



**St Thérèse of Lisieux**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**25<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY**

**Souvenir Magazine**

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# Foreword

From the Principal, Mr J. Magee.

**T**wenty five years can be a long time or a short time depending on how you look at it. In the life of a school it is a relatively short time but it is time enough for a school to establish itself and its ethos and to build a reputation.

St Thérèse of Lisieux has had to do this on two sites. My experience is limited to the new school but it would be wrong of me not to say that I believe we have all benefited greatly from all that was good in the old school.

For the past nine years we have tried to keep up the high standards set for us in the old St Thérèse of Lisieux. Like myself many of the teachers nowadays have no experience of what it "used to be like" but thankfully they have blended well with the old hands and all have played their part in providing what we believe to be a sound Catholic education for all our pupils.

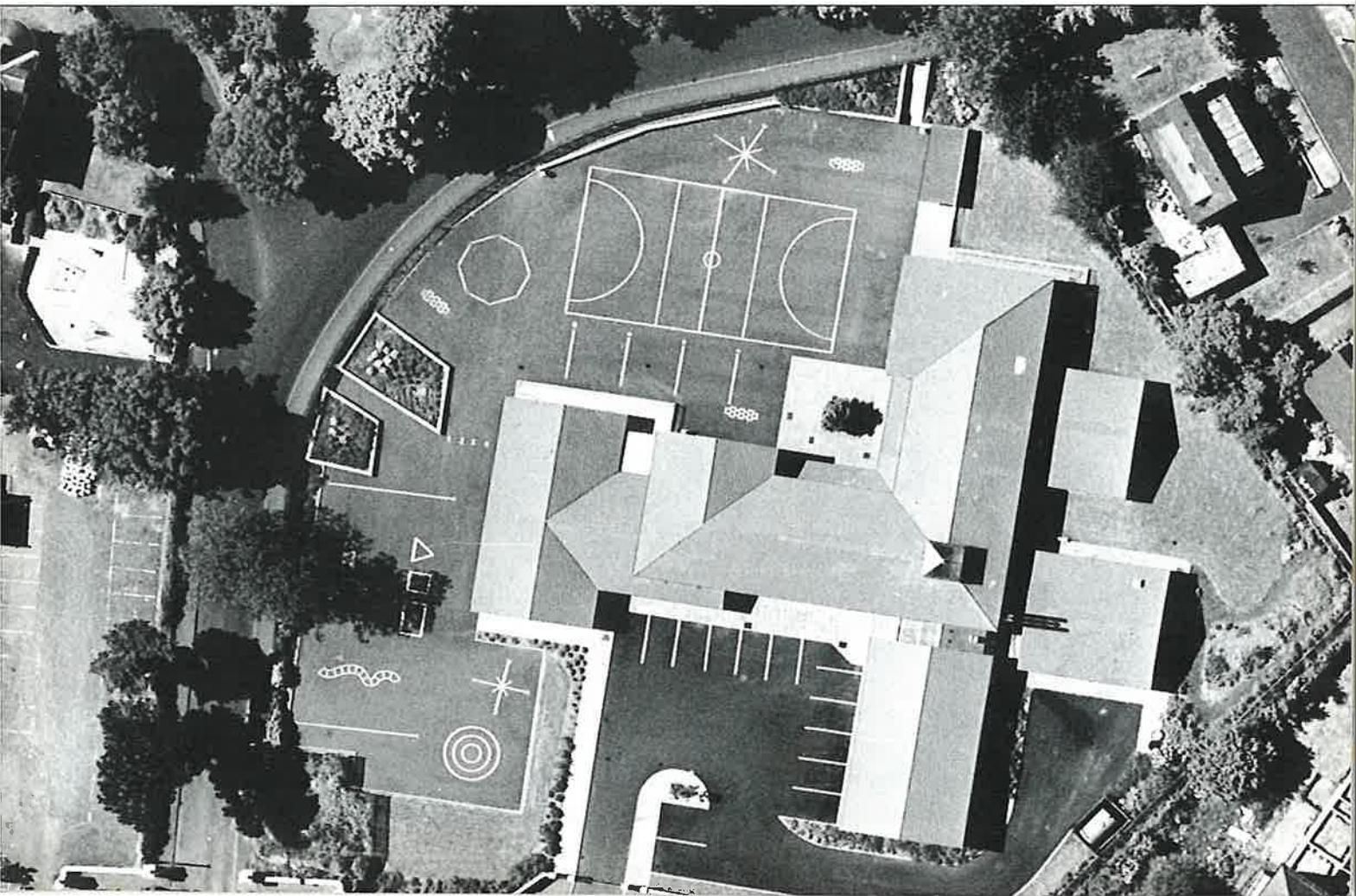
Throughout my time we have tried to involve the parents of our children in the school and hopefully all have found themselves made welcome whenever they had reason to call. A spe-

cial mention of course is due to the Friends of St Thérèse, our parents association, who have supported the school for many years and who have contributed so much to the union of school church and parents.

My thanks are also due to the many priests of the parish who have supported the school over the years. To those who worked so hard with the parents to bring about the building of the new school and to those who have supported it since.

Our vision for the future is to continue the work of the past twenty five years and where possible to improve on it. Most of all we want to remain a place that children are happy to come to, where parents are happy to send them and where the results of the dedication and work of the teachers can be seen in the pupils who leave at the end of their time at St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School.

*J. Magee*







# Tradition lives

Says the Parish Administrator, Rev S. Emerson.

**T**radition, according to the Collins Dictionary, is “the handing down from generation to generation of the same customs, beliefs etc. especially by word of mouth”.

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School and in doing so we recognize a very honourable and noble tradition. Beliefs that are handed down from one generation to the next involve a network of people: children, parents, teachers, staff, ancillary staff, principals, priests and many others in the community. These customs and beliefs are taught not just as doctrine but as a way of life in our schools and are conveyed primarily through the example of the elder generation.

By virtue of our baptism we are obliged to educate our children as defined in the Vatican Council’s Declaration on Christian Education: “children and young people have the right to be stimulated, to make sound moral judgements based on a well-formed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment, and to know and love God more perfectly.”

I would like to congratulate all those involved with the great success of St Thérèse of Lisieux school. The tremendous support that parents have given to the school, especially in the early days when facilities were not so good, is second to none. From one generation to another the participation of parents in the life of the school has given a great sense of strength and vitality.

The school has been most fortunate in having teachers and principals who have given such tremendous service. The role of handing on the faith cannot be underestimated and is often a reflection of their own commitment and beliefs. Cardinal Basil Hume once wrote: “The Catholic school presupposes teachers who are committed to their Catholic faith and practice. If this were not so then they should close their schools.”

So may I thank all members of staff, both past and present for what they have given to St. Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School. However, it is not just the teaching staff but the ancillary staff who also make valuable contributions, through the work they do and through their care and concern for the pupils. This is a great example to many pupils of the need to be generous, caring and understanding and to participate actively in the life of society, devoting themselves to the promotion of the common good.

Of course, it is the children who are important in St. Thérèse of Lisieux School. Many pupils, both past and present, are grateful for the education which they have been privileged to receive while at the school. I hope that, like the Patron Saint, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, these children will have the same memories of their childhood as she had. She once said: “God has seen fit to enshrine me with love at every moment of my life. All my earliest memories are of smiles and endearments. What a happy childhood it was.”

May St. Thérèse of Lisieux School continue to create, for many more generations, a tradition of Catholic education that will contribute to a happy childhood for all its pupils.





# Congratulations

Says the former Parish Administrator, Rev Fr P. McGarry.

**M**ay I offer the present principal and staff of St Thérèse of Lisieux School my sincerest congratulations on continuing to supply Catholic education to the parents and children of the area.

In the early 1970s I was on brief holiday in the Isle of Man with two very good friends, Patrick Bradley and Francis Crilly. Both these men were solicitors. I happened to mention to Frank Crilly that we were having difficulty with a “restrictive covenant” in the deeds of land where we hoped to build a school and he said “leave it with me and I’ll see what I can do”.

At that time I was Administrator of Holy Family Parish Belfast and due to the “troubles” our parish was expanding at an alarming rate. In April 1973 we negotiated the purchase of a semi-detached house on the Somerton Road and with the co-operation of Jim Caves of BELB we opened a school with 64

pupils on 6th September 1973 as an annex of Holy Family Girls’ school at Newington Avenue. Betty Redmond, Vice Principal of Holy Family Girls’, was appointed Acting Principal, with two full time assistants.

In the meantime Frank Crilly worked on the “restrictive covenant” and with doggedness and diplomacy found success almost 10 years from first hearing of it. The restriction was lifted in January 1981.

Looking back over the past 25 years I think of the many good people who fought so hard to guarantee Catholic education in Holy Family Parish: the good parishioners, who in spite of other parish commitments generously provided the finance for a new school; the great help of Bishop William Philbin (now deceased); the expertise of Frank Crilly; the enthusiasm of Fr Hilary Armstrong, curate at Somerton Road during the 1970s; and the generosity of Betty Redmond.



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# The good old bad old days

Joe Lavery was the first principal at St Thérèse of Lisieux. In this article he recalls the spirit of co-operation which overcame the difficulties of the school's early days.

**T**wenty-five years old! It is hard to believe that St Thérèse of Lisieux PS is celebrating its Silver Jubilee - the years have passed so quickly. Certainly while I was principal the time flew because with the expansion of the school there was so much to do and so much to anticipate.

Officially St Thérèse of Lisieux PS became a new maintained school in January 1974. From September until December 1973, because of technical, legal, and administrative problems the Department of Education was not in a

position to recognise the school as an independent entity, so it was established as an annex of Holy Family Girls PS.

The vice-principal of Holy Family Girls' Betty Redmond, moved from Newington Avenue to 65 Somerton Road to take charge of the annex. Betty did a marvellous job in starting off the school and helped, with her two teacher colleagues, to create a good family atmosphere in the semi-detached house an atmosphere which we, who came after, tried to maintain and develop.

I remember Betty telling me a story about the original uniform. It was to be brown for the Carmelite Order and light cream blouses and shirts. But the reflection of the colours of the shirts on the

faces of the children made them look as if they were suffering from a form of jaundice. The colour was quickly changed to peach, and became well-known around Glandore, Cavehill and Fortwilliam areas.

The school commenced with about 60 pupils. By the time I became Principal in January 1974 there were 65 pupils, boys and girls, in P1, P2 and P3. It was my first experience of girls in a school. So when I met the young ladies of St Thérèse PS I found them delightful - they had such a civilising influence on the place and they were so helpful and efficient not that the boys were far behind.

By June 1974 I think we had over 70 children on roll but now we had to prepare for the intake of our new primary one

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As you were: Former teachers.

and prepare a place for our promoted primary four becoming P5 then 6 then 7.

The number on roll expanded rapidly until we had 440 pupils in the school. This meant mobile classrooms and more mobile classrooms in the playground, in Fr Armstrong's garden, taking over three or four of those belonging to Little Flower Secondary School and invading St Patrick's Secondary School to occupy three of their vacant mobiles. There was a stage when I believe, the principals of our secondary school neighbours were afraid to leave a room vacant lest they would find a class of primary pupils ensconced.

However we were extremely fortunate with all the neighbouring schools. Their principals and staff were most kind and generous to us. The Dominican College having given us their former classrooms, let us have text books when their preparatory school closed and also let us have the use of their chapel for services.

Sister Magdalene from Little Flower Secondary School was a pioneer in giving her senior pupils work experience in our school and these girls were marvellous in the help they gave to teachers in infant classes and also helping in supervising on educational visits and days at the seaside.

Miss Anne McGrath the current principal gave us enormous help letting us have mobile classrooms, playground space and the use of her assembly hall and classrooms for parent meetings and First

Communion parties. Mr Steele from St Patrick's permitted his woodwork students to supply us with bird tables, containers for weather experiment equipment and a shadow stick.

