, C.S.B.**

## *Vocations...*



**E. G. McCarroll, C.S.B.**

Sister Thibert, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. Thibert of St. Paul's, joined the Grey Nuns of the Cross and was the first Religious to take her final vows in St. Paul's — which she did in 1972.



**Sister Michele Thibert**



**Sister Margaret Rose Fardella**



**Brother Frank Fardella, C.R.**



**Rev. Ambrose Conway**



**Sister Mary Redempta [Bolger]**



*Ottawa, August 15, 1974*

*Reverend Sister Catherine  
Donnelly, S.O.S.  
Camp Morton, Manitoba*

*I send my congratulations to you, to  
Sister Margaret Guest and to Sister  
Kathleen Schenck on the fiftieth  
anniversary of your profession as  
members of the Sisters of Service.  
Your Community has given fifty  
wonderful years of devoted service  
to God and Canada. The Sisters of  
Service are a body of great Canadian  
women.*

*Pierre Elliott Trudeau*

**Sister Catherine Donnelly, Sisters of Service, receives Pope's Medal from Cardinal Flahiff of Winnipeg.**

# *A List of Vocations*

## *A List of Vocations to the Sisterhood*

### **FROM NORTH ADJALA:**

Sister Catherine Donnelly, Sisters of Service, now at Winnipeg.  
Sister Annunciata (Genevieve Quail), Loretto Sisters, now at Loretto Abbey.  
Sister Bertha Quail, Ursuline Sisters of Jesus, Edmonton.  
Sister Justina, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Toronto, now at Morrow Park.  
Sister Francis Marie Treacy, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Toronto, now at Morrow Park.

### **FROM ALLISTON:**

Sister Mary Fintan Lawlor, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Toronto, now a Registered Nurse working at Saint Joseph's Hospital, Toronto.  
Sister Mary Redempta Bolger, Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, at their Monastery of the Precious Blood, Toronto.  
Sister Annette (Mary Lynch) Loretto Sisters, now teaching in Sacramento, California.  
Sister Margaret Rose Fardella, Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul, Kingston, she now teaches nursing in Brockville.  
Sister Michele Thibert, S.C.O., Sisters of Charity of Ottawa (the French-speaking Grey Nuns).  
Sister Louisa Vanderploeg, Sisters of Notre Dame, now teaching in Cambridge, Ontario.  
Sister Philomena (Kathleen Cassin), Loretto Sisters.

## *to the Priesthood and Brotherhood*

### **FROM NORTH ADJALA:**

Father Michael Joseph Ferguson, C.S.B., (Congregation of Saint Basil). Born March 23, 1839, son of Hugh Ferguson of Arlington. Ordained to the priesthood on October, 23, 1861, as the first Canadian Basilian Father. Died at Windsor, Ontario, on April 20, 1913.  
Father James Vincent Burke, C.S.B. Born October 30, 1899. Ordained December 19, 1925. Died April 8, 1949.  
Father Ambrose Richard Conway, a diocesan priest for Toronto. Born 1904. Ordained June 2, 1928. Died April 7, 1961.  
Father Reilly O'Leary, a diocesan priest for Toronto. Ordained June 1, 1951. Now Associate Pastor at Holy Name Church, Toronto.

### **FROM ALLISTON:**

Father Thomas Joseph Heydon, C.S.B. Born June 17, 1857. Ordained October 10, 1886. Died March 9, 1935.  
Father William Patrick Heydon, a diocesan priest for Toronto. Born March 14, 1884. Ordained December 17, 1910. Died October 15, 1956.  
Edward Gerard McCarroll, C.S.B. Born July 18, 1914. Entered the Basilian Novitiate on September 2, 1938. Died August 26, 1939.  
Brother Frank Fardella, C.R. (Congregation of the Resurrection). Now librarian at Saint Jerome's, Kitchener.



## *Famous Daughter...*

Sister Catherine Donnelly, born and raised in the Alliston area, recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as a Sister of Service. She received a special Medal from Pope Pius VI for her outstanding work, as well as a congratulatory message from the Prime Minister of Canada.

## *Famous Son...*

FERGUSON, Michael Joseph, first Canadian ordained for the Congregation, uncle of Father Thomas Heydon, was born on a farm in Adjala Township, Ontario, on March 23, 1839, the sixth child of Hugh Ferguson and Rose Colgan. He died at Windsor, Ontario, on April 30, 1913.

Father Michael Ferguson came to St. Michael's College in Toronto, Ontario, on October 23, 1852, six weeks after it opened. He was a brilliant student, but after three years interrupted his studies to teach in a rural school and clerk in a village store. Then he returned to St. Michael's College where he was received as a novice on November 1, 1859. He made his final vows on May 24, 1861, and was ordained priest on October 23rd of the same year.

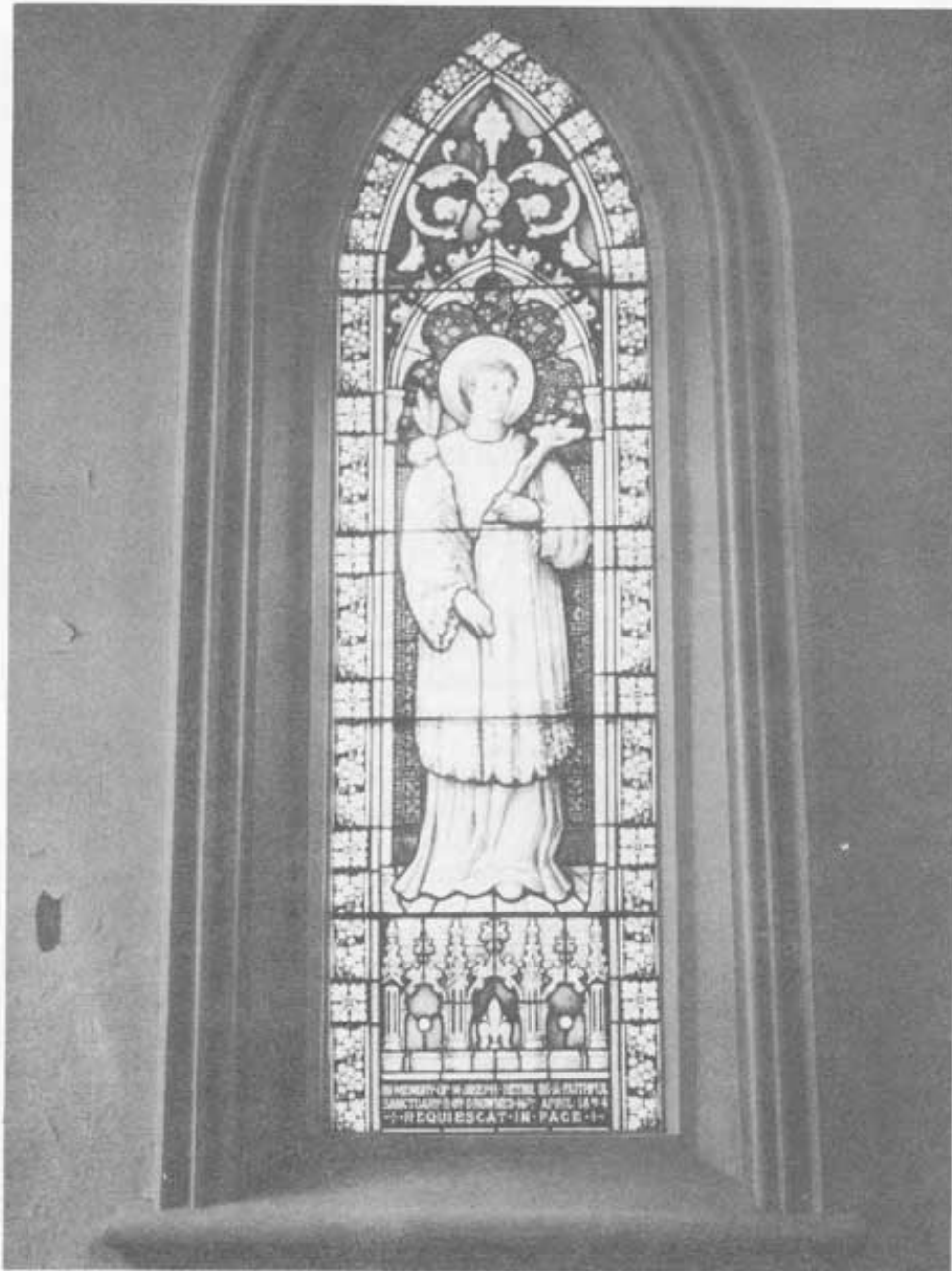


After ordination Father Ferguson taught at St. Michael's College until 1872. During the summer months of 1863 he was acting pastor of St. Mary's of the Assumption Parish in Owen Sound, Ontario, and for some years was delegate pastor of St. Basil's Parish in Toronto. In 1872 Father Ferguson was transferred to Assumption College, Windsor, where he served until his death in 1913 from a liver ailment. He was buried in the Basilian plot, Mount Hope Cemetery, Toronto.

During the eleven years that he taught at St. Michael's College, Father Ferguson was perhaps the most outstanding young priest in Central and Western Ontario. Tall, talented, and a good-looking red head, he was widely known and counted among his host of friends, Sir John A. Macdonald, the Prime Minister.

At Assumption College Father Ferguson communicated to his classes his own unbounded admiration for the writing of Cardinal Newman and Orestes Brownson. The Golden Jubilee Volume of Assumption College boasted, "As a student of pure English undefiled, he excelled, and it is a matter of sincere regret that he was so opposed to any exhibition of his gifts in the form of literary productions. He frequently contributed to Catholic publications, but always on the condition that his name should not be subscribed to them. The students of his classes, however, received the benefits of his marvellous literary gifts, and it was in education itself to listen to the flow of the choicest thoughts clothed in classic diction, while he gave life and charm to the subjects of study, as was his custom, by a profusion of illustration drawn from every conceivable source: now from history, now from the classics of Greece or Rome, now from Catholic philosophy or theology, and most frequently of all, by personal anecdotes vividly and elegantly narrated. His memory was marvellous, and his acquired knowledge, encyclopedic."

