

A Short story St Cecilia's Church North Cheam 1957 -1979

In the late Father Duprez's "Catholic History of Cheam and Worcester Park" it is worth quoting this paragraph - "We had intended to start building St Cecilia's Church in 1953. Architects plans had been approved by the Bishop and his advisers but local Council Regulations insisted on a much larger car park, and moving back the building line in view of future road widening, so that planning permission was delayed for over two years until we managed to purchase a long strip of extra land adjoining our site. Even then, we had great difficulty in getting vacant possession of this extra land. Then our architects decided that the new building line made the church site too square, so we negotiated an exchange of land with Dobbe's Nurseries, giving us greater length but less width, though the area remained the same. Finally building started in October 1955 and Bishop Cowderoy blessed the foundation stone the following January. After various delays the work was completed early in April 1957 and the church was opened and blessed ten days before Easter. As the Bishop was unfortunately ill at the time, he deputed me to perform the ceremony and to sing the first Mass. Many local Clergy and a very large congregation witnessed this joyful occasion. The total cost of the new church was under £40,000 and it seats 450 people."

The Architects were Goodhart Randall (Mr Curtis). Builders were Gaze's. Artist Mr Watts who designed the statue of St Cecilia, which is made of Doulton stone (cream) and it weighs over 6 cwt, and cost £300. The foundation stone weighs 5 cwt, the High Altar was a gift from the Knights of St Columba. The Stations of the Cross were donated mostly by parish organisations or individual parishioners, also the Big Six altar candlesticks and Cross; the Lady Altar was a gift from Monsignor Hunt of New Malden parish.

The Women's Confraternity North Cheam bought vestments; the 18 to 80 Club embroidered four Stoles with the expert assistance of a Miss Harper. The Potier sisters made the blue carpet which covers the steps on the Lady Altar; the original flagstaff was a gift of a member of the KSC who was a ships chandler; a Ciborium was given by the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mr Bernard Hill and his two sons made furniture for the main Altar, i.e. a Missal Stand, Credence Table and two Prie Dieu's; St Joseph's Altar was also made by them. The first sound system was installed by Bernard Hill. Father Duprez purchased the Organ a cost of £1,275 and he thought this very expensive at the time. Kneeling mats were supplied by the parish; the Altar Rail mats were a donation from Mr and Mrs Mitchellmore. The late Mr Ted Keegan used to serve Mass for Father Duprez on weekdays, and it was Ted who was there to lend a hand when the Statue of St Cecilia was hoisted, and again when the church bells were blessed.

It was hoped to have a large Crucifix outside the church and to this purpose waste paper was collected and sold by members of the KSC and GBS notably by Mr Hill, Mr Bean and Mr Silver. However the Bishop would not allow us to have the Crucifix outside St Cecilia's Church because the figure of Christ was made of plaster and therefore vulnerable to vandalism. This Crucifix was presented to St Anthony's Hospital and can be seen in their grounds. St Anthony's gave us a fine Relic of St Cecilia. The Sanctuary carpets were a gift from Fr Freeman, and the Tabernacle was purchased from parish funds and cost £125.

When the church was opened the heating was fuelled by coke until September 1957 when oil was first used (after the oil crisis). Unfortunately the heating chamber was prone to flooding and further work had to be undertaken by the builders to try and eradicate this at a cost of £149. The first three benches on either side of the middle aisle were solid. To accommodate funeral Masses these were cut back, and the ends made portable, at a cost of £30. As you will see two of these on either side are permanently left out, which facilitates free movement when receiving communion.

In 1960 a new Crib set was bought by Fr Duprez; also the carved statue of the Sacred Heart which cost £45. By March 1961 the church was free of debt to the builders, in a space of five years; however we owed St Matthias Church the balance of the £6,000 we had borrowed. In October 1961 Father Duprez said goodbye to the parishioners of Worcester Park (St Matthias) and became parish priest at St Cecilia's.

The Crucifix of Christ the King over the High Altar arrived in January 1964 and is four feet in height; this was installed, with the help of Mr Finn. In the same year the statue of St Teresa arrived and can be seen at the back of the church. Also in the same year work was undertaken to drain the car park by Gleasons of North Cheam, this at a cost of £1,113. Unfortunately this did not solve the problem of the constant flooding of the heating chamber, which was a hoped for result, and therefore Father was constantly trying to mop up the water with the aid of Miss Clarke, the Sacristan.

