

History of St Joseph`s Schools

1851-1992

Early Growth of Catholic Religion in Greenhill

The name Swansea is Scandinavian in origin and means Sweyn`s Island or Haven. The town`s original settlement was founded by the Normans. Sweynsei was adopted by them sometimes between 1158-1184. Since then the name has undergone a number of alterations in spelling.

Two of the industries upon which the prosperity of the town was based, date back to the early 14th Century; shipbuilding on the Tawe and coalmining at Kilvey, Clyne and north of Morriston. Later came the first copper works at Landore. Copper smelting continued up to mid-1880`s. Iron and lead smelting continued up to mid-1880`s. Iron and lead smelting prospered during the 19th Century as did the zinc, steel, tinplate and patent fuel works.

Swansea`s industries, therefore, were many and varied and the cosmopolitan character of the town was reflected in the large number of working people who came here to work alongside the Welsh inhabitants. Fishermen and others from Devon and Cornwall sailed across the Channel to join the industrial throng. Men came from Gloucester, Somerset and the hills of Brecon and even as far away as Spain.

Industries seemed to be flourishing but religion, or at least the Catholic religion was very weak. We are told that in 1720 there were only 700 Catholics in Cornwall, Dorset, Devon, Wiltshire, Somerset, Gloucester, Monmouth, Hereford and South Wales.

Something which helped keep the Catholic Faith alive was the fact that the French Revolution had driven a large number of priests into England and 14 of them came to Wales. One of these Fr Sejan, who had been Chaplain to the King of France, got a post as tutor to one of Swansea`s nobility in November 1808, and he set to work attending to the spiritual needs of the Catholics in town and neighbouring districts. At first, he said Mass in the Castle. This was possible because the keeper there was a Catholic. Fr Sejan was the first resident priest in Swansea.

After the fall of Napoleon and the restoration of the Monarchy in 1814, he returned to France once more to become Chaplain to the King. Through the absence of its resident priest the Swansea Mission languished once more.

The Benedictines coming to Swansea and later more secular clergy, helped to spread the faith not only in Swansea but to many areas outside.

From 1824-1830 Rev James Fleetwood was resident priest in Swansea. He had only 30 to support him (Catholic Life in Swansea 1847-1947)

A number of priests took charge of the mission in Swansea between 1830-1839.

When Fr Charles Kavanagh arrived in Swansea 1839, his parish stretched from Aberavon to Llanelli and his parishioners numbered only 135.

In the Baptismal Register there were just 27 entries but by 1852 there were 159. By this time Aberavon and Neath enjoyed the ministrations of a priest of their own. It was during this time that the starving Irish Catholics left their country during the fearful famine of 1845-1846 and came to settle in Swansea and surrounding districts, the vast number coming to the Greenhill area of Swansea looking for work. Work, when they got it, was hard and wages small.

It was estimated that about 400 families, 2500 people came here. This influx of a starving Catholic people must have been intended by Divine Providence as a means of restoring the Catholic Faith, which was partly lost at the Reformation.

The hundreds of Irish immigrants who settle in Swansea, on the whole, met with a charitable reception from local inhabitants. It was for those mostly that Fr Kavanagh started the Sunday School in a building which was at the corner of Brook Street, and Well Street, both of which were later demolished with a number of other small streets to make room for Griffith John Flats.

As time went on different industrial companies began to provide educational facilities for their workers' families. These works schools did not cater for minority religions. The only education the Catholic Children received was in the small Sunday school. From there they moved to somewhat larger building, the exact location of which is not certain but it is thought to have been not far from where Harrington Street flats off Llangyfelach Street not stand.

Fr Kavanagh died in 1856, weakened and exhausted as a result of the cholera outbreak in the area 188-49 when he worked night and day helping the Doctor and doing everything possible for the sick. Between 16th July and the end of August he helped to bury 170 victims of cholera.

With the great influx of people all kinds of problems arose, involving health, housing, sanitation etc. Houses to accommodate this vast number were hastily built, ugly, insanitary and overcrowded. On one of these streets, Charles Street- there were in December 1853, in 11 houses, several of which were without back windows, and containing 18 sleeping rooms, and with an entire absence of water, no less than 106 inhabitants. This, needless to say, created enormous difficulties when there was not only sickness but death in the house.

Fr Kavanagh was replaced by Fr Lewis who continued the work which had been begun.