## *The Stained Glass Windows of St. Paul's Church*

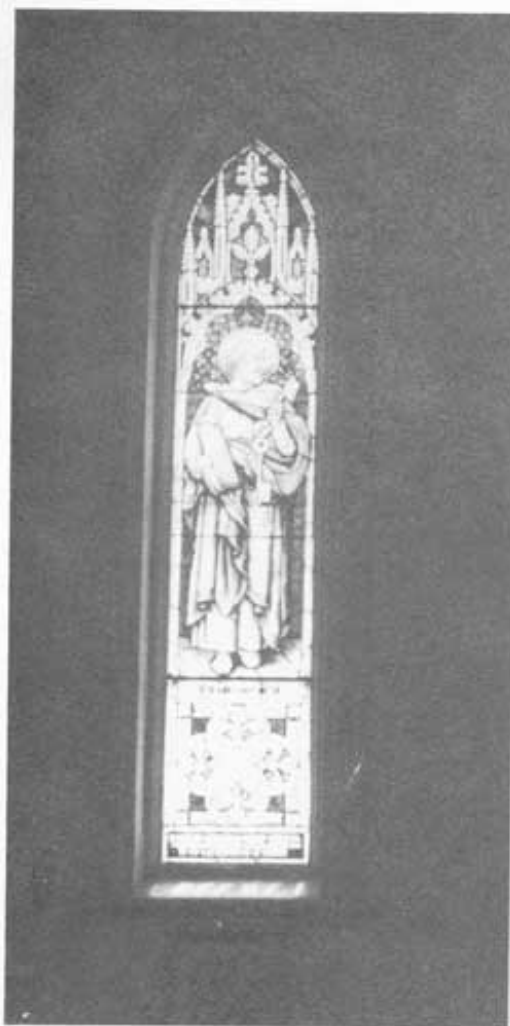


**Saint Aloysius**

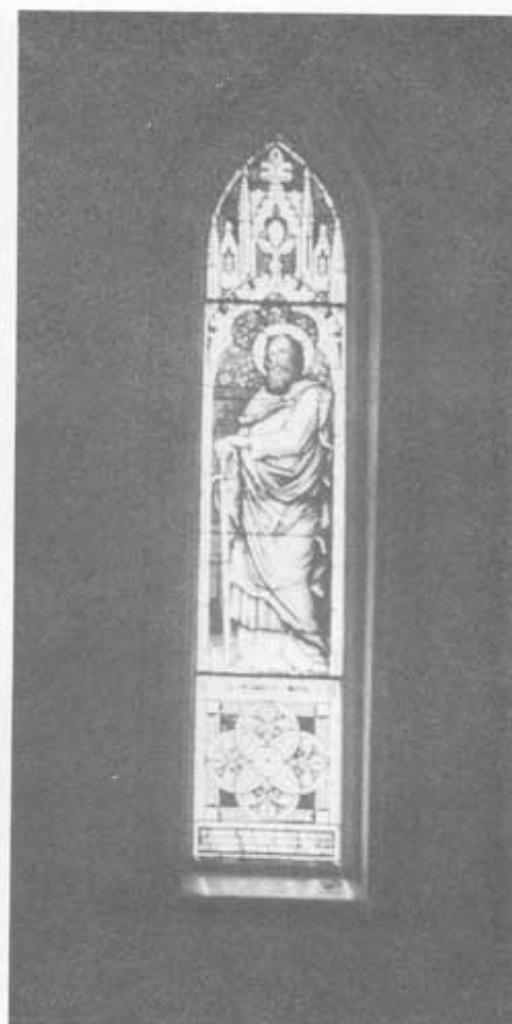
In the main body of the church there are 19 stained glass windows.

Starting at the west wall just inside the Sanctuary, the first window is of Saint Aloysius who is the patron saint of altar boys. A very appropriate spot was chosen for this window (a memorial to a faithful altar boy, M. Joseph Reynolds, who was drowned April 16th, 1894). Saint Aloysius is depicted in the robes of an altar boy in tones of silvery white, trimmed with lace, and a purple cassock. He is holding a stem of lilies in his right hand, a crucifix in his left.





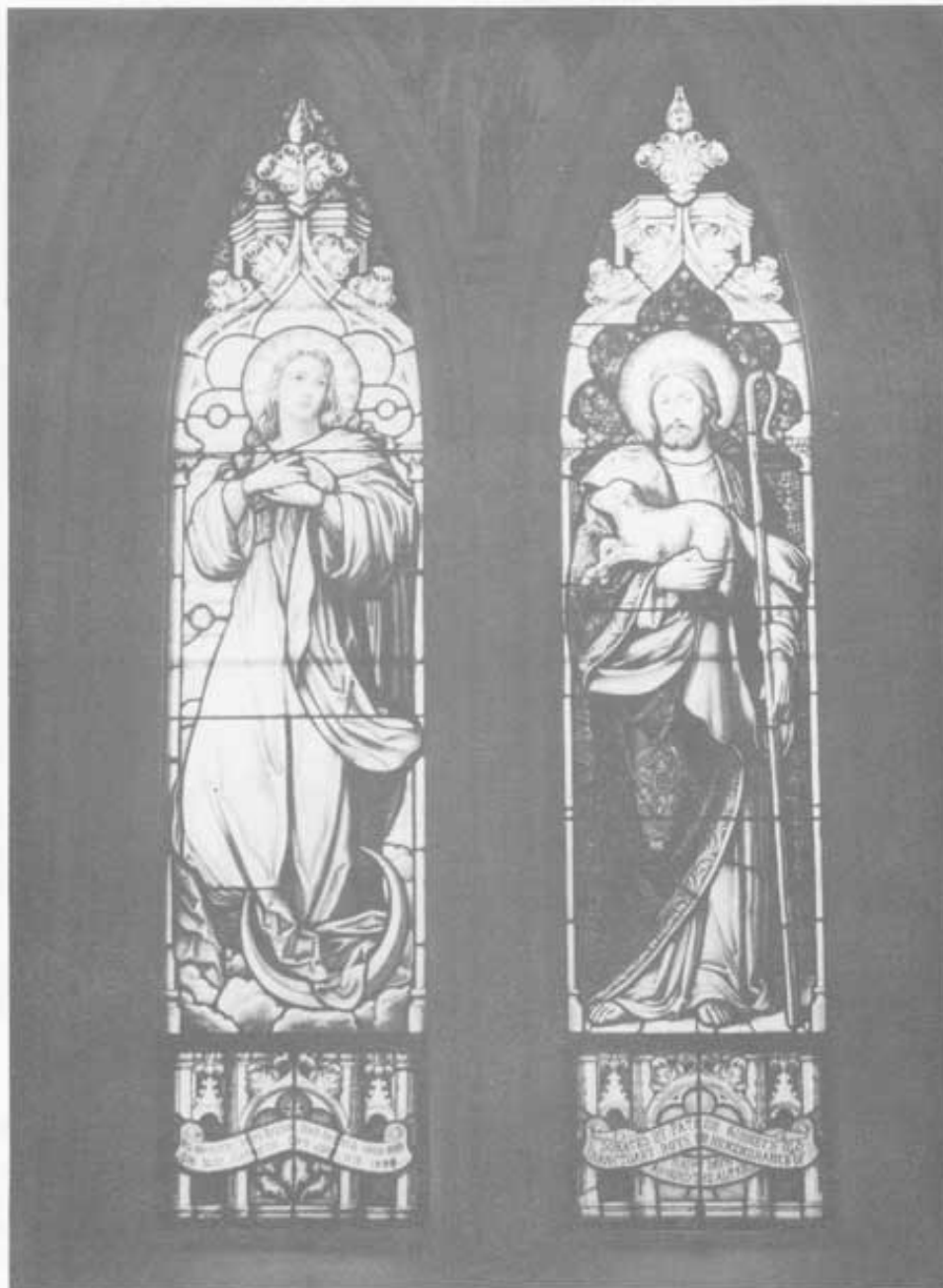
**St. Peter**



**St. Paul**

The windows above were presented to the church in memory of Father Henry Joseph Gibney's Anniversary to the Priesthood — 1872-1897. The first of the two windows on the south wall, to the right of the crucifix in the sanctuary, is quite magnificent — starting at the top with cathedral-like columns, with Saint Paul (who is the patron saint of our church) standing in a two-thirds profile position. He is clothed in robes of red, gold, silver and blue, both hands resting on the hilt of a sword. A reminder, perhaps, that he was martyred for Christ by being beheaded. At the bottom of the window is the inscription — XXV ORDINATIONIS SACERDOTALIS 1872. HENRY JOSEPH GIBNEY QUID RETRIBUAM DOMINO PRO OMNIBUS QUAD RETRIBUIT MIHI. (What shall I give to the Lord for all He has given me.)

The second of these two windows is situated in the south wall of the sanctuary to the left of the crucifix. It is similar in design to the window of St. Paul. It illustrates St. Peter the Apostle in side profile clad in robes of scarlet, green and silver holding the holy scriptures in his right hand, a set of keys in his left, which brings to mind the little scene which took place between Jesus Christ and Saint Peter. Our Lord said "Thou art Peter . . . I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven . . ." Printed at the bottom of this window are the words in Latin — TU ES SACERDOS IN AETERNUM — (You are a priest forever.)