Flat roofs should be banned! We are unfortunate in having one over the Sacristy and another over the Lady Altar. Eventually the flooding in the heating chamber was traced to this. The builders compounded the felony by allowing the rain water from the main sloping roof to be piped onto the flat roof, consequently the flat roof sagged and a pool of water soon collected and found its way the heating chamber via the brickwork. A water sump and a water pump were installed in the heating chamber but without too much success, as the pump was not self priming and thus required constant attention.

More land was purchased from Dobbe's at a cost of £12,500 with a view to building a new Presbytery and possibly a Parish Hall., Interest free loans were sought from parishioners to help to pay for this land, and some £5,000 to £6,000 was promised, the land was fenced off, costing £139.

Some parishioners may ask why we still have chairs at each side of the church. Originally these were used at St Cecilia's School Hall where Mass was said before the church was built; they are not very comfortable. In 1967 it would have cost £1,500 (£7 per place) to have oak benches made. The wooden benches on the sides were given to us by St Anthony's Hospital when their beautiful Chapel was knocked down. The temporary wooden Altar which became St Joseph's Altar was erected by Mr Finn and Mr Ryan, also the wooden base. It was Mr Ryan who reduced the size of St Joseph's Altar, shortly before he died. This enabled the choir to have more room.

It was against Father Duprez's inclination to keep on asking for money, but he nevertheless did so constantly, from the pulpit and in the parish magazine, "Ecclesia", The Diocesan Development Fund had to be met; this was £3,600 in 1960 and now is set at £5,500 to help pay for our Catholic Schools, so we must have contributed well over £100,000.

The Parish Magazine "Ecclesia" was first published in 1956 and the work was undertaken by the Catholic Parents and Electors Association (CPEA). The Editor in those days was a Mr O'Friel from Worcester Park, assisted by Mr Aldridge also of Worcester Park, and Mr Silver of North Cheam. In 1961 Mr Bernard Hill took over the Editorship and the magazine. It was then printed professionally by printers at New Malden. After 13 years it had to cease publication due to lack of articles in December 1969. Many thanks are due to Bernard Hill for all his hard work. In its early days "Ecclesia" had country-wide interest shown and a copy could be found in the local libraries. The CPEA had 300 members in 1956 (Worcester Park and North Cheam); the diocese numbered 3,000 members. It was considered a very important organisation and the parish agreed to pay £10 towards membership; the membership fee was 1/- (5p) per member. The main aim was to put the Catholic viewpoint to Members of Parliament, and the main achievement was helping to obtain the 80% grant aid to denominational schools (it had been 50% prior to this).

The Knights of St Columba (Co 328) have been very active in the parish since 1937 when the Council was formed. One of their main aims is to assist the Clergy, which they do for instance by counting the Sunday collections. Father Duprez did this mostly on his own, until to the 1970s. The Knights used to run Pilgrimages yearly to Canterbury. Now they organise Pilgrimages to Aylesford Kent, the Carmelite shrine to Our Lady. The Province (35) KSC organise their Annual Donkey Derby in aid of charity; this takes place at Epsom/Ewell. It would be true to say that Council 328 started one of the first Bingo sessions at the Catholic Hall, Worcester Park in 1959 before Television or Bingo became so popular.

There were also annual retreats held at St Anthony's Hospital, which were well attended and excellent. The meals were always looked forward to (a Sister Columba was the cook) and her trifle was something else.

The Guild of the Blessed Sacrament had 50 members in 1963, they purchased their own banner for £50 and they were always present to form a guard of honour for the Blessed Sacrament at Processions or for the Bishop when he came on visitations. The Women's Confraternity had 79 members in 1963 and were always ready to assist the Clergy with purchase of vestments, cottas etc and would be ready to repair these. There were teams organised to clean the Sanctuary each week and the Big Six were cleaned by them. Every May, after the First Holy Communion they would provide an excellent breakfast for the children in the School Hall.

The Football Sweep was organised by the Knights of St Columba and by 1963 had raised £10,000 for both St Matthias and St Cecilia's. In September 1969 St Matthias pulled out of the sweep and it has been run at St Cecilia's ever since. Many thanks are due to the Secretary, Mr Rag Vincent for all his years of devoted service; thanks are due also to all the other collectors.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) have been active in the parish over very many Years, and we hear very little of their work (because of the nature of their work). Members that come to mind are Mr Horgan, Mr Morris and Mr Leiber; in the past Mr S J Byrne (first Headmaster of St Cecilia's School), also Mr W Martin (later to become Father Martin). Both of these members have gone to their eternal reward. Profits from the Catholic papers go towards the SVP. Again many thanks are due to Mr J Morris and Mr B Horgan for their devoted work in selling the Catholic papers. Legion of Mary ran for many years and there were over 300 meetings of this worthy organisation. It was closed in 1976. Children of Mary; an organisation for single women of all ages, which many older parishioners will remember, closed down as long ago as 1965 through lack of support.

