

I.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF WORKS OF CATHOLIC CHARITY  
IN LIVERPOOL

---

PART ONE  
FATHER NUGENT

---

- 1822 3rd March - James Nugent born in Hunter Street, behind the present Walker Art Gallery; the eldest of nine children, three boys and six girls; his brother John became a priest also; Joseph tried his vocation, but gave up.
- 17th March - James baptized at St. Nicholas' Copperas Hill.
- 1838 February - Went to St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw.
- 1841 Catholic Blind Asylum founded by Rev. Dr. Youens.
- 1843 Went to the English College, Rome.
- 1846 30th August - Ordained at St. Nicholas' by Bishop Brown.
- Curate at St. Alban's, Blackburn; returned to Liverpool to assist during the outbreak of famine fever, 1847.
- 1848 Transferred to St. Mary's, Wigan.
- 1849 1st January - Transferred to St. Nicholas', Liverpool.
- Opened a Ragged School in Spitalfields, a low quarter of the town, to take children off the streets.
- 1850 7th January - Catholic Middle School for Boys opened in Rodney Street, Father Nugent being the prime mover.
- 1851 28th March - Mainly through the efforts of Father Nugent, the Sisters of Notre Dame arrived in Liverpool to teach in the Poor School of St. Nicholas'. They started higher education for Catholic girls; soon moved to Mount Pleasant. They took over the Catholic Female Orphanage from the Sisters of Mercy 31st July; this was started under lay management in 1817.

2.

- 1853 Responsible for the Catholic Institute, Hope Street, for the higher education of Catholic boys; opened by Cardinal Wiseman 31st October. Father Nugent the Director until 1863.
- 1853 Easter Monday - Spoke on Temperance at Holy Cross School.
- 1854 With Mr. Rushton, the stipendiary, Father Nugent induced the Mayor to call a Town's meeting to "Save the Child".
- 1856 The Catholic Reformatory Association set up with Father Nugent secretary; children at first boarded out in existing reformatories, especially boys at Mount St. Bernard's, Leicestershire; this proved unsatisfactory; and local reformatories advised by Father Nugent.
- 1863 He is appointed first Catholic chaplain to Walton Gaol at a salary of £300 p.a. Stayed there until 1885. Decided criminals made by circumstances rather than by choice; better to save children from becoming criminals.
- 1864 Opened the Night Shelter and Refuge for destitute boys in Soho Street.  
15th August - the Reformatory Ship "Clarence" obtained from the Admiralty by Father Nugent went into commission off New Ferry.
- 1860-1967 Founded the Catholic Times and Catholic Fireside.
- 1869 Opened the Boys' Refuge at 62 St. Anne Street as a residential institution for boys with an Industrial Schools certificate; closed the Night Shelter and Refuge in Soho Street.
- 1866 Father Nugent one of a committee set up by Bishop Goss to inquire into the affairs of St. George's Industrial Schools opened in Everton Crescent 1851 and transferred to West Derby Road 1863. He remained a member of the committee until his death.

Institutions set up in this period but not by Father Nugent:

1864 St. Elizabeth's for girls in Soho Street; later transferred to Breckfield Road and placed under the Sisters of Mercy.

1867 St. Anne's, Mason Street, for girls; an off-shoot of St. George's, under the Sisters of Charity, first in Mason Street, Edge Hill, later in 1886 at Freshfield.

1858 St. Vincent's for boys; started in Everton Crescent as the Boys' Catholic Orphanage; moved to Beacon Lane in 1862 and placed under the Sisters of Charity.

All these institutions, as well as the Boys' Refuge and St. George's, had an Industrial Schools' certificate.

1870 Father Nugent takes the first party of Catholic children to Canada; the first of many visits to Canada and U.S.A.

1872 29th February - he started the League of the Cross to promote total abstinence, about the same time as Cardinal Manning in London.

9th March - Birkdale Farm School opened by the Catholic Reformatory Association for boys not suitable for sea training.

1875 Father Nugent opened the League of the Cross Hall, St. Anne Street as headquarters of the total abstinence movement; promoted Monday Night concerts at which the pledge was given.