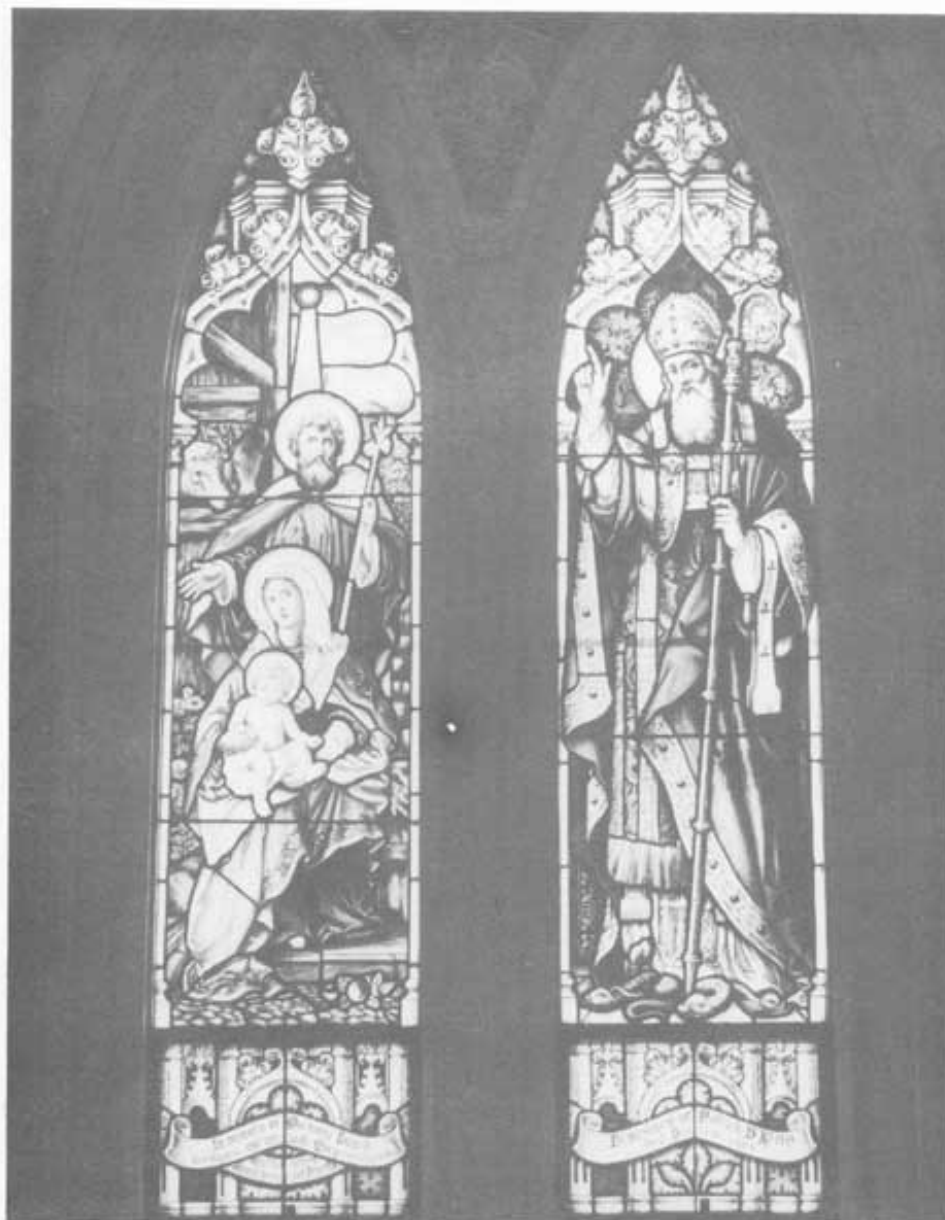
**Our Lady**

**The Good Shepherd**

Above is the first window on the east side of the church adjacent to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a beautifully touching portrait in stained glass of Our Lord, The Good Shepherd, in raiments of scarlet, silver and green holding in his arm the sheep that was lost and is found and carrying the shepherd's staff. This window was donated by Father Gibney's old Sanctuary boys in remembrance of happy days around the altar.

To the left of the Good Shepherd, is a tranquil and graceful picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary clothed in the traditional mantel of blue and white. A halo of stars around her head, this window reminds us of the Immaculate Conception. It is in memory of James Heydon, died Dec. 3, 1902 and his wife Catharine, died June 11, 1898.



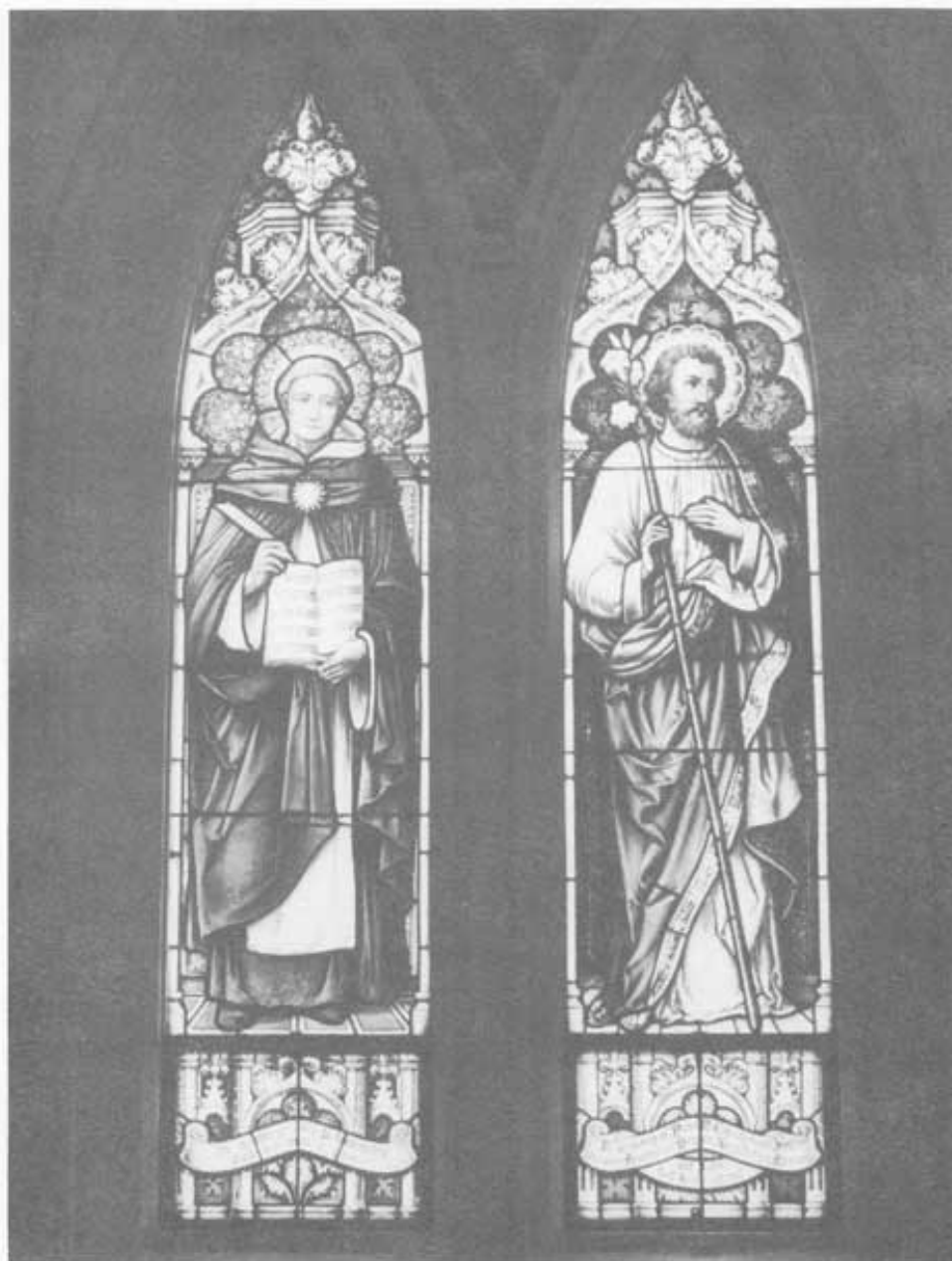


**The Nativity**

**St. Patrick**

Saint Patrick is clad in his holy vestments of Bishop, upon his head the symbol of his sacred office, the Mitre. His robes are of bright emerald green, gold and silver. He carries a staff with the design of a shamrock at the top. St. Patrick used this simple little leaf to explain the meaning of the Holy Trinity to the then pagan Irish people. He is also seen banishing all the snakes from Ireland forever. The window was presented in memory of: Patrick D. Kelly, died Dec. 14, 1904. An Irish man could ask for no better memorial!

The seventh window is a glorious array of colour showing the brilliant star which guided the three wise men to the humble stable where the Nativity of Jesus Christ took place. St. Joseph stands with hand outstretched in protection over his wife, the Blessed Virgin who is seated with our Lord the Baby Jesus on her lap. In Memory of Mortimer Lynch, died August 5, 1908 and his wife Mary, died August 11, 1909 by their children Joseph, Hannah and Francis.