The Social Committee was formed as far back as 1945, and this was an organisation which met monthly, and consisted of one member from each parish organisation, or society; its purpose was to arrange parish socials so that there would not be clashes in parish events.

The Friends of St Michael's Convent, although not strictly of this parish (North Cheam) was formed from both St Matthias and St Cecilia's parishes. The chairmen, Mr Silver (nine years in office) and Mr Bean for a further nine years, and several other members came from St Cecilia's parish. St Cecilia's annual Fete was organised to raise money for the good nuns to help run the Hostel for elderly ladies. As a result many articles were purchased for the Hostel over the 20 years of its existence. Our thanks to all who helped in any way; this includes all parish organisations at that time.

The Catholic Social Guild (CSG) ran for many years with Father Duprez as its Chairman. It also had to close down in 1968. The Choir has had many devoted members over the years, and some are still singing with the choir to this day. Father Duprez was constantly asking for new voices. At one time it was suggested that a choir loft be erected over the Narthex, and the majority of

members were in favour of this being done.

The Crib was erected annually in the Narthex until the Crucifix, which was given to us by St Anthony's Hospital, was placed on the wall by Father Doetch. The Crib has since been placed on the Lady Altar, and the proceeds of any offerings made are given to the Catholic Children's Society.

Previously the church light fittings, the centre fittings are shaped in the form of three fishes (the early Christian symbol), and there are twelve bulbs, perhaps signifying the twelve apostles?

The Papal award "The Cross Ecclesia et Pontifice" was awarded to Mr E Mehegan for his services to Catholic teaching. This medal was also awarded to Mr George Bean for his services to the Knights of St Columba Province 35.

The Bene Merenti medal was awarded to Mr W Martin (later Father Martin RIP) for thirty years devoted service to the parish. Also this medal was awarded to Mrs Sheart for her devoted service as Organist.

Civic Honours.

Mr Leslie Hill after many years on the Council became the Mayor of Sutton and Cheam in 1967. Father Duprez was appointed the Mayor's Chaplain. A Mayoral Mass was celebrated at St Cecilia's, and Father Ted Hill was Sub-Deacon. (Mr Hill's son was not ordained at that time). Father Hill is now seconded to the RAF as one of their Chaplains is at present stationed in Germany. Mr Richard Sharples, MP for Sutton and Cheam, was also present. Unfortunately, he was murdered in Bermuda later whilst serving as Governor there. The old presbytery at 140 Stonecot Hill was purchased in 1961 at a cost of £4,725. Father Duprez moved in on 22 April, but as he admitted it was too small for the purpose. As mentioned before, more land was purchased in 1969 on which to build a new presbytery and maybe a Hall. It would appear that the GLC had no objection to this (provisionally) at that time.

Vocations from this parish were Father Rowley (1961); Father Pelham (1963); Father Hill (1968); and Father Martin (1970 RIP). Father W Martin was a late vocation, at the age of 63 years; a widower, his two daughters are both nuns and were present at his first Mass at St Cecilia's. Father Ted Hill was ordained by Archbishop Cowderoy in July 1968 at St Cecilia's.

Miss Mary Ridgewell (now Mrs Wells) was our first Sacristan when the church opened until 1961, then Mrs Mitchelmore, followed by Miss D Clarke and Mrs K Vincent. Church cleaning was originally carried out by Mrs Paull, later Mr Sturton was engaged to do the main body of the church was paid for his work.

The church heating system is "air heating" (natural convection) fired with oil fuel, and it burns three gallons per hour. Oil cost 2/11 (11p) per gallon in the early days (1957). Now it is over 80 pence per gallon. During the very cold spell of 1963 the church was always warm. In fact one new parishioner commented on this, saying it was the warmest church he had been in. But of course we used 500 gallons of oil every month in winter. It is thought that this heating was the cause of the deterioration of the church interior paintwork. Most of you will remember that the walls were painted a light blue and that the pillars were picked out in a blue and white design with tracings of red between these colours. It was therefore necessary to repaint the interior in 1965; the outside was done at the same time at a total cost of £828.