When I set up the shadow stick in the playground I remember a lively young teacher Miss Byrne (Mrs M) asking if I had obtained planning permission to erect it there. With young teachers to "take the

**"Adversity seemed to bring out the best in everybody"**

Michael out of Sir" there was little chance of becoming too solemn.

Mr George Salters Mr Steel's successor was also extremely kind in letting us have mobile classrooms and playground space as well as letting our children have the use of the school's dining room when our numbers became too large for us to cope in our restricted circumstances. We had good relations also with Dunlambert Secondary School now Castle High the local nursery schools and also the three or four Welfare Homes in our catchment area from whom we received children up to fifteen in number at one time. Also mentioned must be the Principal of St Aloysius Special School Mr Paddy Toner and Mr Bobby Rooney who gave us permission to use their football pitch after

school hours where our pupils enjoyed themselves practising football-mainly boys but also girls one of whom (Catherine Brady) became a star performer in our first team. We also held our sports day there.

With the expansion of the school over the years the staff, teaching and support, were kept busy but all co-operated magnificently - adversity seemed to bring out the best in everybody. At its maximum the school with over four hundred pupils was based on four different sites so that morning, noon and afternoon there were lines of school children to be seen on various parts of the Somerton Road going to or coming from their classrooms. To leave the house and visit all the classrooms on the four different sites meant walking three quarters of a mile, so with all that fresh air and exercise we appeared to be quite a healthy school community. However in bad weather it was pretty miserable for teachers and children alike and minds were concentrated on a new building on a single site.

Fr Hilary Armstrong, who had become Administrator of the parish, had always taken a very keen interest in the school and had a marvellous rapport with the children who loved to see him on his many visits. I can remember the day when Fr Armstrong arrived at the school in a state of delight to inform us that the legal difficulty over the restrictive covenant in the lease had been solved and

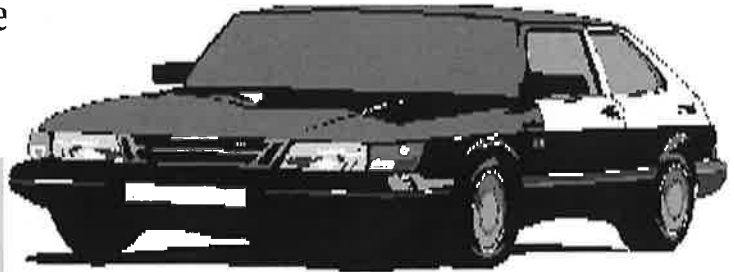
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the way was clear for a new school on the Antrim Road site. Soon a visit from the Minister of Education, Dr Brian Mawhinney, was arranged to let him see the difficult conditions under which children and staff worked, to encourage him to expedite finance to build a new school.

As luck would have it, on the day he arrived with police outriders and bodyguards, the weather was foul. It poured out of the heavens. So off went the entourage of Minister, Civil Servants, police, members of the Governors, public representatives and Mrs Montague and the Principal to visit the mobile classrooms. He got a hearty welcome in almost all the classrooms. After walking from mobile to mobile through a heavy downpour for about a mile the minister was soaked and suggested he had had enough. Whether it was the weather or the sharp edge of one teacher's tongue that deterred him from going further I don't know but more was to come.

When we got back to the improvised staff room Marie, the school secretary had a lovely cup of tea prepared and the best china set out. As I entered the

## “Our school has a hen on top of the roof”

staffroom Dr Mawhinney was coming out of the gents. I lifted a cup of tea from the table and gave it to a police bodyguard waiting outside the room. When the Minister arrived back from his ablutions he asked for his cup of tea and it was discovered I had given it to the policeman. He did not hold it against the school for soon we were informed that authorisation for our new school was forthcoming.

Brian McCusker, the senior architect, took special interest in our school because two of his sons, Shane and Donal, were pupils. I remember Brian telling me the story of overhearing one of our pupils telling another that “our school has a hen on the top of the roof” when the weather vane was placed on top of the roof.

Right from the appointment of Regina O'Callaghan as teacher she made a tremendous contribution to the musical life of the school and indeed to the parish and to the wider public. Children from the school took part in religious services in various churches, in productions at The Opera House, with the N T Opera Trust the opera in Noah's Flood at Stranmillis College and in Form of Oratorio in St Anne's Cathedral. This training and love of music instilled by Regina is still evi-



## Early Days

Paula Mullan P2 in 1973 at the opening of the school. Paula later did teaching practice in the school about 1988.

The uniform badge in 1973 was pale yellow on brown. In 1974 the badge was orange on brown - supplied by Ballymurphy Enterprises. Orders were apparently not fulfilled after the second batch and the badge was not used again. By 1975 a salmon coloured blouse appeared.

dent as can be seen from the fact that former pupils, too numerous to mention, are still active in the world of music.

When Helen Macklin arrived in the school as a young teacher she developed the drama and choral speaking aspect of the chorale work. Soon she and her classes of hard working pupils were winning top prizes at many festivals in Belfast and towns in the vicinity. Again Helen's skills and industry prepared many of our pupils for a future in amateur and indeed the professional theatre.

I have a special memory of the pupils who played in the school football teams and they were always a credit to their parents and to the school wherever they went to play. All of the children played their

hearts out for their teams but there was something special about the 5-a-side team of Declan Cooley, Nial Parkhill, Mark Pinkerton, Jerome McAtee, Stephen Harding and Greg McCann.

In one year they won every competition for which they were entered and they did it with such style and skill that they received special congratulations from the Belfast Board Physical Education Adviser (Dick Williams).

The monthly religious services in St. Thérèse's church are also worthy of mention. Each month class teachers conducted a religious service with an appropriate theme for the time of year. Many parents come to participate in these services which were beautifully and reverently presented. The first time a teacher prepared a service dramatising the Passion and Death of Christ for Holy Week caused a degree of apprehension.

One of the pupils was to be figuratively placed on a cross for crucifixion. One giggle or slip could have played havoc with the solemn and reverent atmosphere required. However teacher Martin Blayney an accomplished amateur actor himself had prepared his class well and had chosen a very capable pupil to “die on

## “He would be crucified for real”

the cross”. Raymond McCullagh, now a young curate in the diocese, played the part with such skill and reverence that the service became a very moving occasion.

Raymond's mother told me on a later occasion that Raymond had been teasing some class colleagues and a warning was issued that if Ray McCullagh did not stop his teasing he would be crucified for real.

I have very many happy memories of my time at St Thérèse of Lisieux PS but there were unhappy occasions too. I was deeply saddened to attend the funerals of three of our former pupils and indeed those of parents who died in the prime of their lives. May they rest in peace.

The school was very fortunate to have very supportive parents, dedicated and committed members of the Boards of Governors, hard working and generous Parents Committees, wonderful teachers (the most important resource in any school,) great support staff and I will always regard it as a privilege and honour to have worked for and with such top quality people. But most of all I will have a special place in my heart for the most delightful and lovely children it was any teacher's privilege to meet. ■

# If at first you don't succeed...

Six planning applications and more than 16 years of negotiations were required before planning permission was given for the building for the new school. Architect, Brian McCusker, begins the story.

It became apparent towards the end of the 1950s that a new primary school was needed to serve the upper end of Holy Family Parish. Fr Farrey the Administrator at the time, realised that the only site available was the problematic site at the corner of Chichester Park and the Antrim Road.

Fr Farrey and Fr Bradley, the curate, were aware of the restrictive covenant which had prevented the site being used for the building of St Thérèse of Lisieux Church but thought that this did not present an insurmountable obstacle and could be bought out in the normal way. How wrong they were.

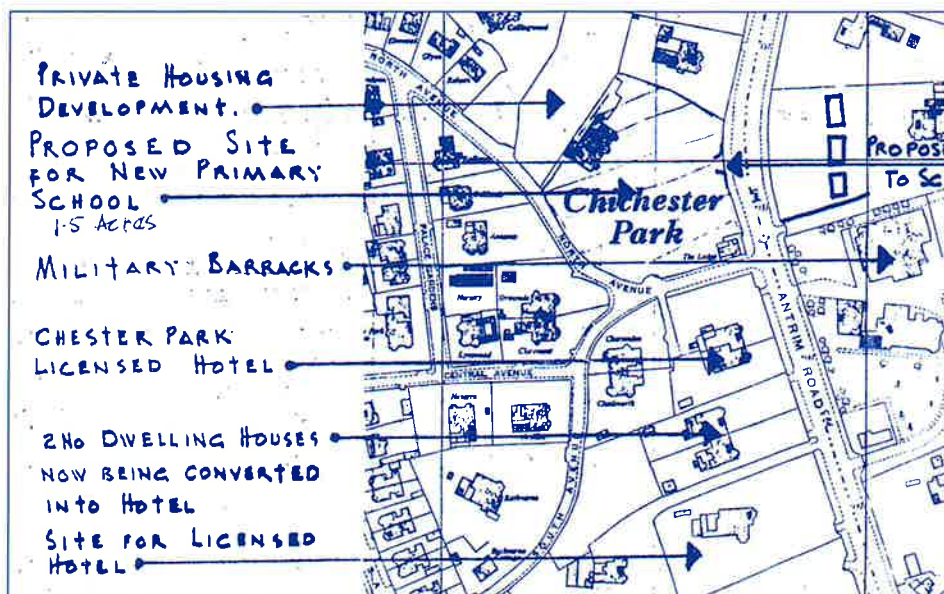
They appointed Messrs McCusker Power and Leeson to act as architects and Messrs McGarvey Lynch and

O'Neill solicitors for the project. McCusker Power & Leeson lodged the first of six planning applications in the spring of 1961.

The Planning sub-committee decided to visit the site before making their decision. They invited the architects and the applicant to attend to lend verbal support to their application. Mr McCusker attended at the site meeting with the City Surveyor and the Planning Committee.

It soon became evident to Mr McCusker that all was not well. The City Surveyor demonstrated vigorously to the Planning Committee Members about how dangerous the location of the site was and how completely unsuitable for the proposed primary school. He all but advised them

**"It soon became evident that all was not well"**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Over the years the current site of the school has been used in many ways by local people.

- It was used by Bishop Henry as his residence until he moved to Trench House in the late 1920s.

- After this it became St Joseph's Baby's Home and operated as this until the mid 1930s when the home moved to their present location on the Ravenhill Road.

- The Legion of Mary founded the Girl's Club and took over the house for the use of girls who came from the country and were employed in domestic service in the district.

- Later St Vincent de Paul members from Holy Family Conference took an interest in the premises and encouraged the youth of the parish to attend. The Holy Family Boxing Club was founded and the club flourished into a popular meeting place.

- Throughout the war years and up to the mid 1960s the club was used for all kinds of activities including ballroom dancing, dramatics, debates and whist drives.

on the spot to refuse the application. All but one of the Planning Committee Representatives agreed with the City Surveyor. The representative who disagreed was Mr Gerry Fitt serving on his first sub-committee.

The first planning application was refused on the grounds:

"The situation of the proposed development close to a sharp bend on the Antrim Road and fronting on the narrow winding roadway of Chichester Park is unsuitable from a traffic aspect for a Primary School and the number and size of the building proposed would lead to an unduly cramped layout which would impair the activity of the area."

An amended application taking into consideration the objections was lodged, but it was opposed in the same way and Fr Farrey decided to withdraw it rather



than be refused again.

In the meantime Holy Family Boys and Girls Primary Schools urgently required attention by way of extension and refurbishment. St Joseph's Club at Chichester Park was taken over and used as temporary accommodation while the alterations and extensions were carried out.

Shortly after Fr Farrey was appointed Parish Priest in Holywood. Fr Bradley succeeded him as Administrator but he too was transferred before the development at Holy Family was completed.

In 1969 Fr Breen took charge and a year later instructed his architects to lodge a new planning application to develop a primary school on the Chichester Park Site. A number of residents from the neighbourhood objected to the application. In accordance with the normal procedure the Town Planning Committee requested that the applicant, his architect and solicitors, along with the objectors appear before them to state their respective cases.