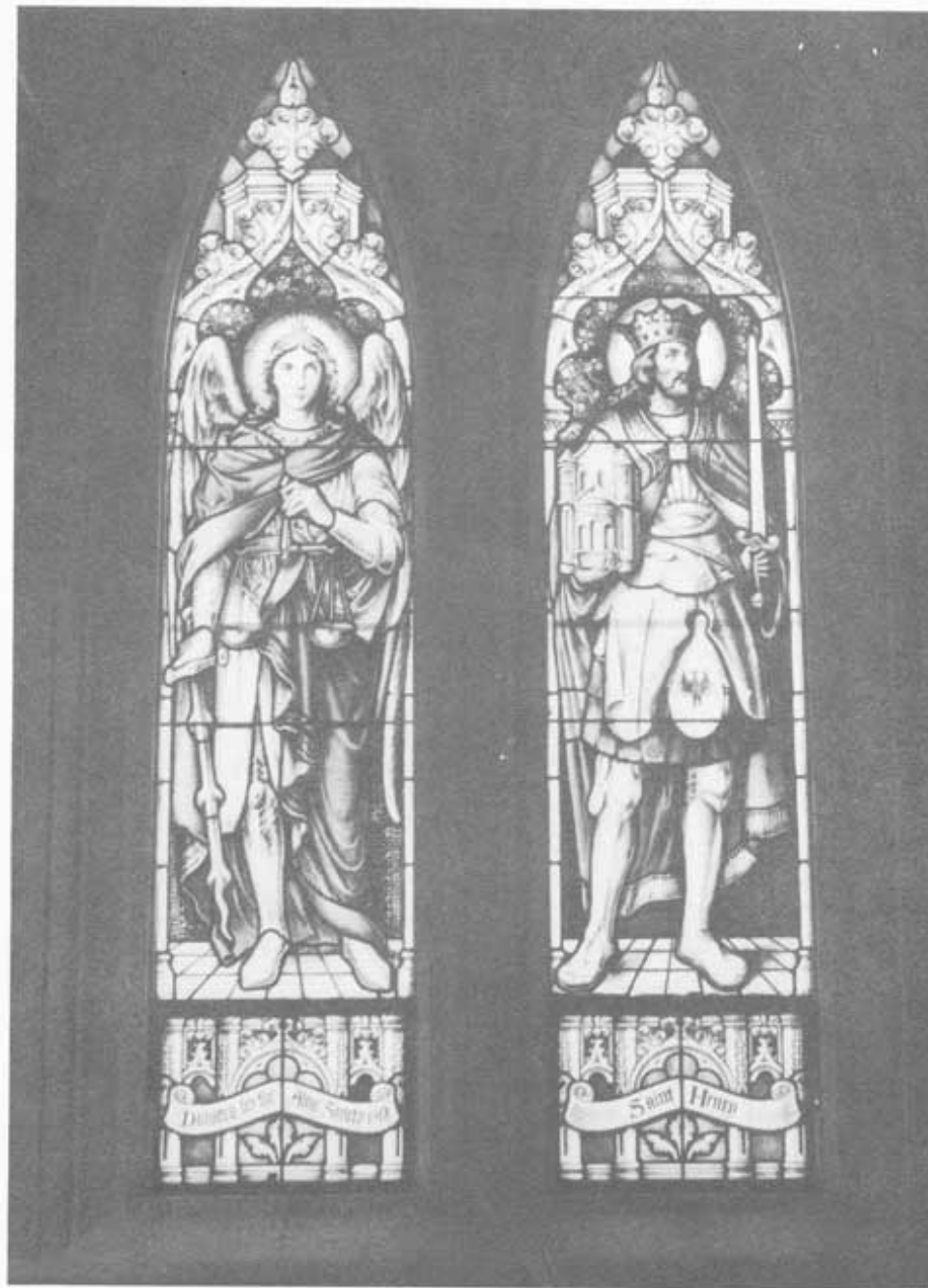


**St. Thomas Aquinas**

**St. Joseph**

The next window shows a very sincere and humble St. Joseph in robes of white, blue, silver and gold, his left hand resting over his heart; a staff held in his right hand — the humble St. Joseph submitting to God's will. In Memory of Paul McCabe, died June 28, 1907 and his wife Ann, died May 26, 1911, Sara, died April 13, 1907, and John, died Sept. 22, 1907.

On the left, is a sad but hauntingly beautiful window showing Saint Thomas Aquinas in the brown robes of a monk of his era, in his right hand a feather quill — his left hand holds his writings. St. Thomas was an intellectual — a great theologian. There is also a quotation on the book he holds. It comes from a vision he had of Our Lord and says: "You have written well concerning me. What reward do you want." He answers: "You Yourself, Lord". This window is in memory of Thos. D. Donnelly, died March 6, 1910.

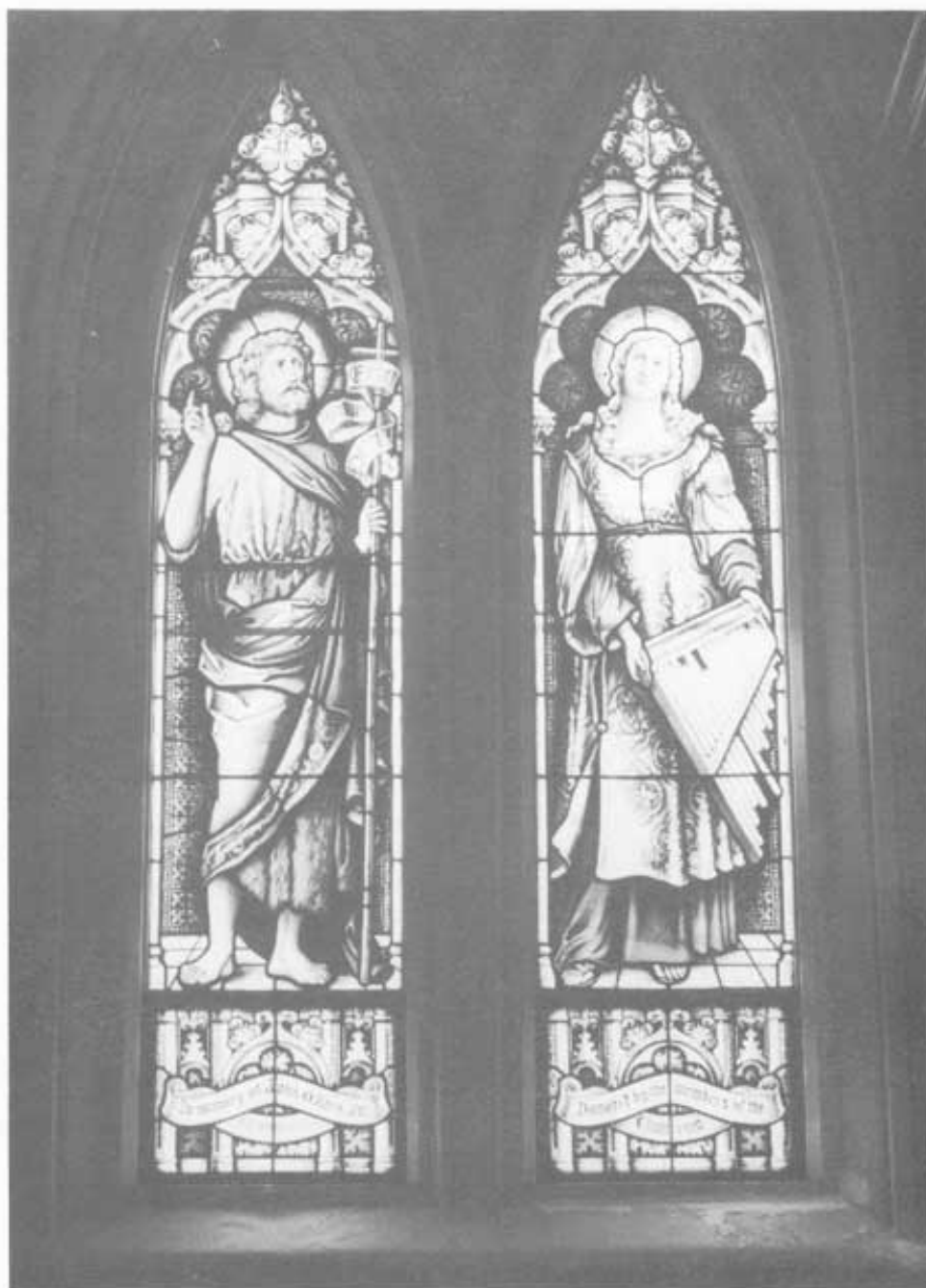


**St. Michael**

**St. Henry**

Saint Henry is a Christian successor of the Roman Emperors, a very regal figure in royal robes of purple and blue. He is adorned in the silver armour of the soldier. In his right hand is a miniature church, his left, a sword pointing upwards. He wears a golden crown set with precious gems.

Next to St. Henry is the brilliant, almost fiery figure of St. Michael the Archangel with luminous golden wings and a cloak of scarlet, green and silver resting upon his shoulders. The Archangel is shown in saintly armour and carries a flaming sword of protection in his right hand and the scales of Justice in his left. This window was donated by the Altar Society, 1912.