The second building, also was found too small, and so Fr Lewis built a small school where Mass was said on Sundays, on land which was being negotiated by Fr Kavanagh before he died. That was built sometime between 1857-1860 and is now known as Room 15 and part of St Joseph's Junior School. We believe this was known as St. Patricks.

Fr Lewis felt he needed help to teach the children and so in 1860 he brought a community of 12 Ursulines of Jesus, some French, some Irish from France. Their first task was to prepare children for their first communion and confirmations.

On 18th August 1861 there were some 200 children, between the ages of 2 ½ and 7 years for boys and 8 years for girls, coming to the school. There was no mention of children older than this at that stage.

In a short time, this building, too was found to be inadequate and so further building had to go ahead. It is possible that it was about this time that the two rooms, one above the other, attached to the present hall and now part of the St Joseph's Club were built. We read in the log book of the Girls Schools that improvements and enlargements took place in 1869, 1872 and 1873. According to some sources there was also a temporary structure, which later was demolished, situated somewhere between the present Infants school and the entrance to the club.

In 1866 the new St. Joseph's Church, the present parish hall was opened. Extra school buildings were necessary as numbers increased but lack of money made it difficult. Some non-Catholic children asked to be admitted to the school. They were welcome because they paid a fee, the school pence, and this made up for the non-paying Catholic children.

There was a compulsory payment of school pence imposed on workers employed in local works, which provided educational facilities for their school. Workers were obliged to support the work's school, whether their children attended or not. It was a condition of employment, but although they were obliged to pay no Catholic worker sent his children to the Hafod School. These children were allowed to forego the school pence at St Joseph's because they could not afford it. Some 500 children attending St Joseph's had parents who worked at the Hafod Copper Works. This meant £100 loss of school pence for St Joseph's.

Another problem for Catholic schools at that time was the procuring and payment of teachers' salaries. In those days the teachers, through doing the same work as others in their profession in Swansea, were not paid by the Government. It was not until 1908 that teachers in voluntary schools were put on complete equality with teachers in council schools.

Within the first five or six years of the School's beginning the number of children increased from 69-104 and the average for the year ended 31st May 1871 was 170 pupils. In that year the school was placed under Government inspection. A very great problem at that time apart from the very poor accommodation and the poverty, was the laxity of parents in sending their children to school. At the time of the inspection the school was a mixed one, boys, girls and infants and was conducted under the church which was what was now St Joseph's Club. There were 170 children here, sixty of whom were infants. Greenhill was teeming with children.

The census for the years between 1801 and 1851 showed an increase of 350% whereas the national average for Britain was 93%.

To ensure its maximum share of capitation grant Fr Lewis recalled young workers to school to make up the numbers and the Sisters went round recruiting new pupils. Fosters Education 1870 also helped to increase the numbers until 1887 there were 1,300 children attending St. Joseph's making it the largest school in Swansea.

The inspectors considered the place overcrowded and suggested moving some out. It was either this or further building, something which was difficult without money and with little hope of a grant. However, building did go ahead, an extension was added to what was room 15 of the Junior School, and on 2nd October 1871 the boys were drafted to this building which became known as the Boy's school with Mr William Unsworth as its Headmaster. The entrance to this was by the steps leading to Llangyfelach Street and the entrance was known locally as the Master's Gate.

The temporary wooden structure known as the Girl's school on the site of the present Nursery must have been built about 1872/1873.

By the end of the school year 1872 the average for girls and infants was 203. At the end of August of that year it was requested by the School Inspector that the infants be separated from the rest. In July 1873 the Inspector ordered a new building or at least a partition for the Infants. A separate department was formed on 19th April 1875. It must have been at this time that the Infants took over the part of the building underneath the new Parish Church now used by St Joseph's Club. The average for the year ended 31st May 1875 was 111. The inspector Mr Carrington Ley also recommended at this time that needlework should be taught in the Infant's school.

An interesting entry in the log book for 18th October 1875 reads:

The children have had a lesson in Geography for the first time in the school. The map of Europe has been used in waiting for a map of the world"

Entries in the log books were sometimes rather vague and one can only guess their meaning. An example of this is on the 11th January 1876:

The girls were moved to the lower rooms of the new building

This can only mean underneath the Church which was then occupied by the Infant's department. The same entry adds:

The infants remained under the Church, and Sr M Gertrude Cotter was allowed to take charge, though it was still considered part of the mixed school

The girl's school in Convent Street was only in existence for about four or five years at the most and the reason for moving the is not explained. Perhaps alterations were taking place and the girls moved out in the meantime. Whatever the reason, the building in Convent Street still existed as a school for a number of years.