In 1976 repairs were undertaken to the flat roofs at a further cost of £664; a very generous donation was given towards this sum by a parishioner. To assist with all of these expenses a Christmas Fair is held every year and raises hundreds of pounds; in 1961 £319 and in 1976 £750, and it improves each year. Some £3,479 has been left to the parish in wills by parishioners, but there may be more than this as records are incomplete. So far we have digested facts and figures, but many older parishioners have memories of the discomforts when Mass was held at St Cecilia's School Hall; the chairs have already been mentioned; the Altar was on the stage and was of a portable design, and the atmosphere was of a missionary nature. The Sacristans at this time were Mrs D Morden and the three Miss Mordens. Everyone was looking forward to the day when a new church would be built, and none more so than Mr Bill Bayley, If you were new to the parish, you were ushered to a seat by this very ancient but lively figure, and Bill would put his hand on your shoulder and ask "Are you a member of the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament?", providing you were a man of course. Bill Bayley was a retired policeman, so that his hand on your shoulder had a compelling effect! His dearest wish was to see the new church built and so he did; in 1964 he died at the ripe old age of 92! Our oldest parishioner at that time, Mr Martin (later Father Martin RIP) and Phil Potier (RIP) were the other two ushers and collectors. However, at some time we had an unscrupulous collector who removed most of the silver from the plates after they had been taken to the staffroom, and we were left with the coppers. Father Duprez then entrusted the collecting to the GBS, so that a rota was worked out and this carried on for many years.

Notes from the past: The Centenary Congress 1850/1950 held at Wembley Stadium, one of the largest contingents came from Worcester Park and North Cheam. There were two double-decker busses fully loaded; it was hectic afterwards because we could not find one of our party, and eventually left without him/her. It transpired that the person in question had met a friend and decided to take a lift home with them. On another occasion when we had been to Aylesford, on the journey home (before the M25), when it took much longer, we decided to stop at a hostelry (pub) to take refreshments etc; there was a piano in the bar and one of our party (a pianist) decided to play some tunes, one of which was "Jerusalem". We all joined in lustily, much to the annoyance of the locals and we were asked to leave by the not too friendly Landlord.

The reader will judge the tremendous joy and relief felt by all when finally we were able to worship at the new St Cecilia's church.

The reader will also appreciate the difficulty of mentioning names of parishioners without leaving some good person out. In Father Duprez's History of the Parish he wisely ends up by saying "No personal reference has been made to our many devoted lay helpers because either the list would be very long or the choice of names would seem invidious"! I have been encouraged to mention names but I would like to suggest that any parishioner who would like to write some anecdote to add to this history should be encouraged to do so, for the interest of our newcomers. No history of the parish would be complete without reference to the late Father Duprez FRGS. He was our parish priest for over 30 years; on his 25th anniversary get-together he made a speech which is worth quoting:

"I am very grateful indeed to you all for coming here this evening to celebrate my 25 years at PP, and for your most generous presentation. I was hoping it would pass un-noticed, because there are very few parishioners who were here 25 years ago, and the two assistant priests were only young boys way back in 1946. In fact the actual anniversary was last July, when I said an un-noticed Mass of Thanksgiving, but some parishioners found out and decided to organise a public celebration. We have just thanked God for all his favours. And now it warms my heart to see the way you have responded, and it gives me an opportunity of thanking everyone for their kindness over the years, their generous help and toleration. First I would like to thank my 13 Curates over the years and my brother Clergy from neighbouring parishes, especially Father Beausang, who is here tonight. Their advice and friendly help and sociability have been a constant encouragement.

Then the two Convents, especially St Anthony's, but for them I would not be here; they saved my life in their hospital in 1954 when I received the Last Sacraments. Also the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary from Worcester Park who have always been most kind and helpful. I thank a succession of devoted housekeepers; the excellent headmaster and teachers of our School. And finally the large number of loyal and devoted church workers and parishioners, one of whom was Father Martin, who received a papal medal for his long services to the parish. Many present day helpers are here today, and I want to thank them especially, though not by name, as they might feel embarrassed. There are a few large parishes (long established) in the diocese, like Croydon and Streatham where Rectors or Parish Priests usually stay on for very many years, in fact for the rest of their lives. Such parishes have had only three or four Rectors in the past 100 years. But new parishes like Worcester Park and North Cheam were not like that. When I came in 1946 there had been eleven Rectors in 40 years, so the average stay was less than four years. Parishioners sometimes said "we never sooner get to know a priest and away he goes". The longest stay had been eight years. Of course the Bishop sometimes has to transfer a good man elsewhere, but I consider some continuity is essential for the good of the parish, and to ensure gradual and progressive development. So I hoped to make it a long stay to enlarge our School, build a proper church, and supervise the building of the Richard Challenor School.