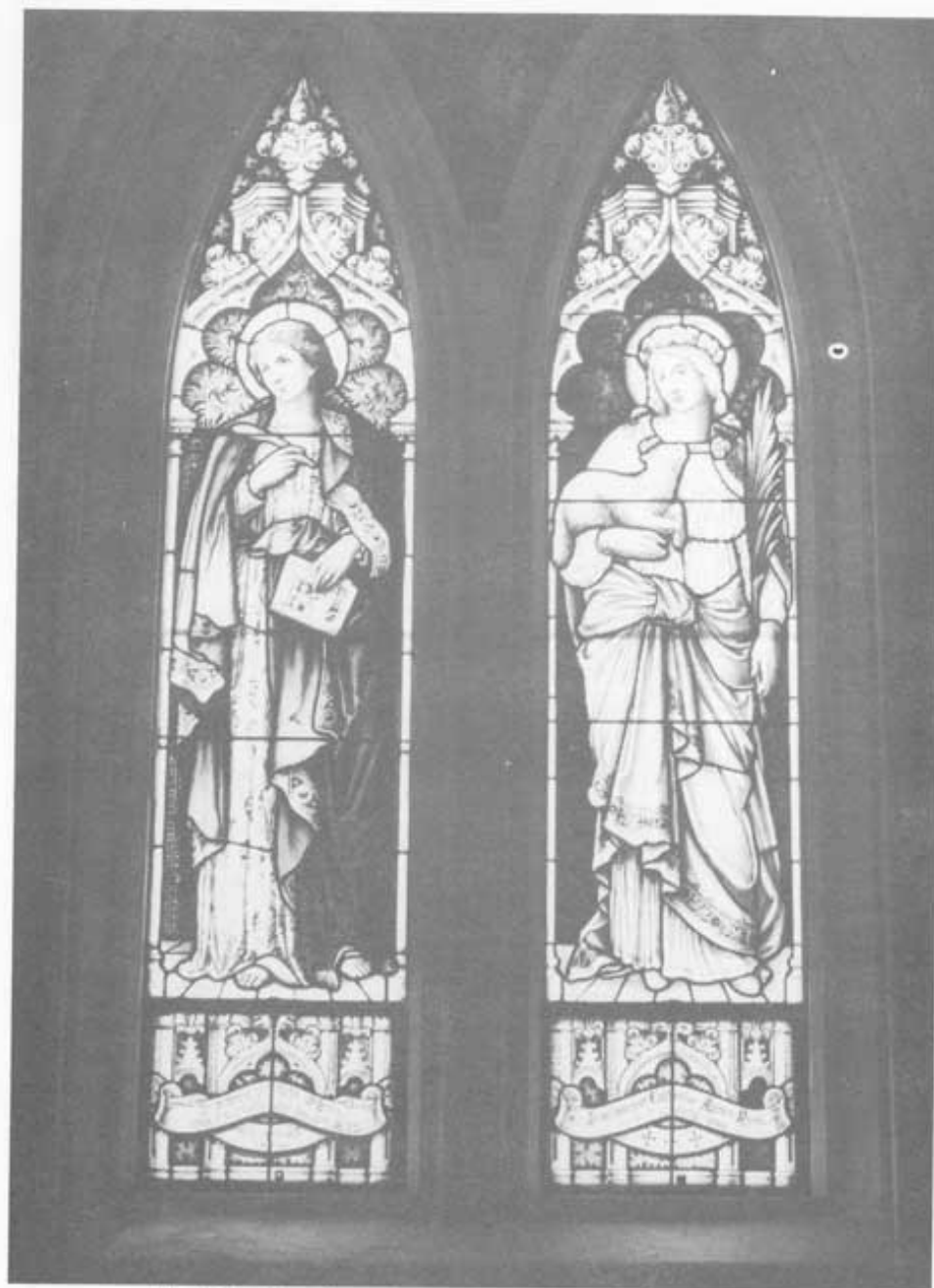


**St. John the Baptist**

**St. Cecilia**

On the west side of the church is a lovely portrayal of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of all singers and musicians. Her golden hair cascading to her shoulders, she wears a gown of blue, gold, silver and red and in her hands she holds a musical instrument. This window was donated by the choir of St. Pauls Church in the year 1912.

The companion window shows the great Saint John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, the one, you might say, who paved the way for His coming. He wears the raiment of a hermit of the desert in soft brown, green and red, holding a staff in the shape of a cross with an inscription entwined around it, reading: "Behold the Lamb of God". This window is in the memory of John O'Hara Junior, died Oct. 20, 1911.

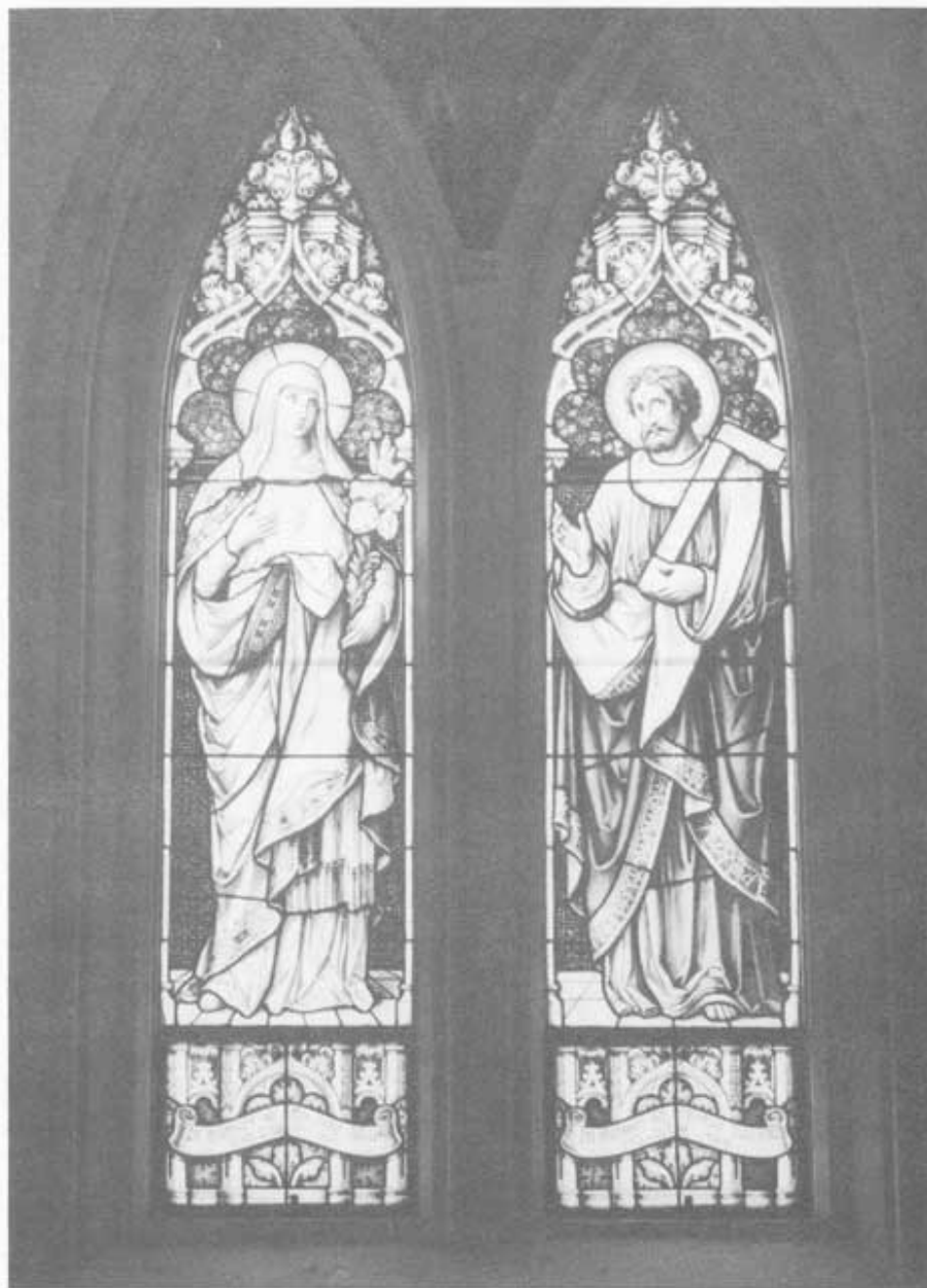


**St. John the Apostle**

**St. Agnes**

Next, on the west side of the church, is the gentle Saint Agnes who lived in the second or third century A.D. She was martyred at the tender age of 13 years for her Christian beliefs. She holds in her arms a little lamb and carries a frond of palm. On her head is a halo of roses; she wears a white gown and blue cape. This lovely work of art was donated in memory of Catherine Agnes Ryan, died July 27, 1895.

Beside St. Agnes is St. John the Apostle called by Jesus, John the Beloved. His robes of green, scarlet, gold and silver shine brilliantly through into the church. His tranquil countenance, the quill in one hand and the holy inspired word of God in the other, tell a vivid story. This window is in memory of John O'Hara, died Feb. 17, 1911 and his wife Mary, died April 6, 1899.