From an entry in the log book for the Infants school on 18th October 1876, nine months later, we can deduce that the room was shared it reads:

A blackboard and easel received for the use of the Gallery.

The gallery, we understand from someone who knew the place as a child, as a raised area furthest end of the room, where the infants were taught. It was possible to gain access to the Gallery by a stair leading down from the end of the Church, underneath the present bar. For some reason this passage was closed by planks on 7th June 1876

Another interesting entry for 7th August 1877 shows the apathy of parents in sending their children to school and the inability of anyone to remedy this. The visit of the HMI had just taken place so perhaps it was thought safe, by the parents, to let the children stay at home.

After waiting a considerable time this morning for the arrival of the children and none coming, it was judged prudent to close for the remainder of the week on account of the very bad weather.

It is quite possible that children were so poorly clad that it would not be sensible to come out.

In 1866 the building of the present St Joseph's Church was commenced and it was opened two years later in October 1868. The previous one then became the parish hall. With the growing number of children now attending the school, plans were being proposed for a new Boy's school on the site where the Girl's school stood.

It is interesting to read in the log book of the old boys' school the schedule of grants for the year ending December 1897.

Average attendance 282

Average attendance on which grant is payable 283

Principle grant 14s. 0d

Discipline and Organisation 1s.6d

Singing by notes 1s.0d

Class subjects (object lessons English & Geography 4s.0d

Grant claimable on average attendance £290.1s.6d

From all this penny scraping one can understand the entry of 1st April 1898:

I have to point out to the teachers of the standards the necessity of keeping the slate pencils nicely sharpened.

Headteachers of Governing Bodies were not allowed much freedom in deciding what was most needed when a grant was given. This is obvious from the next entry of 30th November 1899 concerning grants.

Aid Grant Form 23rd October 1899 from Whitehall

I am directed to inform you that the scheme for distribution of Aid Grant submitted by the Governing Body of the Clifton and Newport RC Diocesan Association under Section 1(4) of the Voluntary Schools Act, has been approved by this department, and that in accordance therewith a grant of £200 will be paid to you.

This grant is made for the purpose of: -

<i>Certified assistant in Boy`s School</i>	<i>£80</i>
<i>Increase of salary Head Teacher</i>	<i>£10</i>
<i>Painting all schools outside</i>	<i>£30</i>
<i>Raising playground</i>	<i>£80</i>

My Lords will require to be satisfied that is has been so expended.

Truancy has always been a problem but at the present day this is relatively minor compared with the situation at the end of the last century and beginning of this. Surviving and learning how to make a few pence, somehow or other, definitely took priority over education, and therefor much of the truancy was done with the knowledge and acquiescence of the parents as will be seen from some entries in the log book of the Boy`s school.

One entry of 10th March 1899 states that: -

A considerable number of boys are playing truant at present and are quite beyond parental control.

In correspondence from Mr Halden Clerk of the Swansea Schools Board, in school attendance read:

1. Notice should be sent to the school when a boy of school age, leaves either under the Truant School or Cottage Homes.
2. If children over 13 years and under 14 years are known to be employed during school hours, habitually, such children should be proceeded against by the Officer unless they attend school.
3. The entry for 9th June 1899 tells us that: Truancy is on the increase, the names of two children in particular were given to the Officer. In both cases notes were received from parents, stating that the children were ill, whereas there was proof that they were spending their time, bathing in the canal and paper selling.

The Head spoke to some shopkeepers who were employing children and even showed them the circular from the Board concerning the employment of children of school age, but little was done to improve matters.

It is not clear what help was given to the poorer children but an entry in the log book tells us that:

The returns showing the attendance of pauper children for the six months ending on 31st March 1901 have been sent to the relieving officer.

We do know that once a year some children were taken for an outing to Clyne Valley, having had free tickets from the Committee of Pearson's Fresh air Outing, probably the rest were given the day off.

We are given another reason for a holiday on Monday 2nd June 1902: "Schools closed in the afternoon because of the signing of the Treaty of Peace at Pretoria and the end of the Boer War.