The Planning Committee after hearing the depositions from the applicants and objectors decided to grant planning permission subject to ratification by the City

**“The necessity of another primary school in the parish”**

Council on 1 May 1970. Outline planning permission was granted. An interesting condition attached to the approval which contradicted the City Surveyor's recommendation to his committee in 1961 was:

“The access existing in Chichester Park shall be permanently closed to vehicles and an alternative access formed along the Antrim Road frontage, the details of position and width of such access to be subject to the approval of Corporation before any work on site commence”

Fr Breen armed with his outline Planning Permission set about establishing with the Department of Education the necessity for another primary school in the Parish, while his solicitor Mr Lynch re-opened negotiations with the Head Landlord to have the restrictive covenant removed.

These negotiations dragged on for a further sixteen years.

# Continued success

As a young councillor, Alban Maginness played his part in creating the new school. Now, as the Lord Mayor of Belfast, he can hardly believe the school is 25 years old.



**A**s an old boy of Holy Family School I still regard St Thérèse's School as a new school. So when it come to celebrating 25 years of St Thérèse's, I'm shocked that the school has been in existence that long. It certainly doesn't seem like that. Perhaps I'm just getting too old!

Anyway I'm proud to associate myself with the school and its two principals, Mr Lavery and Mr Magee, who have successfully directed the school since it opened. I recall the old house on the Somerton Road that served as the main part of the old school building and I remember very well, one very wet and dreary morning as a councillor guiding the then Minister for Education, Dr Mawhinney, around the wretched building. Shortly after that the new building got the green light.

The move to the new premises was very welcomed when it happened, but I have to say despite the inadequate conditions on the Somerton Road, the old school had a good spirit, which fortunately it still retains in the new premises on the Antrim Road. St Thérèse's has always been a happy school for me and my children, seven of whom have attended the school and benefited so much from its teaching and teachers. Let me wish it continuing success over the next 25 years.

# Timeline



Hilary Connor draws on information recorded over 18 years by Fr Armstrong, which details the endeavours to secure a new primary school.

**June 1st 1970:** The Belfast Co-operation granted "General Permission" to proceed with the erection of a primary school at 1-3 Chichester Park Belfast. This depended on the plans and demolition of St Joseph's Club which occupied the site.

**April 1973:** The Trustees of the Holy Family Parish were refused permission by the Belfast Corporation to develop Arva House, Cavehill Road, as a Temporary Primary School on the grounds that: "The amenities of the area would be adversely affected by the development by reason of noise and nuisance."

The Dominican Sisters, Fortwilliam Park, offered the premises at 65 Somerton Road, Belfast for immediate use as primary school temporary accommodation. These premises were being used by Dominican College Grammar School but the Dominican Sisters were prepared to find alternative accommodation for those classrooms within their own complex.

The Trustees of St Malachy's College who had already acquired 1-3 Chichester Park, purchased 65 Somerton Road.

A permanent primary school at 65 Somerton Road could only be established if adjoining property could be purchased. The City Planning Department gave approval for 65 Somerton road to become a Temporary Primary School using the ground floor at that stage.

**September 1973:** A school was opened called Holy Family Girls Primary School Annex (St Thérèse of Lisieux P.S.) and the first acting head was Betty Redmond who had been the Vice Principal in Holy Family Girls P.S.

**September 6th 1973:** The Ministry of Education approved a staff of three full-time teachers (including the head teacher) on the basis of the opening enrolment of 64 pupils.

During the course of correspondence with the Department of Education, the Department referred to the school as St Thérèse of Lisieux P.S. At this point the Trustees asked the Department if they could appoint a principal to



this recognised school and Mr Lavery was appointed.

**October 1973:** Solicitors discovered that the Chichester Park site was subjected to a restrictive covenant which meant that it could only be used as a private dwelling and that the Trustees of the Dunlop Estate, who owned the Grantors' interest, refused to remove this covenant. The Late Thomas H Dunlop bequeathed the property to his Trustees in trust for his two sisters for life and thereafter to the Presbyterian Residential Trust.

**April 1th 1974:** The parish procured two mobile classrooms for the Somerton Road site.

**February - August 1974:** Informal discussions with Trustees of the Dunlop Estate with regard to restrictive covenant.

**August 7th 1974:** Letter and cheque for £5,000 offered for release of covenant.

**December 12th 1974:** Reply received indicating that the covenant would not be released.

**December 1974 - May 1975:** The legal position was further investigated.

**April 29th 1975:** Outline planning permission given for proposed new primary school, 1-3 Chichester Park.



**June 3rd 1975:** Detailed memorandum to Department of Education requesting consideration for amendment of the Education Order to enable compulsory acquisition of sites for voluntary schools.

**June 16th 1975:** Department of Education replied that suggested amendment was too late to be considered for the forthcoming Amending Order, but promised future consideration.

**June 20th 1975:** Planning approval was given for the erection of double classroom and re-siting of existing mobile.

**September 1975:** Correspondence and discussion with G Fitt M.P. regarding amendment of proposed Draft Order.

**June 28th 1976:** Planning permission for proposed boys' toilet accommodation on 65 Somerton road.

**July 31st 1976:** Bishop received assurance from Northern Ireland Office promising to incorporate amendment in next Amending Order. This was expected to be presented in mid 1977.

**October 6th 1976:** The Department of Education gave approval for the provision of a new primary school and proposed to re-examine the situation again when a site became available. As the restrictive covenant concerning the lease of the land at Chichester Park had not yet been removed it was not possible at that time to erect a school on it.

**March 28th 1977:** Letter sent to Trustees of the Dunlop Estate, that Amending Order would be made shortly and asked for their voluntary release of the covenant.

**March 31st 1977:** The Trustees acknowledged receipt of letter. The legislation was not passed due to opposition.

**August 8th 1978:** New Order became effective.

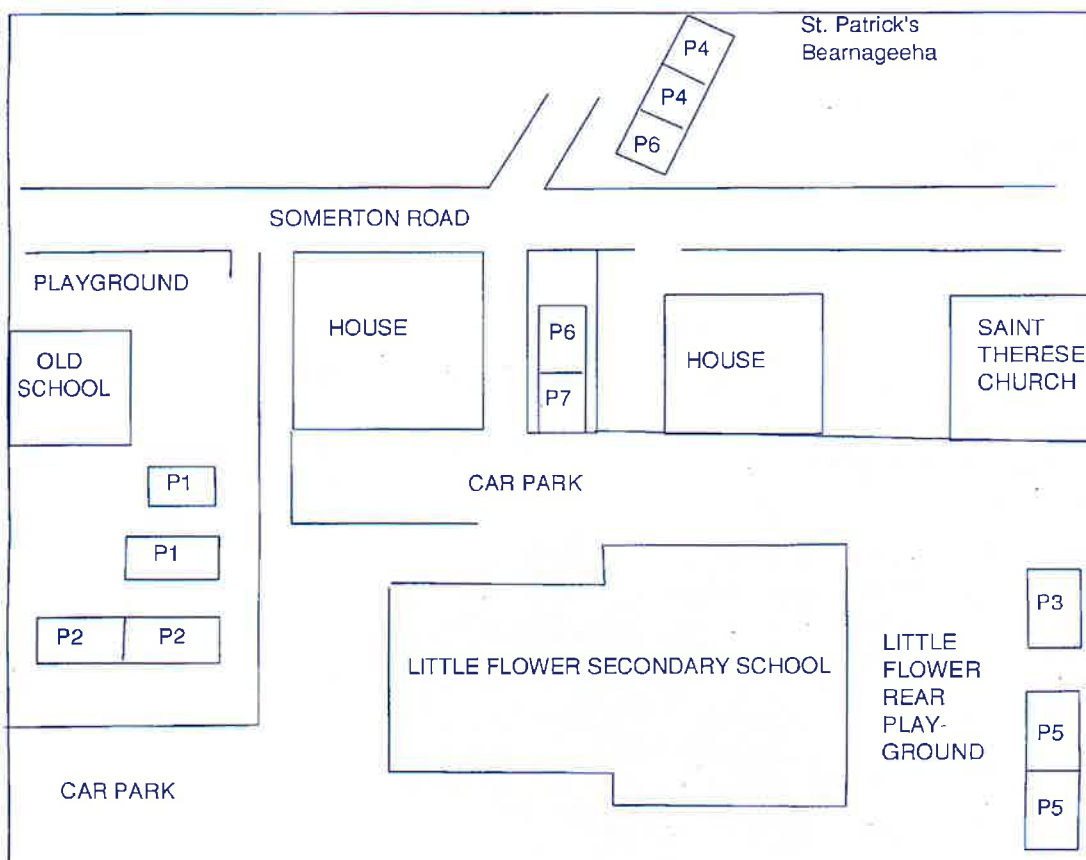
**July 24th 1979:** Due to the length of time since initially obtaining Outlined Planning Permission for the proposed new primary school at Chichester Park, a new application had to be made.

**October 22nd 1980:** The Planning Authority gave approval for Outlined Planning Permission for the proposed new school at Chichester Park.

**January 1981:** Following the death of the last surviving life tenant of the Dunlop Estate, the solicitor, Mr. F. Crilly contacted the Secretary of the Presbyterian Residential Trust and was informed that the Trust had accepted the bequest and was agreeable, in principle, to the removal of the restrictive covenant.

The Trustees of Holy Family Parish offered the Presbyterian Residential Trust £5,000 to release the covenant. They suggested that instead the Parish should take responsibility for the section of land over which there were difficulties regarding responsibility. Under the Fee Farm Grant the Grantee was held liable for

**The layout of the old school site**



maintenance of any road or sewers which bounded the site. The specific area in this case referred to Chichester Park North from the junction of Chichester Court to the Antrim Road. Interestingly, when Chichester Court was built permission was given by the Dunlop Estate to connect the Chichester Court sewer to that in Chichester Park North, which the Estate was responsible for. The upkeep of Chichester Court and the sewer were then the responsibility of the Department of Environment.

**May 1981:** During correspondence with the Department of the Environment, it was pointed out that the Department would not surely have intended that the outfall from a public sewer, should be into a private sewer, over which they had no control and that the department should now take responsibility for the whole sewer system. The difficulty then was that the sewers and the road surface in Chichester Park North needed to be replaced and the question was who was going to pay

**September 1981:** The Department of the Environment accepted that the sewers in Chichester Park were public but said that they were not responsible for the replacement of the sewers.

They were now asked to restore the road surface to the original standard and the Trustees would be responsible for the final surfacing to bring the road up to the correct standard.

**October 1983:** The restrictive covenant was resolved by the solicitor, and the site was now available to be purchased by the Trustees of Holy Family Parish.

**February 1984:** The Department reviewed the need for, and size of the proposed replacement school for St. Thérèse de Lisieux.

**June 1st 1984:** The Department of Education confirmed that the new school would cater for 322 - 354 pupils and that accommodation



required would include 12 class bases, an assembly hall, a Medical Inspection/Remedial Room and a Library/Resource Area.

Approval was given to the appointment of Messrs McCusker, Power and Leeson, Kinnaird Street, Belfast as Architects for the scheme and to Mr F Crilly Antrim Road, Belfast, as Solicitors.

**14 June 1984:** The Department of Education gave approval for the provision of the new school.

“The department reaffirms its approval of 6 October 1976 to the provision of a new primary school at Chichester Park to replace the temporary primary school [St Thérèse de Lisieux] which is at present operating at 65 Somerton Road, Belfast. The new school should cater for 322-354 pupils and the building should be designed capable of further extension.”