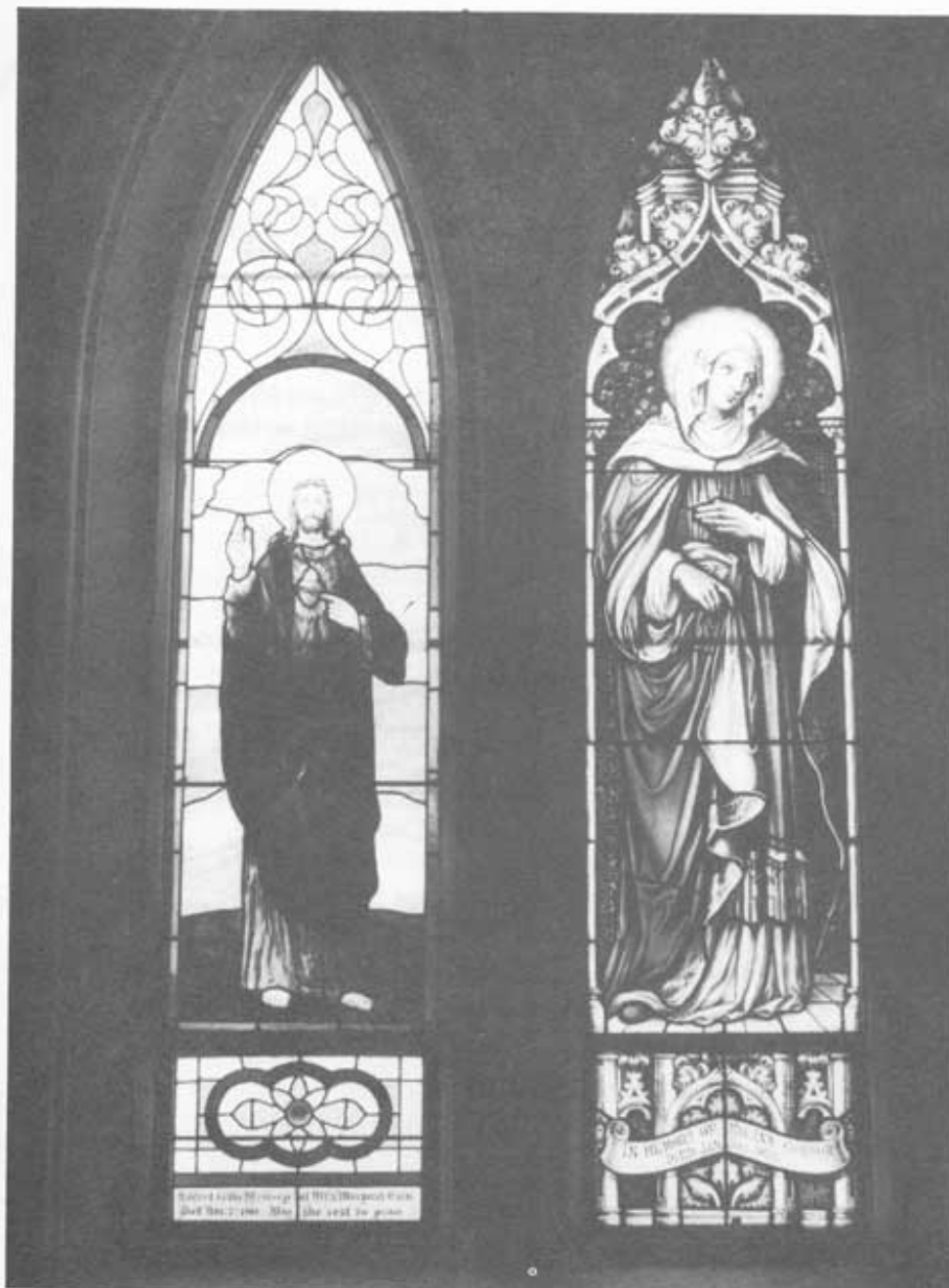
**The Blessed Virgin**

**St. Thomas**

Progressing along the west wall of the Church, we come to St. Thomas the Apostle, a fisherman who became, in Jesus's own words, a "fisher of men". This window is in beautiful hues of green, brown, silver and many others, showing a gentle but strong (and no longer doubting) St. Thomas. This window is in memory of Thomas Walsh, died July 6, 1902.

The next window is a strikingly beautiful one of the Blessed Virgin, the mother of God, whose loving heart is pierced by the sword of anguish and sorrow. Her gown is bright blue, she carries a sheaf of lilies, and her right hand points gently to her heart. This picture, worth a thousand words, is in memory of Mrs. Jane Walsh, died June 3, 1909.





**The Sacred Heart**

**St. Anne**

In the final window we see the gentle loving figure of St. Anne, the great and honoured mother of Mary, the Holy Mother of Christ. The gentle humility is what strikes one immediately on viewing this window. Her robes fall in soft folds of brown, grey, blue and white, almost nun-like in appearance. This window is in memory of Mrs. Ann Connor, died January 3, 1910.

Last but not least on the west wall, just before the sanctuary rail, the movingly beautiful figure of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in robes of scarlet and gold with the bleeding, flaming heart ringed with thorns. His hand is uplifted giving blessing and comfort to all. This window was donated in memory of Mrs. Margaret Cain, died Nov. 7, 1906.



## IN MEMORIAM

Frank Gibson 1879—1957  
Frances Gibson 1881—1959

+ + +

Barney Gibson Aug. 3, 1905—Aug. 2, 1965  
Ted Gibson Oct. 4, 1913—May 19, 1973

+ + +

John Guchardi June 24, 1889—March 11, 1959  
and daughter  
Mary Domenico Aug. 13, 1930—Nov. 7, 1957  
(Remembered by Wife and Mother Mary Guchardi)

+ + +

Edward J. McCarroll Aug. 24, 1889—Jan. 8, 1969  
Mary Ellen McCarroll Oct. 21, 1891—Sept. 14, 1967  
Gerard McCarroll C.S.B. July 18, 1918—Aug. 26, 1939  
(Remembered by McGrail and McCarroll families)

+ + +

Edward B. Lynch Aug. 26, 1894—Jan. 7, 1969  
William Lawlor May 14, 1872—Sept. 13, 1933  
Mrs. William Lawlor July 22, 1874—June 12, 1948

# Requiescant in Pace



## *St. Paul's Catholic Women's League*

The Charter was signed on November 14, 1956 when Rev. V. L. McGivney was Pastor.

The following served as Presidents in the earlier years.

Mrs. Shirley Gibson	—	1956—1958
Mrs. Constance Quail	—	1958—1959
Mrs. Monica Crawford	—	1959—1961
Mrs. Iris Parack	—	1961—1962
Mrs. Frances Morrow	—	1962—1964
Mrs. Mary Marx	—	1964—1966

For the next nine years, Parish Commitments were administered by the Ladies of St. Paul's.

The Catholic Women's League was re-organized in 1974 with Mrs. Katie Quinlan as President. President in 1976 is Mrs. Constance Craig, serving a second term after 18 years.

Vice-President—	Mrs. Stephanie Oxby
Vice-President—	Mrs. Madeline Skelton
Secretary	—Mrs. Helen Cyr
Treasurer	—Mrs. Pat Andrews
Past President	—Mrs. Katie Quinlan

It has been said that happiness is caring, sharing and participating. Hopefully each lady in the Catholic Women's League has achieved happiness in some degree, through the multitudinous ways to serve God and the needs of the people.

Over the past few years, the organization has been very active in our parish. Everyone has worked together to make the pie booth at the Alliston Potato Festival a success. Ladies have volunteered their services for "Meals-on-wheels", to help people who cannot prepare their own meals. Members have also visited with shut-ins and the elderly at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Bridge and euchre evenings have been organized. The annual parish picnic has proven to be a great success, both for the young and old.

During this, our special year, the ladies have been working closely with the men's group to make this centenary celebration successful. Our special centennial gift to Father McGinn has been the regilding of his chalice. Also the ladies have spent a lot of time and effort in the making of two lovely quilts.



**First Catholic Women's League function at St. Paul's: an evening outdoor Benediction with tea served after to Guests from Base Borden. Approximately 50 ladies attended.**



**First C.W.L. President at St. Paul's: Mrs. Shirley Gibson, [left] with Mrs. Angie McCarroll.**



**Standing: Mrs. Katie Quinlan, Mrs. Pat Andrews, Mrs. Helen Cyr. Seated: Mrs. Stephanie Oxby, Mrs. Constance Craig, Mrs. Madeline Skelton. [left to right]**



**C.W.L. Executive with Centennial Quilts and Quilt Convenor, Mrs. Angle McCarroll [right].**

## *In Appreciation...*

From the beginning St. Paul's has had many generous parishioners, people who have contributed both time and money to make our parish a success.

The organists, choir, catechism teachers, canvassers, lectors, collectors, caretakers, part time carpenters and handymen, should all receive our gratitude.

Various donors were responsible for the beautiful stained glass windows, the statuary, sacred vessels, vestments and also the pulpit which is no longer used. All these items are examples of the love and sense of responsibility which our people had for St. Paul's.

During the early years, different women were appointed monthly to clean the church, do the altar linens and decorate the sanctuary with flowers. The ladies have worked hard to do this task, which has never been an easy one. It would be impossible to list the names of all those who helped during the past years.

Since 1963, Mrs. Mel Oxby has contributed many hours of her time, working around the sanctuary and altar. She has been doing this, not once a month, but every week of the year.

Mrs. Ernie Thibert has been in charge of cleaning and preparing the linens since 1960.

For several years, until leaving here in 1974, Mrs. Frank Haley cleaned the church which was a big job for one person to undertake.

The people of the parish owe the above named women and many other women not specifically named their sincere thanks. Let us hope their rewards will be great in a spiritual way, if not financially.





## IN MEMORIAM

Leon Distefano Nov. 20, 1909—Mar. 18, 1973

+ + +

Michael Xavier Carey Langley 1936—1947  
John Francis Quail 1922—1970  
Thomas Quail 1889—1956  
Edwin Quail 1927—1962  
Beatrice Quail 1918—1973  
Helen Quail 1914—1919

+ + +

Thomas James Tracey Aug. 17, 1894—Apr. 15, 1972  
Patricia Frances Tracey Nov. 14, 1902—Feb. 22, 1972  
(Remembered by children Lois, Anna, and Harold)

+ + +

William Joseph Cole died May 20, 1972  
(Remembered by daughter Mary Daly, Cookstown)

+ + +

Michael "Joe" Moran died Aug. 11, 1974  
and son  
Paul Edward Moran died Jan. 30, 1962

Requiescant  
in Pace

# *St. Paul's Cemetery*

St. Paul's Cemetery is situated a short distance east of St. Paul's Church and extends South to the Broken Front. The first land, three acres, was bought in 1879 from G. Fletcher for \$212.

The first burial in the cemetery was that of James Hart, son of J. C. and Sarah Hart. He died in 1878, aged 5 weeks. At first he was buried at the church; later, his body was moved to the cemetery.

Previous to 1889, burials of residents of these districts were made in Colgan cemetery or in North Adjala cemetery.

The property was maintained by groups of volunteers for many years. Each spring a "bee" was held and the property cleaned up.

Thomas King became caretaker in the 1930's, the first one hired on a more or less permanent basis and he served faithfully as long as he was able.

In 1962, Father Schwalm appointed a committee to administer the cemetery as required by government regulations. Members were Ted Gibson, John Dennis, and E. J. McCarroll. Mr. McCarroll was chairman. The lot plans were clarified and new regulations set for proper perpetual care. On the death of E. J. Carroll in 1969, Mr. Ted Gibson took over as chairman, and continued this work so that St. Paul's Cemetery became well known for its proper administration and the beauty and care of its grounds. This latter work has been done by Mr. Joe Fleming and the Fleming boys.

