

## A brief history of the parish of the Holy Rosary, Fitton Hill.

Holy Rosary's actual origins date back to 1940 when a farsighted young curate at St. Patrick's, Oldham, had secured three acres of land for the sum of £500. Twelve years later in 1952, Fr. James Buckley returned to take charge of the proposed parish. He was without church, presbytery, school or money, but having obtained permission from Bishop Marshall to dedicate the parish to the patronage of our Blessed Lady, he chose the name, 'Holy Rosary'. As the number of houses and catholic families increased, a convenient place to hear Mass was needed.

A non-Catholic friend of Fr. Buckley, Mr. Herbert Wrigley, manager of the nearby Maple Mill, who also gave free use of the Mill Canteen and lift, gladly provided this. The Very Reverend Canon Fitzgerald, parish priest of St. Patrick's, who had also blessed the building, offered the first Mass on Sunday 7th December 1952.

From these beginnings, some 18 months after the cutting of the first sod, and after much devoted time and effort from parishioners, the church was formally opened on the 23rd July 1955.

Events continued to move at a rapid pace and Saturday 22nd October 1960 saw the late Bishop Beck officially bless and open the school.

The Parish marked its Silver Jubilee, on July 23rd 1980, with the installation of a new marble altar and furnishings and a Dedication and Solemn Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Thomas Holland, Bishop of Salford.

The parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first Mass in the Maple Mill on Dec 6th 2002.

### **Amalgamation**

Fr. Billy Molloy, having been Parish priest at Holy Rosary since December 2006, was directed to also take over Holy Family in August 2008, and the process of amalgamation of both parishes began.

Amalgamation was completed in December 2009 and the new parish was now known as The Parish of Holy Family and Holy Rosary Oldham