**November 1984:** The General Inspection report noted that the school's enrolment was currently 303 pupils and the numbers were growing. The school was centred around a semi-detached house which contained two small classrooms, one music, remedial and administrative rooms as well as lavatories to cater for 163 pupils. With the location of the lavatories in the main house there was very often an unpleasant smell in the entrance hallway. To the rear of the house there were four mobile classrooms which catered for most of the P1-3 classes. None of these had running water. Some distance away along the driveway of the Little Flower School there was a temporary structure divided into two by a folding partition. Three further classrooms were situated in the playground of the





secondary school. Access to these was at the side of the host school but the pathway was frequently unusable in wet weather owing to flooding. On such days pupils had to go through the secondary school. The distance between each part of the school made it difficult to develop a corporate identity.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, 65 Somerton Road, Enrolment

September 1973	64 pupils
September 1974	106 pupils
September 1975	171 pupils
September 1976	209 pupils
September 1977	263 pupils
September 1978	275 pupils
September 1979	283 pupils
September 1980	276 pupils
September 1981	292 pupils
September 1982	284 pupils
September 1983	279 pupils
September 1984	303 pupils

**November 20th 1984:** Approval was now needed from the Department for the acquisition of the site.

**February 28th 1985:** The Department gives approval of the site, but among their observations is that the 12 mature trees on the site should as far as possible be retained.

**March 19th 1985:** The site is purchased from the Trustees of St Malachy's College by the Trustees of Holy Family Parish.

**April 1985:** Holy Family Trustees made contribution of £13, 136.76 to road making

**May 1985:** Trustees named

**May 7th 1985:** Chichester Park site was valued at £45,000.

**October 28th 1985:** Submission of official sketches and plans to the Department of Education for approval.

**October 29th 1985:** The Department of Education gave approval for the appointment of the following consultants: Quantity Surveyors [Messrs J A Tyran & Co.] Consulting Engineers [Messrs Dr D Lavelle & Associates] and Structural Engineers [Mr F Gilligan & Partners].

**February 28th 1986:** Completion of Bill of Quantities.

**May 1986:** Embargo on all school building for one year.

**March 1987:** The new school was allocated public funds for a new school building by the Department of Education.

**September 3rd 1987:** The Department gave approval for two additional classrooms (one infant and one junior) plus ancillary accommodation in the existing contract for the new school.

**August 1987:** Fr McCallum CC consecrates the ground in order that a new primary school could be erected on Chichester Road site.

**September 1988:** Children and staff move into the new building.

**September 30th 1988:** Bishop Cahal Daly blesses the new school building in the school Assembly Hall.



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# A welcome site

After the many years of struggle to acquire the right to build a school on the Chichester Park site, it was with a great sense of achievement that people watched the first foundations of the school being laid. Very quickly the impressive two storey building rose up and a year after the building work began it welcomed its first pupils.



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# Teachers

Over our 25 years many permanent, temporary and substitute teachers have been associated with St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School. Sadly, some have passed on. We owe a debt to them all.

### Miss Pauline Mulligan Died December 1990

PAULINE Mulligan joined the staff of St Thérèse of Lisieux in September 1974. From that time until she retired, she taught either P1 or P2. She had a special dedication and sympathetic approach to the needs of four and five-year olds and consequently, the many hundreds of pupils whom she taught, began their primary school education on a very sure footing. Parents frequently expressed their appreciation and gratitude for her commitment and dedication.



Pauline's care, though, extended beyond the children that she taught. Her friendly advice and good counsel was often sought by her teaching colleagues. Frequently she gave her time in a quiet and unassuming manner to affirm and support young teachers as they embarked on their careers. And they in their turn continued to uphold the strong tradition that St Thérèse school has enjoyed and continues to enjoy in Holy Family Parish.

Pauline always participated enthusiastically in extra-curricular aspects of the life of the school, such as concerts, plays, outings and sports days. She felt very strongly too, about the importance of staff social activities in maintaining good relationships and improving staff morale. She often undertook the task of organising such events and indeed, on a number of occasions, staff parties were held in her own home. After years of working in temporary accommodation at 65 Somerton Road, Pauline enjoyed the last two years of her teaching career in the new St Thérèse building on the Antrim Road. She took a keen interest in helping to furnish and equip the Infant Department in the new school and enjoyed the facilities it afforded.

Pauline retired in August 1990 and less than three months into her retirement died suddenly on 16 December 1990. She was a warm, gentle, generous and loving person who enriched the lives of many. May she rest in peace.

*Peg McCusket*



# Remembered



## Herbie Stewart Died September 1987

IN SEPTEMBER 1975 fresh from St Joseph's College of Education I entered the gates of St Thérèse of Lisieux for the first time as a teacher.

There were six staff: Pauline Mulligan, Una Byrne (Montague), Regina O'Callaghan, Herbie Stewart, Joe Lavery and myself. The school was on the old site on the Somerton Road and I shared a double mobile with Herbie.

We were both Antrim men he from Ballycastle, I from Ballymena. We shared accents we were both new to the school and we struck up a friendship on that first day.

Herbie had taught in Stella Maris Primary School before coming to St Thérèse. To me he was a seasoned teacher, he knew the ropes. I, on the other hand, was green, didn't know what a rope looked like and had the misery of a probationary year under Schools Inspector Mr McKeown.

Herbie assured me more than once that I was getting the hang of things and urged me not to worry about 'Fletcher Mathematics'. According to him 'new' maths were a passing

fad. I wonder what he would have made of the 'New Curriculum'.

I can remember envying his cool composure, his ability to handle a class of 38 primary fives, but most of all I remember his generosity.

One morning towards the end of a summer term when the year's work was almost completed and we were beginning to relax and look forward to our long awaited holidays a knock came to the door of my classroom. A young boy stood there holding a note. I immediately thought it was from Mr Lavery looking for my weekly notes. (No six week planners then) I opened the note and found an Allied Irish Bank cheque. It said pay Martin Blayney the Sum £1, 000, 000 only - Signed Herbie Stewart.

He was joking of course but it raised my spirits and made me laugh and laughter is very necessary in our line of business.

I wish I'd kept it. It would serve as a reminder of happier times. Herbie didn't always have laughter or happy times but he was capable of it.

Wherever you are Herbie I hope you're laughing now and if you could maybe arrange it, how about six numbers next Saturday in lieu of that cheque. Rest in Peace.

*Martin Blayney*

## The Staff Team 1989

Back row: Pat Wade, Marie Gribben, Kathleen Armstrong, Mairead Watters Teresa Cunningham.

Middle row: Deirdre Donnolly, Una Montague, Maura Hughes, Helen Macklin

Front row: Joe McNamee, Pauline Mulligan, Kay Byrne (now McCoy), Mary Quigley, Anne McClurg, Marianne Martin, Paul Rafferty.



# Memories

## The Old School Anon

*There's a quaint little school in north Belfast  
And they call it St Thérèse of Lisieux.  
I was there on the day it was opened  
But now I must bid it adieu.*

*Its memories I always will treasure  
No matter how far I roam.  
The teachers and friends that I've met there  
Always made me feel so much at home.*

*I'm grateful to all of my teachers  
From primary one up till now.  
And through I regret that I'm leaving  
I hope that I'll not let them down.*

*It isn't the grandest of buildings  
Not a mansion of splendour so tall.  
But of all the other schools in this city  
St Thérèse is the best of them all.*

### Seeing Double

**N**o you are not seeing double. Twins have always been a feature of life at St Thérèse's Primary School. This picture captures no less than six sets of twins, all pupils at the school during the same period. There must be something in the local water!

Back Left: Mark & Damien Sheppard, Hugh & Austin Laverty, Matthew & Christopher McVicker  
Front Left: Catherine & Ciara McGuigan, Chris & Caroline Fegan, Jenny & Ruth Lavery





## First Days By Paul McGlinchy

**1**st September 1973: My mother took me by the hand up the Somerton Road. My lips trembled and my eyes watered as I entered the room full of strangers.

My teacher, Miss Byrne, was very reassuring. She managed to settle us down with a verse or two of "We're going to the zoo!" After that we were let loose on the sandpit.

In the early days the school was quite small. I think there were three different year groups and we were in the one building.

Before long, however, we had moved to the mobiles (in 2nd and 3rd year). Lunchtimes were spent playing football with a small rubber handball. The games were usually stop-start affairs (more stop I must say). This was because the ball went flying into the neighbour's garden. She could have become a millionaire with all the balls she collected.

One of the most popular extra curricular activities was the choir. A big highlight included a trip to the BBC for a Christmas Carol session (1977). There was great excitement huddling around the radio to listen to the end result.

Anyway, I've got many happy memories of my school days. Times have changed and we've all moved on, but we should never forget our past.

I wish St Thérèse the very best and long may it continue to fly the educational flag for years to come.

## St Thérèse of Lisieux by Paula (Mullan) McHugh

*A new school for Primary Two*

*With my pal Nuala.*

*Not a school at all really, just a big house with a big grassy garden,*

*Small class, new friends, rust jumper and brown pinafore.*

*Dinner served at your desk.*

*Spellings L - I - S - I - E - U - X.*

*Music with Miss O'Callaghan,*

*Everyone singing and playing upstairs.*

*A black eye for my First Holy Communion,*

*Shoes I love, my mum hates.*

*Friendly Fr Armstrong knowing us each by name,*

*As we knew his - Hilary?*

*Mobiles and more mobiles,*

*Further from the house to the lane way to Little Flower,*

*To the land of the Black Doctor.*

*Six Clares in the class*

*McDonald, Conlon, Moore, Johnson, McGarrity and another one.*

*Trips to smoky toilets with teenage girls.*

*Dinner in Barney keeping jelly in our mouths*

*From the canteen to the playground at the Church.*

*Girlie talk at the feet of the Virgin Mary.*

*The dreaded test for a P, a Q, an R or an S.*

*Spellings L - I - S - I - E - U - X.*

# Memories

"A treasure chest of memories has been unlocked. Dusty, distant experiences that occurred in what now seems like a lifetime ago, have been taken out of hiding and recreated for this special anniversary magazine." So writes contributor, Deirdre Wilson, perfectly describing this section of the magazine.



## Remembering Thumbelina by Marieannette Bannon

**M**y earliest memory of the old St Thérèse of Lisieux primary school was my first leading role in Hans Christian Anderson's 'Thumbelina'.

It was 1973 and I was one of the first girl pupils of the old school. All that I can remember is old rooms with bare walls and big windows and playing with the boys in the playground. I loved it.

I can remember my flowery dress and wearing angel's wings. I played to a full house and thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm sure the audience did so as well.

Every time I walk past the bricked up house on the Somerton Road many happy memories come back to me, as I am sure they do to others who went to the old school.

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## **Early Memories of St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School by Deirdre Wilson**

A treasure chest of memories has been unlocked. Dusty, distant experiences that occurred in what now seems like a lifetime ago, have been taken out of hiding and recreated for this special anniversary magazine. A jumble of images and events have been unscrambled, and almost twenty five years on are being remembered on paper.

Life at St Thérèse of Lisieux began in an old and elegant red bricked house on the Somerton Road. Living room and drawing room became classrooms, the con-

servatory, transformed into a staff-room and upstairs was the music room complete with xylophone, glockenspiel, triangle and recorder.

At lunchtime, we whirled and hurled around the large front garden, which became a patchwork of tiny, tumbling bodies attempting cartwheels, headstands handstands, and in summer on sports day, the former driveway became a race track along which we sprinted with our eggs and spoons.