The report of the HMI on 31st December 1901 is interesting and goes to show the dedication of the teachers working as they did in impossible situations, it reads:

The instruction at all points is given with thoroughness and intelligence and the discipline and organization gives every satisfaction. The accommodation, however, of the Boys and Girls school is at present insufficient for the average attendance. The attendance should be reduced or the accommodation increase. Your attention is drawn to Art 85 (a) of the Code and to the enclosed form 69

There was therefore the double problem of overcrowding and truancy and ironically the latter must have eased the problem. Truancy continued to give trouble as we can see from an entry in the log book for 16th January 1903:

Although there is an improvement in attendance there is still a good deal of trickery going on in order to keep boys out of school. In some cases, children, who even produce a doctor's certificate are seen out in the coldest weather, match selling or hawking newspapers.

One June 8th, 9th and 10th of the same year the school premises were measured up by staff of the School Board Architects office. Obviously, the only reason for this must have been keeping a check on the overcrowding. On 13th November 1903 we are told that the Headmaster intends trying a new time-table as he finds difficulty in getting Standards V, V1 and V11 to work in one room.

In February 1904 the HMI was dissatisfied with the lighting and heating in the hall where the lower classes were taught. On 25th November of the same year the log book entry says:

There is great difficulty in finishing the last lesson each evening as the Education Authority refused to provide mantles for the incandescent burners and consequently the school is in semi-darkness.

This reference to the LEA and the fact that the teachers, on, 11th November 1904, received their first salary from the LEA tells us that the school had now become Voluntary Aided, at least in part. The relevance to semi-darkness makes one wonder why schools did not close until 4.30pm. Does it mean that school started later or did they have a longer school day than at present?

From the entry in the log book for 13th July 1908 we read that:

Classes 1 and 2 have gone for a walk in the country with their teacher, for nature study. They left the school at about 3.00pm.

The country, of course, could have meant the Waun Wen area, on the far side of Carmarthen Road, down towards Dyfatty where there were no houses at that time.;

On 20th January 1905 there was dissatisfaction one again with the Education Authority as we read in the Log Book

The order for school materials which was sent to the Education Committee on 2nd January was returned on 13th January because it had not been accompanied by a "rate per head" form. Why it was kept in the office for two weeks I cannot say, one result of this delay is that I am now without exercise books in several classes.

The HMI report for the year ended 31st December 1904 states:

There should be at least two certified teachers in a school of this size which, besides presents special difficulties as regards supervision just now because two of the classes are taught in detached rooms

However, things were no better in September 1905, we read that there was considerable difficulty in arranging classes as no teachers had yet been sent to replace the two teachers who had left. Miss Ellard Art, had 60 boys in her class at the time. On 29th September two student teachers, after serving a month`s notice, gave up teaching. The entry in the log book tells us:

There seem little prospects of their being replaced. No teacher has been added to the staff since the Education committee took charge in September 1904. The staff during that period has decreased by four units.

We see by the log entry for 6th October 1905 that the Head was under a great deal of pressure:

This has been a very trying week as I have had charge of Standards V1 and V11 (52 boys) with Miss A Lee taking both divisions of Standard 111 (65 boys) while Miss Ellard had charge of 60 boys. These classes are not being taught, as they are too large to be worked with by one teacher each.

The HMI who visited the school on Tuesday 19th December 1905 and found the teachers trying to do the impossible- 6 teachers doing the work of 11 – with the Head Teacher tied to two classes – *stated the case to be a cruel one*. Through lack of staff the Headmaster found the arrears of work getting beyond control, and so he found it necessary to return to school in the evening to do at least two hours work several times a week.

When Dr Williams, the Education Committee Inspector visited the school on 21st November 1905 he stated that Standards V1 and V11 must, in future, attend the Hafod school on Thursday mornings, for manual instruction. This would not have helped the staffing problem, however, but maybe for a short while it gave a little more space for everyone else.

In 1912, due to the coal strike Free Meals in school began on 18th March. There were fifty-seven for breakfast that day. Numbers increased daily until 22nd March there were 369 for dinners and 29th March there were 490. Meals were cooked in the Convent and served in the parish hall. These meals continued until 4th May, when it is presumed the strike had come to an end.