In 1946 this School Hall was the only centre for Sunday Mass in North Cheam, apart from St Anthony's Hospital Chapel which was needed for the nuns and their staff on Sundays. This School had only five classrooms including the stage. Six more classrooms have been added over the years thanks to your generosity. In 1955 we started building the new church, and it opened in early 1957. In the 11 years since 1946, I have said Mass for the parishioners over 2,000 times, and tried to ensure the absolute regularity and punctuality of all church services.

Visiting the sick and the elderly is one of a priest's pleasant duties, taking them the Sacraments in their home.

In 1961 I asked the Bishop to split the parish as it was getting unwieldy and I was becoming just an Administrator. We had 12 Sunday Masses in five different centres; four Sunday Benedictions, two Convents, two large Schools, and two Hospitals and four cemeteries to look after. On occasion I have done three lots of October Devotions in one day.

To the Bishop's great surprise, I asked to become parish priest of the North Cheam half of the parish, and told him I hoped to stay there many years. I was naturally sorry to leave Worcester Park after over 15 happy years, but I felt it would be a good thing for a keen Younger man to build the new church at Worcester Park and the Archbishop certainly sent one of his best priests, as we all know,

Having taught for 14 years at the John Fisher School at Purley, I have always done all I could to help Catholic Schools. For the past 25 years I have been chairman of St Cecilia's School Managers, and I am also a Governor of the Richard Challenor School at New Malden, also of the Holy Cross Convent School, New Malden, St Catherine's Merton and St Philomena's Carshalton, and Sutton representative on the Diocesan Schools Commission, and co-opted Diocesan Representative on Sutton Education Committee. Finally I again thank Almighty God for all his graces and blessings to me. I apologise for my shyness and other shortcomings; and ask for your continued prayers and co-operation during my remaining years at St Cecilia's. Thus ends Father Duprez's speech. As most of you know Father was with us for a further nine years, and apart from all of his duties aforementioned, he would often be seen trying to keep the weeds down in the car park, or mopping out water from the heating chamber. When some of us found out we would try our best to help out in these matters and take some of the load off Father's shoulders. It was perhaps untimely that we got a refrigeration engineer to look after the heating, and he got some frosty looks when the church was cold, (if only heating oil had remained at 11 pence a gallon!) The water pump was a temperamental machine and required some coaxing for it to pump out surplus water. We hope to install a self priming pump shortly.

Scouts, Guides, Cubs.

There has always been a Scout Group and Cubs, Guides and Brownies in the parish. Two notable names that come to mind are Mr and Mrs Holton. Mr Holton took the Scouts and Mrs Holton the Guides for many years. Both of these organisations have had difficulty at times in finding leaders to run them. Into the breach have come Mr Harrison (.RIP), Mr Webb and Mr Rutley assisted Mr Phillip Silver (Cubs).

The youth club has been a parish organisation for very many years, and our thanks are due to all youth club leaders especially Mr Cawthorne. The KSC have a Youth Officer who may help. The Covenant Scheme has been organised and run by parishioners and has netted us many thousands of pounds in refunds; old parishioners like Mr McGuire, Mr Woods are to be congratulated on their work. They have both left the parish and we now thank Mr Con Woodham and Mr Doug Bonney for continuing the good work. In 1976 and 1977 Father was able to send some £10,000 in total to Bishop's House for investment, further records are not available; however the DDF had still to be met (£5,500). Moratoriums were granted when funds were low, but the DDF was seldom, if ever, reduced. For instance in 1966 Father writes in the parish magazine, "Our total expenditure was about £450 more than our income. This overspending was due to several unusual but unavoidable items, including over £1,100 for the church drainage work and car park surfacing; £828 for interior and exterior decorating of the church and over £1,100 for our final instalment to repay the diocese for the two moveable classrooms at St Cecilia's School.