The advent of mobile classrooms in the back garden denoted the expansion of



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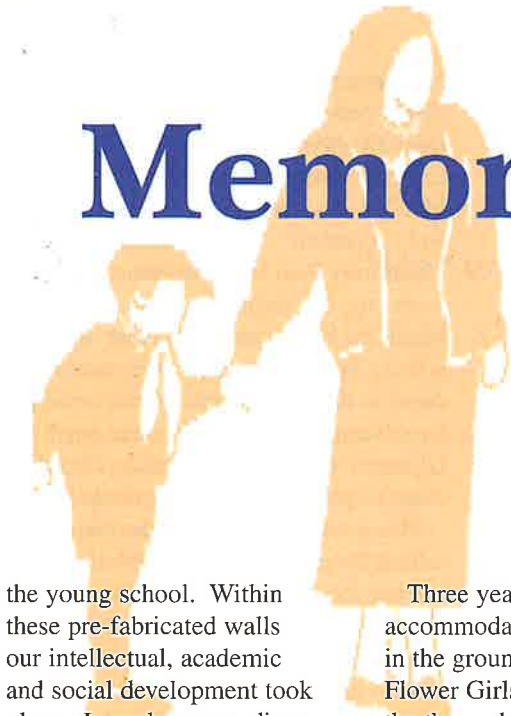
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# Memories



the young school. Within these pre-fabricated walls our intellectual, academic and social development took place. In such surroundings the art of reading, writing, spelling, and mathematical understanding was soundly acquired, alongside the knitting of teddy bears and dancing between swords!

Three years of mobile accommodation were passed in the grounds of Little Flower Girls' School. As the then school seniors, we were afforded the luxury of playing in the grounds of St Thérèse of Lisieux Church at lunch time. Here catkins were collected and coveted, the sloping tarmac driveway

became our ski slope in winter and the majestic rhododendron bush was a climbing frame, a hiding place. Our ventures into this leafy undergrowth, along with the relentless hammering of determined feet, uncovered a long, time-forgotten and overgrown grotto, a magical discovery.

It seems almost unreal that I was once a member of this tiny, thriving, happy community of brown and orange. Evidence that I was, lies buried beneath the foundations of The Church of the Resurrection in the form of a piece of my primary seven writing. This is to be unearthed along with other artefacts at some far distant point in the future, when I won't be around to gauge the

reaction!  
It is with a sense of nostalgia that I remember my early years on the Somerton Road. The elegant, red bricked building where my school life began is now bricked up, as are the old mobile classrooms within which so much life and activity once stirred. Yet I can still almost hear the sound of the footsteps and laughter of the children who were there.

St Thérèse of Lisieux has since matured into a successful, flourishing school, now located in an impressive modern building on the Antrim Road. May it continue to grow and develop during the course of the next twenty five years.

## Road to Victory by M Pinkerton 1987

A swarm of butterflies fluttered in my stomach, the cold wind mapped out a network of purple veins upon my legs. All eyes were now on the referee. He stood, one hand clutching a small, bullet-like ball, the other poised to start off a stopwatch that hung on a black cord around his neck.

The shrill scream of the whistle filled our ears momentarily and a ball was lobbed into the centre with a quick flick of the wrist.

Gregory stretched out and brought the ball under control, gaining possession. After several minutes we broke the deadlock and went on to demolish the opposition 4-0.

Our next game was eventful although it was highlighted by my second goal of the competition for which I skimmed



two players and slammed the ball into the corner of the net. The match saw us victorious by three goals to nil.

The only two teams still in the running were Donegal Road and us, who had two

goals apiece. Donegal Road had a surprising draw in their next game and we continued our glory trail with a 2-0 win to see us top of the league. We now required a draw in our last game to lift the trophy.

The decider loomed and the two top teams clashed in a frenzied battle to the end. Niall pulled off some brilliant saves to keep us on level terms and then Gregory broke free and hit a low curling shot into the corner of the nets, the goal that gave us victory.

The five teams were soon assembled in the sports hall. The organiser stepped forward and lifting the trophy called our captain. Mr Lavery, who made it all possible, smiled at our victory.

“May it continue to grow and develop”

# The Old School Remembered by Fr Raymond McCullough

**M**y first day at school proved a big disappointment to me. After months of waiting the big moment arrived and I got ready to go - school bag, lunch box etc, all neatly packed.

I walked the short distance up the road with my mum and my younger brother Aiden. When we arrived at the school gates, we met up with other parents and children and went in together. I vaguely remember what seemed to be a huge gathering of people standing around. I didn't understand what was going on, and eventually I went over and sat down at the nearest desk and took out my books and pencil. After what seemed a very short time, my mum came to me and said that we had to go home. I was reluctant to move from my desk, but was told there were no lessons that day - it was just enrolment. So I had to pack up and leave, without even getting my lunch box opened - hence the disappointment.

Next day, the desks were filled with boys and girls and we stayed until lunch



time. Our P1 teacher, Miss Byrne (now Mrs Montague), introduced herself to the class and later the principal, Miss Redmond, came in and welcomed us all.

Thus began the next seven years of study at St Thérèse. (An early memory was the pronunciation of "Lisieux" and worse still the spelling, but then it wasn't every day you learned to spell in French!) I made many friends there especially through sport and music. I remember being taken down by our teacher, Mr Stewart, to the football pitch at St Aloysius School (now the "Landsdowne Clinic") to practice on a real football pitch. We hit the big time when the school team made it to the quarter-final

**"It wasn't every day  
you learned to spell  
in French"**

of an inter-schools competition - our star player being Aaron (no not Alan) Shearer! One of my special friends, an avid Liverpool supporter like myself, was Paul McGlinchey. We talked football going to and coming home from school. Thankfully Paul is still a strong Liverpool supporter, but then he knows a good team when he sees one! Another sporting activity was swimming. We were taken down to the Grove Baths once a week and I can remember the excitement when the Olympic Champion Duncan Goodhew came to present us with our medals.

Music was also a very important part of school life. It was at St Thérèse that I first learned to play the violin, when teachers from the 'School of Music' came once a week to give lessons. At first I thought it

was a good excuse to get out of class but I soon realised that the practise involved was often more difficult than my spellings and sums. I always remember Miss Regina

O'Callaghan insisting that there was no such thing as being unable to sing. Her encouragement and that of the other teachers was a source of great inspiration. During my first year at St Malachy's College I had the privilege of travelling (as an 'old boy') to Rome with my former school pals, as part of the Pueri Cantores Boys Choir, to sing at a Papal Mass in St Peter's Basilica on New Years Day 1981. That was a truly unforgettable experience.

Religious Education was a high priority in the school curriculum. Personal highlights included First Confession and

## Memories

**O**n 1st September 1974 I arrived at 65 Somerton Road to take up my appointment as a teacher in the newly opened St Thérèse of Lisieux school.

At that time of course the school did not resemble any school that I had ever been in before. It occupied a large semi-detached house at 65 Somerton Road and two mobile classrooms in the yard. When I arrived that day there were two teachers already in residence, Mr Lavery, the newly appointed principal, and Mrs Una Montague. The two new teachers were Pauline Mulligan and myself. Pauline was to teach P1 and I was given P4, the top class in the school then. This was such a contrast to my previous school, Holy Child PS, which had a huge staff to cope with the largest primary school in the British Isles. At one time in Holy Child there were around 2500 pupils between the boys' and girls' schools.

During the next ten years I watched St Thérèse grow in numbers with the accommodation being added on an ad-hoc basis. The promised new school, which was to be built in two years, did not happen until around twelve years later.

I have very mixed memories of those early days at St.

## Memories of 65 Somerton Road

Thérèse. I remember the discomfort caused by the lack of space and facilities but I also remember the friendly family feeling occasioned by the same conditions. We all had to get on and co-operate because we were in such close contact all the time. The children were open and friendly and did not seem to notice the limitations of the environment.

We managed a very full curriculum in spite of all the restrictions. Mrs Montague taught dancing to the whole school, Miss Mulligan taught art and needlework and needlework was for everyone. Each child in the school learned to sew and knit and there was only one boy who ever objected and his objections were quickly overruled. I took music throughout the school and from modest beginnings we quickly built up a tradition of fine choral singing and produced some very competent instrumental players. With the help of tutors from the



Holy Communion in the Church nearby (from which our school took its name), my Confirmation in St Patrick's Church (Donegal Street) and the Annual Passion Play ably directed by Mr Blayne. I believe that those former years spent at St Thérèse of Lisieux had a great influence on my voca-

tion and for this reason I was honoured to have a number of my teachers, (including Mr McNamee who read the First Reading) present at my ordination ceremony almost four years ago. A word of advice though to today's pupils: be nice to your teachers because you never know when your paths might cross in later life! During my first year as a priest, Mr Lavery (my former principal in St Thérèse) was one of my inspectors on Teaching Practice, and Regina O'Callaghan, one of our lecturers at St Mary's College of Education, often told the class (to my embarrassment) about having taught me when I wore short trousers.

On a serious note I would like to thank all my teachers from Primary School and pay a special tribute to Miss Mulligan and Mr Stewart, who sadly are no longer with us. May God reward them for their goodness. Looking back over the last 25 years, I realise how happy we, the children in St Thérèse, really were. What we lacked in a modern building we gained in many other ways - learning and sharing, community spirit and lasting friendships with teachers and pupils alike.

In this year, which has seen St

Thérèse of Lisieux declared a Doctor of the Church, her words challenge all of us to follow the way of Christ.

"My mission is to make God loved as I love him and to teach my little way to other souls". (Words spoken by St Thérèse to her sister Pauline shortly before she died).

I pray that the Primary School which bears her name, may continue to help our children grow in love and follow the way by using their talents to build God's Kingdom. I leave you with the words of a song I first learned at St Thérèse's which simply sums up what is really important in life and what our contribution can be as 'Children of God'.

## "Her words challenge all of us"



## What Are You Good At?

"What are you good at?" the gentleman said. "I'm doing a survey for God."  
 "I'm great with a hurley stick," came the reply from Seamus, the pride of the crowd.  
 Then up came young Eamon with fire in his eyes, as he pushed his friend Seamus away.  
 "I'm a boxer," he cried. "I'm the best in the town, and can beat any boy any day."

"Very good," said the gentleman, writing it down, "but not quite what I had in mind."  
 "Then listen a while to my skill on the flute," says John "I'm the best you could find."  
 Then up came young Brigid, says she, "I have brains and I study for hours every day,  
 And the memory that I have for spellings and sums is really prodigious, they say!"

"Very good," said the gentleman, writing it down, "but not quite the talent I mean.  
 Perhaps there's no child with the best gift of all who can show you how wrong you have been."

Then up came young Roisin with bruises and tears and only just able to see.  
 "I'll forgive all the bullies who treated me so because they were bigger than me."

"Now that girl's got talent," the gentleman said, "to love and forgive whom she meets.  
 Yes this is the precious one here," said the man. "The survey for God is complete."

by Regina O'Callaghan

# Memories

City of Belfast School of Music we had violin, viola and cello players and I taught recorder. The recorder consort played at many School of Music concerts in the Ulster Hall. We always had a choir to help the liturgy at First Communion and Confirmation and in conjunction with Sr. Magdalena we contributed to the young parish choir which sang at 9.30 a.m. Mass each Sunday morning in St Thérèse Church for many years.

However the highpoint of the musical life in St Thérèse was when we were invited to bring a group of boy singers to join other singers from all over the world at the International Congress of Pueri Cantores in Rome in 1980. We sang for the Pope in St Peter's on New Year's Day. In the preparation for this trip and in the supervision of the boys there I was assisted by Mr McNamee and Mr Wade and also by two parents, Mrs McCullagh and Mrs Loughran whose sons Raymond, now Fr

Raymond, and Eoin RIP were part of the choir.

I was on the staff of St Thérèse for ten years until I left in 1984 to lecture in Religious Studies in St Mary's Teacher Training College. Over the years I have seen several past pupils from the school pass through the college and I continually meet children whom I taught there in all professions and walks of life.

Looking back now over my ten years in St Thérèse I recognise that it was a happy time and the happiness arose from the co-operation which existed between parents, teachers and the priests of the parish in the education of the children. It was a lesson to me that a school derives its ethos from the people involved in it and not from the building or the facilities - however good.





No shortage of smiles in the old school



More fun on the 1982 trip to Edinburgh

There were plenty of smiles in the  
our ties to that period. Can you  
.....