The complaint of Inspectors who visited the school every couple of months at least, was the large classes and poor staffing ration. One once occasion

The staff is poor in general qualifications and attention must be called to the fact that two of the teachers have more than 60 children on the register of their classes (3B and 3G)

However, the LEA at the time seemed to use average attendance as their guideline for staffing rather than numbers on registers as we can see from a copy of a letter to the correspondent manager dated 1st May 1913

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 25th instant, I have to inform you that the Superintendent of Education is of the opinion that the staff at the Infants School is sufficiently staffed at present;

Your staff at present, excluding the Headmaster is:

Staff: 2 certified teachers; 2 uncertified teachers; 2 student teachers code value 230

Average attendance 197

Under the circumstances I do not think it necessary to readvertise for another uncertified assistant.

Yours faithfully A W Halden

There was considerable delay in starting the building of the Boys School because houses occupied space needed for an entrance and playground. It took some time before these two houses were purchased, before demolished and work was ready to begin.

When the old Girl's school was demolished, to make room for the new Boy's school, the girls were transferred to the parish hall in 1912.

On 8th June 1914 the foundations stone of the Boy's school was blessed by his Lordship Bishop Hedley O.S.B. and placed in position by the Right Rev. Alban Butler O.S.B. Abbot of Downside. The school, at a cost of £6,000.00 was opened on 30th August 1915 with accommodation for 328 boys.

Actually, with the increasing numbers, for some time prior to the building of this school, two classes had to have lessons in the present Cathedral.

There was still a problem with overcrowding in the Infants department, we read in the report of 27th July 1915 by HMI Ivor Thomas

The lowest division numbering 110 children on the register is far too large for its classroom. To prevent unhealthy overcrowding, it will be necessary to exclude many of the children under 5 years of age unless more accommodation can be provided after the holidays.

A further report of 11th February 1916 complains again about the long main classroom being used by three classes at the same time. He suggested adapting one of the classrooms in the Old Boys' school and boarding off the dangerous steep steps to Llangyfelach Street. The LEA granted permission for this and so two classes shared this accommodation, one going in the morning session and the other in the afternoon.

It was hoped to go on to the building of a Girl's and Infants school as soon as the Boy's was finished but the 1914-1918 War put a end to this, unfortunately.

The Old Girl's school had accommodation for 270 pupils. In 1919 there were 370, by then they were using the parish hall.

250 were taught in the hall itself; 57 in the classroom; 33 on the stage; 30 in the Blue room; and 15 in the little room off this.

In 1920 there were 385 which definitely meant overcrowding, but some years were yet to elapse before anything could be done. Funds had to be found before a new school could even be thought about. With poverty and hardship all around this was no easy task. Most of the money was raised by children's concerts. Dressing the children for these and buying tickets to go and see them was a real problem. The sisters from the Convent helped to ease this by going round from house to house once a week to collect one shilling, allowing them to pay instalments. By the time the full amount was collected it was almost time to stage the next concert. No parent would dream of not attending the concert and many even brought their own chair to sit on.!

It was not until 1929 that the foundation stone of the present St Josephs School was laid by Dr Mostyn, Archbishop of Cardiff. Like the boy's school premises had to be purchased and demolished to make room for the new building, which was meant to accommodate

520 girls and 360 Infants in separate departments. This four-storey building has a very large basement which served as an air raid shelter during the 1939-1945 war.

The building occupies a prominent site at the junction of Llangyfelach Street and Caepistyll Street. It was due to the foresight and acumen of Fr Harrington that this site was acquired. Owing to the hilly nature of the district the restricted area of this site, as well as the large number of children to be accommodated, it was necessary to plan the building on four floors, and with something which must be unique, a playground on the roof which is used by the younger junior school pupils.

The school was planned with special attention to light, ventilation and air. All the rooms have maple floors and all the walls, floors and roof are constructed of reinforced concrete, which rendered the building fireproof from basement to roof. Having had to wait so long to build meant the cost far exceeded what it would have been in pre-war days (1914-1918). It cost £19,267 and a sizeable amount of this was raised by Fr Harrington during a visit to America to collect funds for this project. The Architect was Mr. Wilfred Morgan of Preston and it was erected by Messrs J & F Weaver Builders of Swansea.

On 6th October 1930 the new school was officially opened by his Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Bourne, assisted by his Grace, the Archbishop of Cardiff. Among those present were HMI Major Davies, Mr. I.J. Rees B.A. Director of Education, the Mayor of Swansea, the MP for Swansea and others.