When Mr. Ted Gibson died in 1973, Mr. Aiden Whelan became the chairman of the Board — the other members being John Dennis, Ambrose Heydon and the parish priest. Mrs. Alice Gibson continues as secretary, as she has done since the term of Mrs. Monica Crawford expired.

Now a new fence totally encloses the Cemetery, dead trees have been removed and about 15 new saplings on the western end have been planted.

Each year in October, a devotional day is held — "Cemetery Sunday" — when parishioners gather for a Visit and Common Prayer for all whose bodies are buried in this Cemetery.

## *First Baptism in St. Paul's*

MARGARET HEYDON:

- daughter of Robert Heydon and Elizabeth Burke, of Alliston
- born Dec. 13, 1876
- baptized Jan. 2, 1877, by Rev. H. J. Gibney
- sponsors: William O'Connor  
Mary Burke

## *First Marriage in St. Paul's*

PATRICK DURKIN, age 25, of Tottenham, son of Henry Durkin and Sara Carr  
MARGARET BURKE, age 20, of Tec. Township daughter of James Burke and  
Abbey Griffin

Married by Rev. H. J. Gibney — June 3, 1878

Witnesses: Hugh Durkin and Agnes Gagin



## IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Lynch died in 1955  
and husband  
Patrick Lynch died in 1955  
(Remembered by daughter Frances  
Morrow and family)

+ + +

Mortimer Lynch — wife and family.  
One of the pioneer families of St. Paul's.  
(Remembered by granddaughter, Mrs. Frances Morrow)

+ + +

Mary Langley of Fort Erle  
and husband  
Charles Langley of Fort Erle  
(Remembered by sister Annie)

+ + +

Hannah Horan and husband James Edward  
(Remembered by daughter Annie)

Requiescant  
in Pace



Remembered by wife  
Emma and children,  
Marion, Gabriel,  
Josephine, William,  
Madeline, and Adrian.



Fidelis Charles Maes  
July 17, 1900  
Sept. 4, 1957



Cyrlel de Bruyne  
Sept. 22, 1925  
April 6, 1965

Sadly missed and  
remembered by wife  
Josephine (Maes) and  
daughters Emma (Roedts),  
Susan (Petersen), Denise;  
and sons Fidells and Cyrlel  
(Jr.)

Requiescant  
in Pace

## *The Squires*



In 1963 the Knights of Columbus in Tottenham began a branch of the Squires in the Alliston area. Ed McDermott and Vince Hayes were two of the organizers of the movement.

Father Bolger, Mr. Des. Carroll, Mr. Charles King and Mr. Ford Lawler were the counsellors. Thirty-five or more boys belonged to the organization from its beginning until it was terminated in 1970.

In 1967, Father Bolger and Ford Lawler took a bus load of Squires to Montreal for Expo. This was a trip which the boys enjoyed greatly and they will long retain the memory of the event.

They received International recognition from the Supreme Council in New Haven Connecticut for their community work in donating \$400.00 to Mrs. Bryant and her family after her husband's death.

Mr. Bryant was the first in this area to donate a heart for the use of another human.

The boys also provided funds to sponsor a foster child in an overseas country. Some of their projects required work and sacrifice, but they also had very enjoyable activities of a lighter nature.

Larry Green, Roger and Ross Lawler were local boys who became chief squires and worked hard to make the organization a success.

Terry McKenna, one of the original Tottenham squires, later entered the priesthood.

## *Credit Union*

St. Paul's Parish Credit Union was started in October 1956 by Father McGivney. By 1958, there were about 100 members, from Alliston and Camp Borden. Some of the original members are still active. Those who helped organize the Credit Union were: Al Kordyback, (first pres.), Helen Ceifets, Edward Lynch, Michael Moran, Wilfred and Tom Gourley, Leslie Martin, Ted Gibson, Ed Auger, Al Gaudette, Ernest MacKenzie, and Helen Hayden.

In 1960 the Credit Union was re-organized with Ernie Bullis, our present Manager, as Treasurer-Manager, when he retired from the Air Force at Camp Borden. The assets that year were \$250,327.00. Since then the Credit Union has grown, until the objective of one million in assets was reached in 1968. Board members that year were James Vandervoort (Pres.), Charles McKeown, M. A. Oxby, K. Worrell, J. Perry, Ernie Bullis (Treasurer-Manager), and Ford Lawler as bookkeeper.

Each year since 1961, the Credit Union has donated to the Jamaica fund to support charities in Latin America, and to the Foster Parent Plan to support 2 children.

In 1962 the name St. Paul's Parish Credit Union was officially changed to Alliston Community Credit Union, in order to cover all residents of Alliston and personnel of Borden and district.

With an increase in growth each year, the Credit Union assets have now reached \$1,500,000.00.

Total membership now totals 1225. This number includes local residents, as well as members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are posted across Canada and in Europe.

## *Base Borden—Joined by Special Bonds*

The story of Roman Catholicism in north-western Essa Township in general, and in Angus in particular, is intimately linked to the establishment of Camp Borden. For many years Camp Borden was served by visiting priests from the neighbouring parishes of Barrie to the east, Stayner to the north and Alliston to the south. The nearest Catholic Church to the military camp was Our Lady of the Assumption Mission at Brentwood, a few miles to the north of the Camp, and which by then was a mission of Stayner though originally it was served from Barrie. However, by the start of the Second World War the need for a more permanent and suitable arrangement was felt and military chaplains began to be stationed at the Camp on a regular basis thus replacing the parish priests who could only visit the Camp when their other duties allowed them to do so. A frame chapel was built at the Camp at about the same time by Father John Knox, S.J. to be replaced, around 1960-61, by a more permanent structure, Holy Redeemer Church, built by Father McGregor.

It should be noted that today the military chaplaincy is separate from the regular administration of Catholic dioceses so that the priests and religious affairs of Camp Borden are really outside the normal jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Toronto. However, in the past when contacts occurred between the residents of the Camp and its neighbours, particularly for the purpose of marriage, permission was then needed from the local priest according to canon law. Thus, to place Camp Borden's external religious affairs under the jurisdiction of a single parish, it was decreed in 1952 to be a part of the Alliston Parish. This meant that part of the Alliston Parish and the priests who served as military chaplains at Camp Borden had full control over their own internal religious matters except to perform marriages for which purpose the chaplains were to consider themselves as assistant priests under the Pastor of the Parish of Alliston.



## *Angus - the Newest Church of the Parish*

As for Angus itself, it had always been one of the major centres in Essa Township but, with the arrival of Camp Borden on its western doorstep, it began to increase quickly in size along with the Camp. Eventually it became large enough to require regular Sunday Mass and in 1956 some seventy-five families petitioned successfully for a church of their own. Formal permission was granted for this in 1957, which thus becomes the formal date of foundation of the church in Angus. Father Vincent McGivney responded zealously to their request by continuing to say one Mass per Sunday in private homes or public halls until the present church, Our Lady of Grace, was built in 1960 on property purchased from the Roths. Hence, the address on Roth Street.

In status Angus still remained a mission church without a resident priest and as such was not entitled by Canon Law to have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in it. To meet this desire of the people to have Christ always present physically in their midst, an unusual canonical device was employed to enhance the legal status of the Angus Church. By two decrees of his Grace, the Most Rev. Philip F. Pocock, the Archbishop of Toronto, published on the same day, February 23, 1962, Angus was both established as a separate parish in its own right and then straightway reattached to the Parish of Alliston in a union "*aeque principalis*". This means that, though legally the Roman Catholic Church at Angus is an independent parish in its own right, in fact it is for the time being joined to and under the Pastor of Alliston for all purposes of church administration. By being able to declare itself an independent parish in its own right, Our Lady of Grace Church in Angus is thus able to have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in it, a privilege usually accorded only to the principal church of a parish. Thus, the Church in Angus acts like it is an independent parish; in fact, it is not — for the time being at any rate.



Fr. McRae

The territory of the Angus quasi-parish would be described roughly as the northwest part of Essa Township, i.e. that part north of Baxter, west of Colwell and Ivy, south of Highway 90, and east of Camp Borden. Being far larger than the ordinary mission church sized community already, and showing a continuing increase in its total population, Angus has fortunately been able to obtain the services of Father Allan B. McRae, of the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society. Father McRae was a former missionary in China and Japan and a Canadian military chaplain, among other places, at Camp Borden where he was head chaplain. Thus, he is particularly suited to handle the problems which confront a town so dependent upon the military. Father McRae arrived in Angus in 1969 and straightway began to build the rectory and sacristy which were finished in the following year and which are connected to the sanctuary of the church from the west. In this project, as well as in other later ones concerned with making tasteful additions to the church as a whole, Father has been aided by much volunteer help from the parishioners.

Angus now has two Masses per weekend and a priest of its own for the time being; in addition, it has a permanent deacon, Mr. J. E. Boudreau, a combination which is typical of the new team approach to doing pastoral work in a parish. With about 150 families in the parish, about 200 students in the school, and continued development around its edges, Angus shows every sign of becoming a fully independent parish in theory as well as in practice.



# Remember When...



**Joe McCarroll, Altar Boy**

Margaret Burke was very faithful at the organ.

Jack Doyle played the organ — liked to put in some jazzy variations.

Harry Doyle sang in the choir.

Mrs. Phil Heydon (Ethel) was always available for choir.

Phil Heydon was caretaker for many years. Very slow prayer, also very loud, and exasperated Father Caulfield.

Mr. P. D. Kelly — probably one of the first Catholics to be a member of Alliston Town Council.

Ambrose Ryan was later member of Town Council.

Father Caulfield who was here from 1936—1938 was quite active in sports and usually had a group of altar boys with him. He also owned two big dogs that delighted in appearing in the sanctuary causing many giggles among the boys in the sanctuary. This brought about a few salty comments from the dog's owner on more than one occasion.