"On your marks", in the old school playground



Some participants in a trip to Rome in 1981



Anne McGowan -now Mrs Tumilty



Celebrating their Confirmation day - pupils in 1984



# Old school ties



All smiles - girls at play in the old school playground

old school, and many of us cherish spot anyone you know?  
.....



Sitting pretty in one of the old school classrooms



On the bus to Edinburgh in 1982



In a class of their own



Winners at the 1987-1988 Drama Festival





Mary Quigley recalls the "end of an era" - the day the old school closed...

# Out of the old...



from their own ranks! Mr Masterson, who is now a very familiar face at our school fairs, added this aspect of colour and excitement to our final day on the old site.

Our P7 class, under Mrs McCoy's direction, had made a huge banner "Farewell Old School" This was the eleventh P7 group to leave our old site and their banner, which went out on Ulster Television News, did us proud.

Not only were we saying Farewell Old School, the staff were also saying

farewell to a colleague, Martin Blayney who had taught in St Thérèse for 12 years and never made it to the new school

At 12 noon the hand bell was rung for the last time in 65 Somerton Road. Regardless of any nostalgia the staff may have felt, it was the end of the school year, and like teachers everywhere those in 65 Somerton Road did not delay their departure.

**T**hursday 30th June 1988 marked the end of an era for staff and pupils of St Thérèse of Lisieux primary school. This was our final day on the various sites on Somerton Road. The mobile classrooms looked even drearier and more desolate than usual at the end of the school year as empty boxes contained, what we would now regard as meagre resources, to be transported to our new school.

This contrasted with the carnival atmosphere in the playground. Pupils in their brightly coloured summer clothes milled around while a "real live" clown painted their faces. Strangely enough the staff were unable to supply a clown







... and Pat Wade remembers the "big day" when the new school welcomed its first new pupils



# ...and into the new



September 1988 was the date those of us who had worked in the old school had long looked forward to. At the time we had thought that a new school would never be built such were the difficulties experienced by the parish. When word came through that a new building would definitely be built everyone was thrilled.

The transition from the old school was surprisingly smooth. Packing had begun the previous June and

classrooms were piled high with cardboard boxes packed with books and equipment. Everything was labelled carefully. Fortunately the new school building brought with it the opportunity to equip the school properly! A large requisition for desks, chairs, books and equipment was drawn up, and amazingly we received all of it. For those teachers who had experienced shortages of even basic items in the past this was a very pleasant surprise.

The teachers had visited the school on a number of occasions during its construction. As the building neared completion teachers began to get their bearings. In June Mr Lavery allocated rooms to the teachers although this was fairly flexible and some swapping around took place.

Being a new building some new basic rules needed to be established. The children would have to very quickly become familiar with the layout of the building. Simple things such as where the children were to line up had to be thought through.

Towards the end of August teachers spent four days making the new building ready. Carloads of boxes were ferried to and fro across the Antrim Road. Surprisingly very little seemed to go missing.

Eventually the big day arrived. For the first time in its existence the school was a single unit. No longer would we be like Gaul, as Mr Lavery once described it, we now had a single identity. For those teachers who had worked in difficult conditions, where the facilities were so primitive and the equipment lacking it was a significant change.

Not surprisingly the children settled in very quickly and within literally minutes the children got straight down to work. The last ten years have passed very quickly and the school has grown from strength to strength.

# Pulling together

## Current teachers



Back: Mr Wade, Miss Rafferty, Miss Dougan, Mrs Cunningham, Ms. Donnelly, Mrs O'Prey, Miss Dorman, Mrs Armstrong, Miss Connor  
Front: Mrs Quigley, Mrs Montague, Miss Doherty, Mr Magee, Mrs Hughes, Miss Martin, Mr Gallagher

## by Marie Gribben

It's hard to believe that St. Thérèse of Lisieux PS is celebrating 25 years this year! I started as part-time secretary in St Thérèse of Lisieux in November 1977 just after the Halloween break. I was joined there by Margaret Devlin who I worked with for several years.

The school, situated on the Somerton Road, consisted of an old semi-detached house and about 10 mobile classrooms scattered on four different sites. My office with its bare creaky floorboards doubled as a furniture store!

I was delighted when we got the good news that a new school was to be built on the Chichester Park site. In September 1988 we moved into our bright new school and it was sheer luxury compared to the old cramped accommodation on Somerton Road.

I was still part-time when we moved. The first person I worked with in the new school was Anna McCorry. Anna only stayed for a short time as she got a job in Crossan's Optician's where she still works. Mairead Watters took over from Anna. When Mairead left Debbie Whitson arrived. Debbie stayed for almost eight years before moving on to work for Disability Action.

Because of the increased clerical workload I am now a full-time secretary and Geraldene McElkerney is in as temporary part-time and we do have a carpet on the floor!

No school can function without the support and help of ancillary staff. And all the better when they pull together with the teaching staff. Here are some of their reminiscences.

## Classroom assistants and secretaries



Back: Miss Gribben, Mrs McMeekin, Front: Mrs Jago, Mrs Hughes

## by Mary Jago

I remember looking forward to my first day as classroom assistant in the old school. My job was to help with a disabled child.

After having got to know the child we both went up stairs in the schoolhouse to view what was to be called 'our disabled room'. What a shock for both of us. In the room was an old bath, an old wash hand basin and a lovely view of the playground through holes and cracks in the window, airy in the summer, cold in the winter. It was wonderful to come to the new school and have what we called 'a real disabled room'.



## Lunchtime staff



Back: Maura McCrystal, Gemma Hunt, Sylvia Lowe Front: Kathleen Mateer, Eileen Martin, Bridie McLaverty, Margaret Gallagher

## Cleaners and caretaker



Back: David Jervis, Front: Sally Clarkin, Alison McKenna, Absent: Mary McAllister

Although now retired, ex-caretaker John McAteer still remembers the learning and the laughter at St Thérèse of Lisieux.

by John McAteer



I started in St Thérèse of Lisieux as a cleaner in charge in 1980 while my daughter Rhona was in P5. Imagine our school at

that time was too small to have a caretaker as it did not have enough pupils or footage. Even in those days the school had outgrown the large house on the Somerton Road, that used to be called St Martins, the 'First Form House' of the Dominican College.

You should have seen the school then! It was spread all over the place in mobiles - in the driveway of Little Flower School and even the playgrounds of Dominican College and Bearnageeha. We did

not have the nice new building on the Antrim Road with all its technology like videos and televisions and computers. Many a time I remember having to carry TV's between mobiles or up flights of stairs so that the children could watch 'Picture Box'. Videos and computers were still far in the future thank goodness or I would have had to carry them around the rooms as well!

It was very hard to keep the old school clean and warm - I remember seeing ice and frost on the inside of some windows even when the heat was on full, so no complaining about cold in the new school.

I watched the new school being built from the foundations and railings right up to the weather vane. I was very proud to be appointed care-taker in 1988, even though it

meant no holidays that year as I worked to make the school bright and shining for the boys, girls and staff coming in September. I remained caretaker until I retired in June 1994 but couldn't stay away so returned for a brief spell of six months in 1995. At the end of my time I was presented with a chair to take life easy in from my grand-daughter Dearbhla who is now in P5. I have another grand-daughter Orlaith in P2 at Saint Thérèse and I still enjoy hearing their stories about the school showing that the learning and laughter still go on just the way they did when I started all those years ago.



# School Friends

Chairpersons of the Association of The Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School give a flavour of the all-important work done by the association over the years.

The Association's logo

## Parents get involved

One of the best traditions established in St Thérèse of Lisieux from its earliest days was the involvement of the parents in every aspect of school life. This involvement found formal expression in 1985 through the idea in principle of establishing an Association of the Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School. All the parents were informed of this idea by letter from the then principal, Joe Lavery, and we were invited to a meeting to discuss how the idea might be implemented. I was one of the many parents who attended the meeting at which the idea was enthusiastically welcomed and the association formed.

A committee was elected and I was asked to be chairman. The committee included Joe Lavery as president, Una Montague as secretary, Cahal Robinson as treasurer and a very hard-working team including Mary Wills, Paul Jeffers, Tony Killough and Jim McCusker.

In our first year St. Thérèse of Lisieux School was still housed in various buildings on the Somerton Road. The physical conditions in which our teachers and our children were working were painfully inadequate. A very important priority for us was, therefore, to exert pressure on government to provide us with a new school building. We decided to aim high and to invite the Minister of Education, Dr Brian Mawhinney, to visit the school. You can imagine our surprise and our delight when the invitation was accepted.

Everyone wanted to ensure that the

Minister saw the best of our school in terms of the quality of our teachers and our children and the worst of our school in terms of the accommodation. Our best hopes were fulfilled. The warmth of our school's welcome for the Minister was complemented by the bleakness of the weather on the day of

The idea was enthusiastically welcomed and the Association formed

his visit. The Minister and his team of civil servants made their way around puddles of water as they toured the school and they learnt very quickly at first hand how pressing was the need for a new building. I like to believe that the Minister's visit was the climax of the efforts by so many in the Parish of Holy Family over a long period of time to persuade the Department of Education about the need for proper accommodation for our school.

Another highlight of our first year was a meeting addressed by the Senior Chief Inspector of Schools in Northern Ireland, Mr Ivan Wallace. The theme of

Gemma Loughran was Chairperson from 1985-86

the meeting was the procedure for transfer from primary to secondary school, commonly known as the "11-plus". One of the questions asked at that meeting was: "How much tuition should children have for the actual examination?"

Mr Wallace answered "One hour". The questioner requested clarification. Did Mr Wallace mean one hour per day or one hour per week? Mr Wallace answered tersely: "One hour in total in the whole year". What do today's teachers and parents think of that?

Our major fund-raising activity in the first year was a School Fair in May. Miss McGrath's generosity enabled us to hold the fair in Little Flower School. For weeks in advance the teachers, parents and children in our school prepared for the 'big wheel'. The event was very much a community event and it was in every respect a great success. We raised more than £1000 in one day and were delighted to make such a contribution to the funds of the school.

It was a privilege to be involved in the first year of the Association of the Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School and I am delighted on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the school to wish both the school and the association continuing success.





# Fun and fundraising

In June 1986 Joe Wilson replaced Gemma Loughran as chairperson of the Association of the Friends of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and in June 1987 I replaced him. Sadly Joe Wilson has since died and I would like to pay tribute to his hard work during his year in office.

During my two years as chairperson our committee members included Denis O'Hagan, Patsy Rainey, Nano Cluskey, Fiona Poole, Cahal Robinson, Stella McGrogan and Diane Campbell. We continued our two-fold aim of fundraising and organising events which would be interesting and informative for parents. The summer fairs were held at the beginning of June and continued to be both a very successful social event and to raise money for much needed equip-

ment for the school.

Several speakers were kind enough to accept our invitation to talk to parents about their various areas of expertise.

Fred Heatly of the North Belfast Historical Society gave a fascinating talk and slide-show on the history and development of North Belfast which was of particular interest to parents who, like myself, had grown up in this area of the city.

Fr Martin Donaldson, who was then one of the Diocesan Advisors, spoke to our parents about the importance and value of Catholic Education.

Sean Quinn, co-ordinator of Learning Resources at St Mary's College of Education gave an illuminating presentation on interactive video technology illustrated by his use of the Domesday Computer and Video Disc System. This was new ground for all of us at a time

Mary Wills was Chairperson from 1987 - 89.

when computers were virtually unknown in primary schools.

However the most exciting news for children, parents and teachers was that our new school building was under way and we eagerly anticipated its opening in September 1988 when all the children would be housed under one roof.

Finally I would like on behalf of our older generation of parents, to thank the staff of the 'old school' on the Somerton Road who, despite poor accommodation and inadequate facilities, provided such a happy learning environment for our children.

It has been my privilege to be associated with St Thérèse in its infancy and in more recent years. I wish both the staff and the children every success in the future.