The following account was taken from the Cambrian on the day of the opening and it gives us some idea of the atmosphere, excitement and the pride of the whole Catholic Community on this wonderful achievement.:-

This fine new St Josephs` RC Girls` Elementary School at Greenhill was formally opened today in the presence of the whole Catholic community of the town and others, by Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster. It was a real red-letter day. Caepistyll Steet and the main thoroughfare presented a veritable sea of faces as the St Josephs` Band (conductor Brickley) led a procession from the Priory to the school entrance. Following the bandsmen were several little girls clad in white, carrying a banner of our Lady of Lourdes, and then came the Cardinal Archbishop Dr. Mostyn, Archbishop of Cardiff, Fr Harrington and other local Catholic clergy, the Mayor (Councillor Lovell) and members of the corporation, and the scholars of the school in gym frocks with green braid bands.

Bunting flew everywhere, the Papal Flag from St Josephs Church and all kinds of flags- from the Union Jack to the homely apron from surrounding houses- and glorious sunshine illuminated a picturesque scene.

At the entrance Mr Morgan from Preston who designed the building, presented the Cardinal with a suitable inscribed gold key, and his Eminence opened the new building by asking Diving blessing upon the work.

The Cardinal met with a most cordial welcome, in his speech the Cardinal emphasised that the main object of every school was to enable children to know, love and serve God,

in the certainty that unless they did their duty to God as they conceive it, they could never to their duty to their fellowmen.

The Cardinal went on to speak on another point of general interest,

And it is this, and what I trust will have a voice in Parliament, this new school that we have built at great self-sacrifice is one of many schools which we are building all over England and Wales. You have heard a great deal in recent times of what is called the dual system. There are many critics of the dual system, but whatever happens to it or whatever people may say about it – this is absolutely certain that separate Catholic schools will always remain in England and Wales.

Alderman David Williams MP in congratulating said he was confident the work of the new school would reflect itself in the children of St. Joseph`s.

The infants occupied the top floor of the new building, the Girl` school Junior and Senior occupied the present St Josephs Primary School. Part of what was the original Boy`s school became a fully equipped Domestic science centre, which was officially opened on 3rd November 1931.

With the opening of Bishop Vaughan Comprehensive in 1966 the senior boys and girls transferred there and junior boys and girls were amalgamated forming the St Joseph`s Mixed School. The boys school in Convent street remained closed for 11 years until the opening of the Nursery unit , in what was the hall of the school on 1st September 1977.

Considerable alterations were necessary here in order to bring it up to DES requirements so plans were drawn up and submitted for approval by DES. A certain amount of Government money was allotted for this project but it was found to be insufficient to meet all the requirements and make it acceptable as a Grant Aided School.

Canon Trevor Driscoll, the parish priest of St Joseph`s whose idea it was to have the Nursery agreed to meet the extra cost. This would have been a much heavier burden on the parish were it not for the many volunteers who gave up evening and evening helping Canon Driscoll rewiring, plastering, painting and many other things.

It was opened initially as a 40 unit with a staff of two teachers and two nursery nurses. Now, 15 years later the number of children in the Nursery is about 100.

St Joseph`s continued to grow and it got to the state that once again, of either refusing children or extending. Above the nursery were three classrooms on one side and another three which were separated by partitions, on the other side of the building. These latter, together would make a superb hall.

Plans were drawn up, after some delay and sent to the Welsh Office for approval. They were passed but getting the work started was another problem. There was always some obstacle or other. Eventually, however, on 3rd September 1990 after a day of Inservice training, and while paint was still wet, the teachers and a few volunteers` helpers got

furniture into two classrooms and set them up ready to welcome the children in the morning.

Work on the new hall was to begin but once again there were problems. After some work had already been done, dry rot was discovered and the roof needed to be replaced. Not only was the dry rot found in the new hall, but in the classrooms, which had been looking so attractive. There was no option but to move to the parish hall once again. At first it was thought this move was for a couple of weeks, but it was many months later at the end of the school year, before they were able to set up their classrooms again.

It made life very difficult for those two classes as the hall was not only used for school purposes, but for various other parish functions throughout the year. In the end, however going back to what was like a brand-new school with a wonderful hall made it all feel worthwhile in September 1991, a third reception class started in the new unit.

And so perhaps that it is the end of extension, renovations and moves until sometime in the future there is a new St Joseph` Cathedral School.

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The school remains on the present site, and became St Joseph's Cathedral Primary School in 2012 with the merger of the Infants and Junior School