**Fr. Gibney visits parishioners at the turn of the century**

## Pew Rent

Pew Rent .....1955			
Rivett, Alf.....	Feb. 27.....	5.00	July 31..... 5.00
McCarroll, Joe.....	Nov. 13.....	5.00	Aug. 28..... 5.00
McCarroll, E.J.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Aug. 14..... 5.00
Gibson, Warren.....	Mar. 27.....	5.00	Aug. 7..... 5.00
Mullen, Mrs. E.....	Feb. 20.....	5.00	Aug. 7..... 5.00
Wilson, Jack.....	Apr. 3.....	5.00	Sept. 18..... 5.00
Gibson, Barney.....	Apr. 3.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Lawlor, Bros.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Lynch, Ed.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Aug. 14..... 5.00
Ryan, J.A.....	Apr. 3.....	5.00	Aug. 28..... 5.00
Noble, Reg.....	May 15.....	5.00	Sept. 5..... 5.00
Guchardi, John.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Caruso, Sam.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Whelan, Mrs. M.....	Mar. 27.....	5.00	
Heydon, Mrs. M.P.....	Mar. 4.....	5.00	
Merner, Mrs. H.....	Feb. 23.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Lynch, Margaret.....	May 15.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Ryan, Katie.....	Apr. 3.....	2.00	Aug. 14..... 2.00
Hamelin, Morris.....	Mar. 20.....	2.50	Sept. 3..... 2.50
Tracey, Vincent.....	Mar. 6.....	2.00	July 24..... 2.00
McDonald, Frank.....	Mar. 20.....	5.00	Sept. 25..... 5.00
Donnelly, Harry.....	Apr. 24.....	5.00	Aug. 22..... 5.00
Bolger, M.F.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Sept. 3..... 5.00
Bergin, A.....	Mar. 6.....	4.00	July 24..... 4.00
Lynch, Francis.....	Mar. 13.....	5.00	Aug. 21..... 5.00
Lynch, P.J.....	Mar. 6.....	5.00	Mar. 6..... 5.00

# Remember When...

A pump between the church and rectory provided water for the flowers and for cleaning purposes. No indoor plumbing was provided until recent years.

A woodshed behind the church provided shelter for the firewood which was carried by the caretaker to the furnaces and the vestry stove.

Rev. William P. Heydon, raised in Adjala, had brothers and sisters in Alliston.

Rev. John O'Brien came from Stayner to Alliston. He was sent to Collingwood in 1928 and Father Sneath came here from Collingwood.

Father Healey came to Alliston in 1944 and had the church redecorated in 1947. Tile was put on the floor. Previously there had been linoleum in the aisles but no covering on the rest of the floor.

The ceiling in the church was lowered, new lights were put in and the interior of the church painted. A painting of the Agony in the Garden was on the wall behind the altar and was a beautiful work of art.

Miss Nell Kelly was probably the first organist at St. Paul's. Her father P. D. Kelly had a dry goods store where the Ontario Hydro now has its offices. The five Kelly sisters ran this store until the 1930's.

J. C. Hart was a reeve of Alliston.

Tom King was one of the earliest caretakers of the cemetery.

The Morrows built the Morrow House. One of six hotels in Alliston at one time.



**Mr. & Mrs. Alf Rivett and granddaughter**



**Forty Hours at the old Altar during the 40's.**

# Remember When...

Father McGinn (Frederic) was administrator here in 1937 and succeeded in having the ladies organize a garden party which was held in the building in the park now used as a museum.

Originally there was a chapel in the front room of the rectory. Mass was said there during the week, the church being heated only on Sundays and not too well.

There was an altar in the vestry which was used during Lent and on special days during the winter. It was heated by a wood stove until the late thirties when a space heater was added. Access to the cellar and the furnaces was via a trapdoor in the vestry and a very steep set of steps. The wall between vestry and sanctuary was removed while Father McGibney was here. This provided more seating space, so necessary as the parish was growing and there was no Saturday evening Mass.

Originally there was a board fence around the back of the church property. There was an apple orchard and Father Gibney kept a cow and horse in the barn behind the rectory.

Behind the church was a large driving shed to protect the horses of the parishioners. Some people drove ten miles to mass and were seldom late, summer or winter.

Alfred Rivett possibly came the furthest distance — and William Lawlor and Frank Donnelly had the biggest sleigh loads.

A different group of ladies cleaned the church and put flowers on the altar each month. The women then, as now, were very faithful and interested in the welfare of the parish.

Fred Morrow a son of the owner and T. P. Loblaw also a former Alliston student provided Alliston with its first hospital in 1928(?). This building was torn down in 1974.

It was quite common for many to drive seven miles to church in an open cutter with a hot brick, or lit lantern, and buffalo robes to try and keep the feet warm.



**Fr. Gibney at North Adjala, with the Small brothers.**



## *Anecdotes*

In the year 1898, St. Paul's was completely renovated by Mr. J. J. Goldie, a local painter and decorator. In 1902 the chapel was painted and decorated. In 1903 the roof of the church was resingled and in 1904 the horse sheds were built.

In 1947, Father Healey had the Church completely and beautifully renovated by contractor, H. Scott Young, an architect and artist of Hamilton.

The ceiling of the church was lowered. Previously it was open to the roof and very hard to heat. The old lighting fixtures were replaced and new stations of the cross put up.

The cross on the steeple had rotted away by this time and had to be replaced. Chas Collins now a local insurance agent volunteered to put the cross in place and paint it. No one apposed Chuck for the honour.

Ken Bulman and Harold Parson were two local carpenters who helped with the alterations, both good Loyal Orangemen. There were lots of laughs while the job was being done, especially while installing the lights in the confessional.

While Father McGivney was here the church was repainted and other alterations made. The wall was opened between the chapel and the sanctuary.

Father McGinn had the floor carpeted in 1972 and replaced the radiators in the center aisle which were dangerous and inefficient.

Father Gibney, on the occasion of special collections, used to move from pew to pew in the Church with a valise-type bag into which parishioners dropped their donations. Joe Kelly was with him, and wrote down the names of the donors.

## **Remember When...**

In 1938 Father Caulfield was transferred to Toronto where he began St. Anselm's parish.

Do you remember when we had a study club which met in a different home each week. The young people were split into groups of convenient size and studied the bible and the mass. (Father Caulfield began this project.)

We also rented a hall above the present Chicken Palace for a time, but this succumbed after a short time because of a lack of funds and interest.

Mrs. Tibo was midwife for many of the parish.

*A Brief Date Chart of the History  
of  
Roman Catholicism in the Alliston Area*

- 1855 - Immaculate Conception Church is built at Arlington, North Adjala.
- 1865-66 - North Adjala is established as a separate parish from Colgan and a rectory is built beside the Church at Arlington.
- 1876-79 - Saint Paul's Church in Alliston is built and blessed and the cemetery is also purchased and blessed.
- 1882-83 - A rectory is built beside the church at Alliston, thereby making Alliston the principality (headquarters) of the parish.
- 1885 - The church and rectory at Arlington are destroyed by fire but only the church is rebuilt.
- 1921-23 - North Adjala Parish is re-established and a rectory built beside the church at Arlington. Saint Mary's Church, Achil, is added as a mission to the parish.
- 1934-35 - Saint Joseph's Church is built at Tioga to serve Tosorontio and Mulmur Townships.
- 1957-62 - Our Lady of Grace, Angus, established as a mission, then a church, then a parish.
- 1960-61 - Large modern Separate Schools opened beside churches in both Alliston and Angus.
- 1976 - Sunday, May 30, Saint Paul's Church, Alliston celebrates its centennial.

***PATRONS  
AND  
PATRONESSES***

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heard, Alliston, Ontario  
Mr. and Mrs. Hank Vanderpost, Alliston, Ontario  
Mr. and Mrs. George Daly, R.R. No. 2, Cookstown, Ontario  
Frank and Constance Craig  
John David Quail  
Michael Joseph Quail  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCarroll  
Mr. and Mrs. James McGrail  
Mr. and Mrs. John Quinlan and family  
Mrs. Edward B. Lynch  
Mrs. Les Martin  
Mrs. Laughlin

## **CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Joseph McCarroll (Chairman), Mrs. Sonja Kaye, Mrs. Frances Morrow, Mrs. Alma Moran, Mrs. Angie McCarroll, Mrs. Constance Craig, Father F. R. McGinn, Mrs. Katie Quinlan, Mrs. Carmel Lynch.

## **SUB-COMMITTEES**

Landscaping:	Mrs. Alma Moran
Catering:	C.W.L. Members, Mrs. Constance Craig (President)
Quilting:	Mrs. Angie McCarroll
Calendar:	Mrs. Angie McCarroll Miss Helen Doner
Dance:	Mr. Ernie Thibert

## **CENTENNIAL BOOK**

Editors:	Mrs. Frances Morrow, Mr. Jack Andrews
Historical Research:	Father Edward Jackman, O.P. Diocesan Historian Mrs. Carmel Lynch
Art Work:	Miss Helen Doner
Typists:	Miss Elaine Rivett Mrs. Mary Anne Collister
Photography:	Mr. George Brown

Many thanks are extended to those parishioners and friends who provided materials for this book which have made the whole project possible.

## ***CENTENNIAL EVENTS — 1976***

January	: Centennial Calendars on sale
Feb. - March	: Centennial Quilts in the making
April	: Centennial Dance
May 15th	: Spiritual Renewal FR. McGIVERN, S.J.
May 30th	: Centennial Celebration 11:00 a.m. — Con-Celebrated Mass St. Paul's Church Archbishop Pocock 1:00 p.m. — Reception St. Paul's School Centennial Draw
June	: Centennial Picnic
August	: Centennial Float Alliston Potato Festival Parade
October	: Centennial Remembrance St. Paul's Cemetery
November	: C.W.L. Closing Festivities