## The Association of The Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux.

Back Row Phil McCaffrey, Elis Feighan, Paula Burns, Geraldine Smye, Angela McGuckin, Maire Neary, Paula Rafferty, Geraldene McElkerney, Liz Davis, Mary Shannon.

Front Row Mary Brown, Mandy McNulty, Donal Madden, Brenda McAleer, Diane Campbell, Hilary Connor, Bridget Fearon.





## Happy days

took over the reins as Chairperson of Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux from Mary Wills in June 1988 having previously served as secretary, treasurer and committee member. It was an exciting era as the new school was due to be opened in September 1988 and the committee helped host the retirement of Mr Joe Lavery (Principal) in June 1989.

It was great to see Mr Lavery serving at least one year in the new premises after having had to struggle with his band of teachers in mobiles for so long. The children presented him with a very special cake in the shape of a brown school jumper with an orange tie and I'm sure there were a few tears shed.

1989 also saw the committee host its

first Fashion Show in the Landsdowne Court Hotel. Ronan Kelly, TV celebrity and brother to Fiona Poole who was serving on the committee, compered the show to a packed audience that night. We had great fun preparing for that particular event and thanks to all those who 'sweated blood and tears' to produce it. Trying to remember everyone who served is difficult but thanks to Diane Campbell, Cahal and Anna Robinson, Fiona Poole, Claire Loughrey, Paul Burke, Brenda Hughes, Marion Gallagher and Patsy Rainey to name but a few.

Standard events i.e. the summer Fair brought many headaches and laughter and are still part of the School Calendar today.

September 1989 saw the appointment of Mr Joe Magee as Principal and his first year serving as part of the committee. It goes without saying that his presence was felt and I am sure is still being felt in the current committee.

**Nano Cluskey was  
Chairperson from 1989 - 90.**

Being part of the Friends of St Thérèse Committee was a learning experience not only for myself but also for all those who participated. I would encourage any parent to get involved. It is an opportunity to put your talents to good use and have fun at the same time.

On a more personal note, this year will see the last of my children leave the school. Mandy left before the new school opened followed by John in 1994 and now Nicola leaves this June. It is a tribute to St. Thérèse as a school that I can say that none of my children had an unhappy day there (if they did I never knew about it!).

I would like to sign off by thanking Mr Magee and all the teachers for all the hard work they have put in over the years.

"Well done to you all and every success in the future".

### The Association of The Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux

■ The Association of The Friends of St Thérèse of Lisieux has a two-fold aim - to develop our understanding of what is happening in the education of our children and to organise social events which foster friendships and raise money for the school.

■ All the teachers in the school and the parents of every child in the school are invited to join the Association at a nominal fee of £1.00.

Models at the Landsdowne Court Fashion Show







I would never have believed when I joined the Association in 1989 that I would still be involved nearly ten years later. I must admit that I have had great satisfaction from the benefits to the school that our efforts to fund-raise have brought over that time.

The successes of the Association and the activities we have undertaken have been of tremendous benefit to the school. It is very satisfying to see the fruits of the Association's and its supporters' labour being put to such good use.

I have always been very encouraged from year to year to see the number of people who are willing to offer assistance and get involved in both the Association's committee and the events it has organised. Indeed, I would like to mention them all by name but I am sure to omit someone in error! This exceptional bunch of people has been brilliant to work with and I would like to extend my personal thanks to them all.

As the years progressed we undertook to try and arrange many of the events that were suggested to us. Several of these were put into action and most have become almost annual events. Believe it or not our first table quiz was held in November 1990 and the quizzes have remained popular ever since. It was decided to hold a Christmas Bazaar in December 1991 and after the great success that it was it too has become a yearly event.

Early in 1992 we decided to hold a Fashion Show in the Landsdowne Court Hotel. Unfortunately the hotel was badly damaged by an explosion in January so that venue was no longer available. We took the decision to go ahead with the show and hold it in the school hall instead. It was a

## A decade (almost)

tremendous night and the hall was packed to capacity. There have been two more Fashion Shows since then and on the last occasion we even managed to coax a reluctant headmaster on to the catwalk to model Dunnes Stores finest!

The summer fair seems to arrive more quickly each year and still continues to grow. Usually someone will suggest that we try some new idea or other, we give it a go and if it works then it is added to the list of stalls for the following year. The list now contains 20 stalls and last year we needed the assistance of 63 volunteers to man them. The children really look forward to it. We always live in hope of a fine day but experience has taught us to hire a Bouncy Castle with a roof on it! (If you haven't tried to brush water off an inflated bouncy castle, you haven't lived.)

So far, the most massive undertaking by the Association was the Centenary Concert back in 1993. We had three performances. The first was on a Sunday afternoon and was due to begin at three o'clock. We were about to start the performance when we got word from the entrance hall to hold back the show because the queue to get in was still stretching back from the Parish Centre to

the Church itself. So after a delayed start we began the performance at 3.25pm. It was our biggest success to date. The atmosphere was electric. The children were fantastic and their enthusiasm was boundless. The whole event was only possible, of course, because of the incredible number of people who got involved (or were roped in!). For me it was one of the most enjoyable times and probably the most tiring that I've been involved with.

We were fortunate back in 1991 to

If you haven't tried to brush water off an inflated bouncy castle, you haven't lived

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Brenda McAleer was  
Chairperson from 1990 - 98.

have a gentleman come forward to act as our treasurer. This particular gentleman and subsequently his wife were to become of vital importance to the smooth running of the Association's financial affairs. I'm speaking of Mark and Angela McGuckin. Mark was treasurer for two years before passing the ledgers into the capable hands of Angela. Mark, at that time, thought he had escaped and was content to rest back on his laurels thinking he had done his bit. Not so! Since then he has not only been our regular Quizmaster (which he laughingly refers to as "tin hat & flak jacket time") and video cameraman but we even managed to coax him up on to the catwalk as well. Thanks Mark.

It has been my privilege to be Chairperson of the Association since 1990 but credit for its success lies with the members of each year's committee. Their constant willingness to get their sleeves rolled up has facilitated many a successful event. For example, the receptions on both Holy Communion and Confirmation day are only possible because of the willingness of these people. Ladies and gents I take my hat off to you all.

The accolade for the longest serving committee member goes to Diane Campbell (although she was allowed time off in 1990 to undertake her own production!). Diane has been the mainstay of the Association over the years and as my time on the committee is coming to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to her. We made a good team and I am glad to be leaving the Association in such capable hands.

Congratulations to the school on reaching the Silver Jubilee Year and continued success for the next 25 years.

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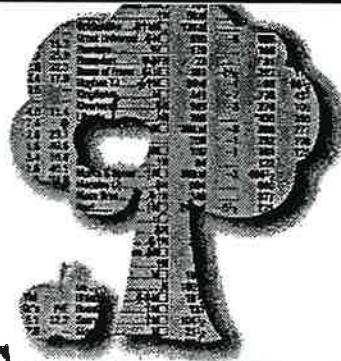
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# St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School

## Class photographs 1997-98

Teacher: Mrs A Moore

Back Row: Peter Lee, Gerard Quinn, Grainne McKinney, Mark McKillop, Carla McCann, Adam Murphy, Simone Ferguson,

Middle Row: Gary Keenan, Emma Kane, Eily Donnelly, John Walsh, Laura Rainey, Caoimhe Mercer, Gavin Brown, Sebastian Munroe

Front Row: Bary McAteer, Aoife Boyle-Johnston, Michael Haire, Fiona Cole, Gerard McGuigan, Janis Lunnon, Matthew McMahon, Eoin Doran.

### Primary 1





## Primary 1



Teacher: Mrs M Quigley. Classroom Assistant: Mrs S Hughes

Back Row: Katrina King, Ryan Hull, Naomi Loonam, Ciara Allen, Mark Briers

Middle Row: Jennifer Ferguson, Alisha Watters, Niall Moore, Kelly Grant, Niamh Mc Daniel, Megan Singh

Front Row: Piaras O'Neill, Danny McGrady, Declan Magill, Matthew MacNamara.

Absent: Daniel Clarke

Teacher: Mrs U Montague. Classroom Assistant: Mrs N McMeekin

Back Row: Jourdan McGerrity, Amy Rethinasamy, Diarmuid Cowan, Nial Joudeh, Catherine Faherty

Middle Row: James Thompson, Michael McLaughlin, Eimear Johnston, Eugene McCormick, Ciaran Campbell, Connor Toal, Aodhan McCavana, Marcas McGrath

Front Row: Lia-Marie Kelly, Meadhbh Bermingham, Joseph Brennan, David Gill, Cathy O'Kane, Christopher Matthews, Catherine Quigley

Absent: Luke McQuillan, Thérèse Rea. New Pupil: Aoife Connolly.

## Primary 1





## Primary 2



Teacher: Miss M Martin.

Back Row: Brendan McCrisken, Lorcan McKee, Victoria Morgan, Declan Hackett, Laura McElkerny, Conall Gormley, Orlaith McCann, Hugh Campbell

Middle Row: Claoinne Brady, Marie-Claire Hughes, Michael Steele, Nicole Sproule, Luke Doran, Nicole Singh, Daniel Hawe, Sarah McDermott, Kevin Gallagher, Christine Casey, Fiona Ferguson

Front Row: Conor Gallagher, Maria Morelli, Conor Bannon, Jessica Neeson, Fergal Deeney, Niki McAlorum, Keelan Walsh-Haller, Megan Condon-Keenan, Paul Brady. Absent: Alexander Sheehy, Luke McCorry

Teacher: Mrs R Shannon.

Back Row: Nuala McCarragher, Fiona MacManus, Conall Scott, Michael Donaghy, Tony McGreevy, Brendan Beare, Tyrone Mulvenna

Third Row: Hanna McNulty, Erin O'Rawe, Orla Shields, Edel McCormick, Michael Gormley, Elias Rooney, Brendan Holbeach, Eoin O'Kane, Mary McGurk

Second Row: Ciara McGhee, Callin McVeigh, Holly Burns, Lauren Sproule, Niamh Rafferty, Maria Comerford, Aideen Cassidy, Sarah Flood

Front Row: Charlie Maginness, Jamie Smyth, David Stewart, Derek Trimble, Conal Honey, Matthew Gault.

## Primary 2





## Primary 3



Teacher: Mrs T Cunningham

Back Row: Shaun Sproule, Megan Duffy, Suzanne Doherty, Emma McNulty, Claire Connelly. Fourth Row: Daniel Daly, Eoin Neeson, Stephen Rooney, Peter McBride, Ciara Stephens, Stephen McKeever, Niall Murphy, Christopher McCullough. Third Row: Joseph Doyle, Emma Groves, Kathryn Gillespie, Brian Graham, Eoighan Rafferty, Gearoid McCool, Hannah Keenan, Maria Burns, John Henry Parker. Second Row: Katie Gill, Lara Allen, AnnMarie Brown, Gemma Benson, Grainne Rogan, Sinead Smye, Bronagh McGuinness, Shauna McGhee. Front Row: Paul McCullagh, Sean McCullagh, Connor Cassidy, Absent: Celine Davidson, Megan Turner

Teacher: Miss D Dorman

Back Row: Paul McGrogan, Karl Slevin, Darren Brown, Benny Monahan, David McAllister, Julie Conaty, Kirstie Bannon

Fourth Row: Mark Keenan, Michael Fearon, Danny Tunitly, Meabh Rogan, James Cole, Niamh Campbell, Paul Rooney

Third Row: Emma McCaffrey, Emma Gillen, Sophie Warde Hunter, Patrick Kane, Hannah Hughes, Frankie Ferguson, Conor Power, Rebecca Dempsey, Sinead McCool

Second Row: Lorna Braniff, Mary Carson, Anna Donnelly, Kiera McHugh, Clare Burns, Kellie McMahon, Hannah Webb, Sarah Adams-Rosa

Front Row: Sean Hull, Christopher Griffen, Diarmuid O'Kane. Absent: Yasmin Brennan

## Primary 3





## Primary 4



Teacher: Miss T. Rafferty

Back Row: Nicholas Sheehy, Michael Rethinasamy, Nuala McKillop, Richard Varini, Eileen Morgan, Ryan Faulkner, Conor Gallagher

Fourth Row: Stephen Toal, Patrick Beirne, Patrick Flood, Phillip McCann, Helen McDermott, Cloda McNally, Mannix O'Boyle

Third Row: Emma Walsh, Matthew Campbell, Daniel Lynch, Christopher McBride, Jonathan McCullagh, Ciaran McKee, Ronan McDaniel, Conor Benson, Annie-Rose Mulholland

Second Row: Adrienne Magill, Marie-Claire Campbell, Marie-Claire Hughes, Stephanie Bradley, Christine Sloan, Jane McCann, Sara Donnelly, Claire McLaughlin

Front Row: Conor Corscadden, Richard Blacker, Mark Lutton, John Gillen, Ciaran McAllister.