1876 May Place Reformatory for girls opened by Catholic Reformatory Association, at first under the Sisters of Charity.

1880 "Clarence" set on fire by boys, but fire put out without loss.

1881 The Catholic Children's Protection Society, of which Father Nugent was a member, was established by Bishop O'Reilly to take in children who were destitute in order to emigrate those

4.

who were suitable to Canada. They took over the tenancy of 99 Shaw Street as a Reception Home.

- 1884 "Clarence" again set on fire, and burnt out.
- 1885 A second "Clarence" secured from the Admiralty by Father Nugent.  
31st December - Father Nugent resigned from the gaol chaplaincy.
- 1886 February - A serious mutiny on the "Clarence", with repercussion at the annual meeting of the Catholic Reformatory Association 25th March. Meeting broke up in confusion without a committee being appointed.  
Founds the parish of St. Joseph's, Blundellsands; church opened, November 1886.
- 1887 He resigns from parish work to devote himself to his other activities.
- 1889 Father Nugent at the First Catholic Congress of Laymen at Baltimore; spoke at the first session with Cardinal Gibbons.
- 1891 Police proceeded against more than 800 keepers of brothels in Liverpool; to provide shelter and to redeem many of the women Father Nugent brought the Poor Servants of the Mother of God to open St. Saviour's Refuge; opened at "Rosemont" Edge Lane.
- 1892 While he was on a visit to Rome he was made a Domestic Prelate by Leo XIII - 12th June.
- 1895 In Florida at the Annual Convention of the National Editorial Association of America.
- 1896 30th August - Golden Jubilee of his Priesthood at the Pro-Cathedral. Lord Derby, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, set up a committee to give public recognition to his work for Liverpool.

- 1897 5th May - presentation in St. George's Hall of his portrait and a purse of £1926. He gave the portrait to the city and it is in the Walker Art Gallery. The money he used for his works of charity.
- Opened the House of Providence, West Dingle, under the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary to check infanticide, and to protect unmarried mothers; devoted £1300 of his testimonial to this project. House later moved to "Kelton", Woodlands Road, Aigburth.
- Bought the Congregational Church, Burlington Street, renamed the Jubilee Hall, as headquarters of the League of the Cross.
- June - Bishop Whiteside opened Nazareth House, Great Crosby, for girls; Father Nugent appealed for funds.
- 1898 March - Appear the first issue of "Rescue Notes" to help finance the work of St. Saviour's and the House of Providence.
- December - In a letter to the press, urged the need for a Maternity Home for unmarried mothers.
- 1903 Banquet at the Adelphi Hotel to welcome him home from a long tour in U.S.A., presided over by Bishop Whiteside. Mr. L.S. Cohen, head of Lewis's, made the suggestion to erect a statue of Father Nugent in recognition of his life-long work.
- Catholic Truth Society conference in Liverpool, Cardinal Logue a visitor, and present at a Garden Party held by Father Nugent at the House of Providence; pleads again the need of a Maternity Home.
- 1904 Opens the House of Good Counsel Maternity Home in West Dingle by his own effort; age 82.
- Last journey to U.S.A. and Canada, to chaperon Abbot Casquet on his first lecturing tour. In September at St. Paul's

6.

Minnesota, his second home where some of his family were settled, he was taken ill.

- 1905 16th May - Sufficiently recovered to sail for home on S.S. Oceanic. On the voyage had a severe fall on deck injuring his head, but recovered, apparently.
- 27th June - Died at his home at Formby of pneumonia, caught on a visit to Liverpool to St. Saviour's Refuge. Grief in Liverpool was universal. The press and every pulpit in the city honoured him as Liverpool's greatest apostle of charity.
- 30th June - Pontifical Requiem at the Pro-Cathedral, where he had been baptized, ordained, celebrated his Golden Jubilee, and had served as a curate. The funeral procession was the greatest ever seen in Liverpool, crowds all the way out to Ford Cemetery; thirteen children's institutions were represented in the procession, five of them non-Catholic.
- 1906 8th December - Statue unveiled in St. John's Gardens, offered to the city by Bishop Whiteside. Around the pedestal Father Nugent is extolled as "Apostle of Temperance, Protector of the Orphan Child, Consoler of the Prisoner, Reformer of the Criminal, Saviour of Fallen Womanhood, Friend of All in Poverty and Affliction, an Eye to the Blind, a Foot to the Lamé, the Father of the Poor".