In addition we managed to repay £1,500 of our parish debt to St Matthias's, (we borrowed £6,000). The Diocesan Development Fund assessment is being increased by 25% each year over the next four years, so in 1966 we have to find an extra £500 for this purpose, and our second collection should total £3,000. It was Covenant refunds and the Football Sweep that saved us from disaster and I am deeply grateful to all parishioners who helped in this way. Covenant refunds reached a record total of £1,429 and the parish Football Sweep produced a profit of £701. Father goes on to say, "You contributed generously to the various special collections ordered by the Archbishop to the Foreign Missions, Orphanages and Seminary Fund!", Father then exhorts us to be more generous in our contributions to the plate, and goes on to say that he "had hoped to provide oak benches to replace the chairs in the church, and to provide better electric lights; St Cecilia's School will soon need repainting at our expense and we plan to build a new and more adequate presbytery next to the church when we can afford it. This will enable us to keep the church open during the day as we would like".

For over 40 years rumours about Widening the A24 have abounded; all have come to nothing. Father Duprez had high hopes that if and when this happened, the council would be obliged to knock down the cottages next to the church and consequently also be obliged to re-house the tenants, thus saving us that expense. As you know, this was not to be. Father had tried to live in Stonecot Cottage so as to be near the church, but it was cold and damp and thus very uncomfortable for him. Then someone set fire to the cottage and caused considerable damage; Father wisely gave up this experiment. Stonecot Cottage was demolished in September 1967, with the exception of the front garden wall. In December 1963 the BBC broadcast a Mass from St Anthony's Chapel. Father Duprez preached the sermon about St John and suffering. The BBC gave Father £10 for this. In addition to all his other commitments, Father Duprez used to visit Barnes Convent to hear the nuns' confessions and give sermons (in French); other convents such as Epsom and Wimbledon were also visited for this purpose. Also for many years the Seminary Fund from this area came under Father's jurisdiction.

On one occasion several parishioners re-decorated Father's study at 140 Stonecot Hill whilst he was away, and on another many helped to re-decorate the Priest's Sacristy which had suffered from a leaking roof, and the heating system. When the Diocese was split in 1965 St Cecilia's came almost on the boundary line between Southwark Diocese and the new Arundel and Brighton Diocese (ie we are just in Southwark).

Visitations and Confirmations:

23 February 1958	Bishop Cowderoy	121 Children Confirmed
19 March 1961	Bishop Cowderoy	140 Children Confirmed
4 April 1965	ArchBishop Cowderoy	90 Children Confirmed
23 March 1971	ArchBishop Cowderoy	99 Children Confirmed
21 May 1974	ArchBishop Cowderoy	68 Children Confirmed
28 June 1977	Bishop Henderson	82 Children Confirmed

Many thanks to the headmaster of St Cecilia's School for these figures extracted from the school Diary. May I say here that the parish has been blessed with an excellent school since 1937; the heads have also been outstanding. Mr Byrne was our first head, followed by Mr Flynn and now Mr O'Callaghan. We had a Mission early in 1958 given by the Missionary Society; another in 1961 given by the Franciscan Friars; this was in October of that year. There must have been one or two more but some records have been lost; so no doubt some parishioners will remember others.

We are indebted to Mr Bean for his powers of organisation which have benefitted the church over very many years. Also Mr Lesli Hill for his considerable help to Father Duprez with local education etc; and to Mr Kennard who for many years quietly gave valuable professional help on many occasions. When Father Duprez had been ill for several months, he was retired and went to live at St Michael's Hostel, Worcester Park, and in September of 1980 Father Michael Gwinnell was appointed as Parish Priest and he received a very warm welcome; later Father John Kavanagh came to replace Father Joe Doetsch.

LIST OF CURATES

Father Palmer Farther Thornton
 Father Adlam Father F Murphy
 Father Inledon Father C Murphy
 Father Dove
 Father O'Mahoney (a missionary priest who stayed one year)
 Father Dinan
 Father Weir
 Father Maxwell Father Doetsch.

Father Joe Doetsch who came to us from the John Fisher School was to administer St Cecilia's on his own for many months after Father Duprez fell ill, and a magnificent curate he turned out to be.

Perhaps it is not generally known that Father Duprez was not keen on having benefactors names inscribed on any article, and one has to confess to being confused when visiting some churches (mainly C of E) by the number of plaques placed on the walls to commemorate some donation or distinction etc, worthy though these may be. However I must say how we all appreciate the Credence Table at the back of the church which commemorates Father Duprez's service to St Cecilia's; many thanks to the donor who wishes to remain anonymous. In conclusion, I hope this short history of our church will help some, if not all of our new comers, and refresh the memories of the longer serving parishioners, some of whom will, no doubt, take me to task. So I must apologise here and now for any omissions which may offend, and remind you to write a few lines which could add to our history (1957-1979). Further history will follow in due course.

CYCLOPS

First Draft September 1985 -AM