Teacher: Ms. D. Donnelly

Back Row: Theresa Shields, Thérèse McKee, Gerard McNamee, Niamh McGiinchey, Alex Clarke

Fourth Row: Christopher Robinson, Brid McGuinness, Sinead Flatley, Eadaoin Armstrong, Lauren McElhone, Michael Bradley, Simon McDonald

Third Row: Emmet Carlin, Liam Steele, Christopher Johnston, Conor Gray, Conor McCarthy, Matthew Flood, Ryan Burns, Conor McEwan, Matthew Lynch

Second Row: Joanna Burns, Oonagh McVeigh, Catherine Edwards, Michaela McCaffrey, Anna McCormick, Christine McAtamney, Francesca Neeson, Natasha Mowbray

Front Row: Jim Markey, Johnny Moore, Niall Cullen, Paul McCusker Absent Sarah Gates, Eoin Feighan.

## Primary 4





## Primary 5



Teacher: Miss H Connor

Back Row: Thomas Hull, Jonathan Bannon, Nicola Smye, Maria Tumelty, Mairead McNally, Rebecca McDonald

Third Row: Sarah Gallagher, Estelle McCaughan, Pauline McHugh, Paul Holmes, Martin Thompson, Corey Slevin

Second Row: Eoin Quigley, Conor Graham, Gavin Burns, Michael McNally, Dominic Shields, Eighan Donnelly, Tommaso Morelli, David McCann

Front Row: Naomi Speight, Stephen Ward, Leah McGuckin, Guiseppe Morelli, Surinder Singh, Darren Burns, Joanne Mulyrann

Absent: Kevin Feighan, Christopher Connolly, Sean Walsh.

Teacher: Miss B Dougan

Back Row: Ciaran Magee, Ruairi O'Boyle, Michael K Byrne, Conor McCrisken, Eamon McGurk, Steven Rogers

Third Row: Eamon Gallagher, Bronagh McCarragher, Lynsay Mercer, Rose Murphy, Carmel Neeson, Orlagh McGhee, David Neary

Second Row: Patrick Lynch, Catriona Fearon, Alana Gillespie, Maeve McLaughlin, Clare Rogan, Debbie Rooney, Dearbhla McCann, Kristina McAllister, Kevin Sproule

Front Row: Maura Scott, Clare Parker, Matthew Casey, Nicholas Ryder-Martyn, Christopher Gault, Daniel McCool, Jenna Richardson, Amy Davis

Absent: Michael A Byrne, Grainne McNally, Aaron Burns.

## Primary 5





## Primary 6



Teacher: Mr C Gallagher

Back Row: Brendan McGinley, Karen McMenemy, Emily McAllister, Danielle Burns, Siobhan Cooley, Mark Maguire, Robert McElhone

Third Row: Donal Faulkner, Gareth Hughes, Jennifer McNally, Joanne Flatley, Joseph Torr, Declan Shannon, Stephen Owens

Second Row: Caroline Devenney, David Corr, Andrew Hoey, Gerard Carson, Fergus Loughrey, Matthew Brady, Neil Lawlor, Kieran McCullagh, Michael O'Neill

Front Row: Karl Walsh-Haller, Cheryl Ferguson, Gail Lutton, Lara Dowds, Christina McLaughlin, Clare Hughes, Rachael Dempsey, Richard McCullough.

Teacher: Mrs M Hughes

Back Row: Maria Arthurs, Mark Burns, Gavin Rafferty, Matthew Higgins, Clare McKeating, Claire Killeen, Claire Murray

Third Row: Helen Ward, Frances Bradley, Jennifer Burns, Catherine Smye, Declan Neeson, Monica Steele, Roisin Byrne

Second Row: Aidan Braniff, Conor Maguire, David McBride, Paul Burns, Dominic McAleer, Conor McKee, Christopher Neeson, Ciaran O'Hara, Cliona McNally

Front Row: Sarah Neary, Malachy Sturgeon, Sarah Gillen, Conuil Duffy, Sam Goodwin, Caroline Gallagher, James McVeigh, Mary-Ellen Burns

Absent: Ciaran Campbell, Matthew Denvir.

## Primary 6





## Primary 7



Teacher: Miss G Doherty

Back Row: Conor McCullough, Emma Gray, Aisleen Blacker, Michelle Cochrane, Ciaran Maguire, Aoife Duffy, Shannon Slevin

Third Row: Conor Daly, Aidan Baxter, Brian Lindsay, Stephen Faherty, Michael Hackett, Maria McNamee, Peter Rethinasamy

Second Row: Sarah-Jane Mowbray, Kevin Bellew, Feargal McGuinness, John-Patrick McCann, Claire Rafferty, Paula Sloan, Declan McLaughlin, Conal McNally, Anthony Daly, David Mulholland

Front Row: Gary Meehan, Gary Lutton, Colleen McGhee, Emma Burns, Daire O'Neill, Barry Strong Liam Campbell, Laura Lutton

Absent: Catherine Gates, Michael Markey

Teacher: Mrs J O'Prey

Back Row: Nicola Beirne, Daragh Gillen, Katie Neary, Orla McCool, Victoria Davis, Lauren Loughlin,

Third Row: Ronan MacManus, David Monahan, Nicholas Toland, Brian Maginness, Christopher Jackson, Carleen Brown

Second Row: Gemma Gallagher, John Cunningham, Conor Reid, David Young, Damian McLaughlin, Joseph O'Boyle, Ciaran McCrisken, Mary Tohill, Jane Campbell

Front Row: Vincent Miskelly, Samuel Brennan, Helena Maginness, Nicola Cluskey, Louise Roberts, Laura McGuigan, Kevin Haren

Absent: Ann-Marie McAtamney, Emma McVeigh, Ryan Davidson.

## Primary 7





## Drumalla by Rachael Dempsey

**O**n Wednesday 21st January we went to a place called Drumalla. When we were there we all got our bags and went into a room until the other class had gone.

Then a woman called Melanie came in and told us the rules of the house. She took us on a tour and gave us coats and boots. After the tour we were allowed to go up to our rooms. We went up to the classroom and Melanie told us that we were going orienteering.

When we got to Glenarm Forest we got into our groups; Jennifer, Clare and I were called All Saints. We played a game. Danielle's team won, we came second. Then we went back and we played in the games room. The girls had to get ready for swimming and then they were allowed to play.

While we were in the pool the boys went into town. When we got back we all had a snack and then went to bed.

On Thursday after breakfast, Melanie told us to be in the big room in 25 minutes to watch a video about trees. After we had watched the video we went up to the forest. There was a waterfall there. We were looking at the



trees to see how they grew and how old they were. We looked at different types of trees. It was very interesting.

At the top of the forest there was a Heritage Centre with lots of stuffed animals that could be found in the forest. I particularly enjoyed walking through the forest and I would really like to go back.

The pupils enjoy day trips and residential trips to various places across the Province. Each year the primary six children stay in Drumalla House in Carnlough

## Belfast Power Station by Catriona Fearon

**O**n Thursday 13th November we went to Belfast Power Station West with the whole class, Mrs McLaughlin, Mrs Rogan and Miss Dougan. The first thing we did was get on the bus. When we got to the power station we got a safety helmet and glasses to protect us. The new met two very nice men who were going to show us around called Sean and Michael. My guide was Michael.

First we went to a little room where we talked about electricity, and we got to put some pieces on a jigsaw board. I got to put on the coal part. Then we went to see some boilers and we got to look into a boiler and see how high the flames went and we had to look through special glasses to protect our eyes from the flames. Next we went to the original boilers which have been there for 42 years and it was much colder where they were.



Then we went up on to the roof and saw where coal is kept and it is taken into the station by conveyor belts. We also saw the turbines and the generators and we got to feel the vibration from the turbine. Then we went into a little room and we had crisps and juice and the adults got tea. It was a wonderful day and I wish it could start all over again.



# past, our present

St Thérèse of Lisieux Primary School has much to celebrate in its 25th year. It is a successful, vibrant school offering the children a range of activities over and above classroom learning - activities which the children embrace enthusiastically. In these pages we show some of the highlights of extra-curricular activities, some of which are described by the children themselves.

## Cultra by Cormac Eastwood

**W**e went to Cultra, we had to wait on the other school called Cliftonville Primary School. When they arrived there, we got into partners and went to see a play called "Forging Ahead". It was about a landlord called Joshua Hudson. His workers wouldn't let him build a bridge because they thought it would pollute the river. He eventually built it and it took six months to build the bridge and put the railway line down. The play was about two hours long and it was very interesting.

When we came out of the building that the play was in we got sorted into groups to go and do a survey on some of the houses. The houses



were Tea lane, Meeting Street and Portglenone Bank House.

The Bank House was a house where an upper-class family would have lived. When the survey was done we had to get back on the bus to go home. I think the day was very interesting.



The school has developed strong educational links with local companies including Stewarts Supermarkets, ESSO, Ford, Belfast Power Station West, Ulster Weavers and Sloan Molyneau. This gives the children the opportunity to learn about industry through visits and by carrying out special projects.





## Fundraising

The children are generous in their concern for others who are less fortunate than themselves. Each year money is raised for many different charities at home and abroad including St Vincent de Paul and the missions. Last year the children took part in a fun day in Ormeau Park to raise funds for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund

Whether it's individual boys and girls or groups of pupils entering competitions there are no shortage of winners in St Thérèse. In both local and national competitions the school has scooped its fair share of prizes.



## Winning Ways

Fergal McGuinness won the National Library Competition in 1997, for designing a poster to promote libraries in the future. He appeared on Blue Peter. His sister Sinead also won a Blue Peter competition. She won an Amstrad notebook computer for suggesting what life might be like in the year 2000.



## Extra-



## Choir

There are 55 children in the school choir, from P5, P6 and P7. The choir is always busy performing at religious events within the school, carol services and competitions. They recently enjoyed taking part in the UTV choir of the year competition.



## Sports

Among the sports enjoyed by the children in the school are football, gaelic and netball. Each year the school runs its own World Cup. The teams are drawn from P5, P6 and P7 and the games are played with as much enthusiasm as the real thing. Pictured here is this year's winning team.



## Kings and Angels

One of the highlights of the school year is the nativity play performed by the primary ones, twos and threes. It invariably plays to a packed house of mums, dads and grandparents and when the angels sing there isn't a dry eye in the house.



Our Christmas play last year was really good because it was funny when Mannix's towel fell off his head. I was an angel and I put on wings. I liked getting dressed up. I loved the music so did my mum. She kept on waving to me. Eileen and Richard were Mary and Joseph. Marie-Claire Hughes was the angel Gabriel. Mr Magee welcomed all the mums and dads. At the end of the play everyone clapped. **Helen McDermott**



# curricular activities



## Orchestra

The school orchestra consists of violins, violas and cellos. Our talented group of musicians work very hard and attend regular lessons. They perform at the Christmas nativity play and school concerts.