PART TWO  
FATHER BERRY'S HOMES

---

Father John Berry was a native of Ince Blundell and was sent to Ushaw by the Squire of Ince Blundell. He was ordained in Preston and his first curacy was at St. Patrick's, Park Place, Liverpool. About 1887 he became rector of St. Philip Neri's and Director of the Catholic Institute, thus being in the direct line of Father Nugent. He was more interested in the destitute boys of the city than in education, and in this also was like his predecessor. His particular concern was the boys of working age, especially the street traders.

1891 1st November - The St. Vincent de Paul Society, under the Presidency of P.E.J. Hemelryk, Esq., J.P., leased 105 Shaw Street and opened St. Vincent's Working Boys' Home and Night Shelter, the former for homeless boys in constant employment, but not earning enough to keep themselves; the latter for boys who were destitute; the aim being to keep them from the common lodging houses.

The Hon. Manager was Arthur Chilton Thomas, an old Stonyhurst boy, a barrister-at-law practising on the Northern Circuit.

1892 December - Father Berry leased No. 1 Marble Street, Williamson Square, as St. Philip's House for a similar purpose for street trading boys, and other stranded boys. He calculated there were 1,100 Catholic boys roaming the streets.

1893 St. Vincent's Home handed over to Bishop O'Reilly, 17th February, by the S.V.P. as they were unable to maintain it.

The Bishop placed it in charge of Father Berry. He opened a Night Shelter in a disused stable at the rear of the premises, and called it St. James' House.

- 1894 Death of Bishop O'Reilly and appointment of Bishop Whiteside.
- 1895 St. Bernard's Training House opened in Bute Street to discipline street boys preparatory to their admission to St. Vincent's, Shaw Street.
- St. James' Night Shelter moved to Everton Crescent.
- 1897 St. Philip's and St. James' closed owing to financial stringency, 20th May. St. Bernard's closed 30th October. 30th October - After helping 3,000 boys in five years, Father Berry forced to retire with a sense of failure; had to find a personal bond of £840 to cover losses.
- 31st October - There was no committee. The Homes known as "Father Berry's Homes" became for a time "Homes for Catholic Friendless Youths (late Father Berry's Homes)".
- A new committee was set up by the Bishop; Chairman - Francis W. Reynolds; Treasurer - W. J. Reynolds; Hon. Secretary - J. J. Shute. The Reynolds family became the financial backers of the scheme. A. Chilton Thomas, who had been Hon. Manager to Father Berry, continued in this post until his death, 21st July 1906.
- 1898 St. Bernard's and St. Philip's Houses re-opened; the latter at 29A Everton Crescent.
- F. W. Reynolds died and his sons, W.F. and J.P. Reynolds made over St. Vincent's Working Boys' Home as a memorial to their father.
- 99 Shaw Street was taken over from the Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society who moved their hostel to



53 Everton Road. 99 Shaw Street opened as Newman House, a hostel for boys self-supporting, and a club for Old Boys.

1900 "St. Vincent's Record" started, a monthly to keep in touch with Old Boys.

Emigration of children started to Canada directly from the Homes.

Interchange of children arranged between F.B.H. and Father Bans of the Crusade of Rescue to keep some of them away from unsuitable relations.

1901 Joined Canon St. John's Catholic Emigrating Association with a Home at New Orpington Lodge, Hintenburg, Ottawa.

1902 Homes resumed the title "Father Berry's Homes". Liverpool Catholic Children's Society gave up their hostel at 55 Everton Road, and it was taken over by F.B.H. and called St. Anthony's Home; used as a Remand Home, and a Home for small boys.

Took over emigration work of L.C.C.P.S. A. Chilton Thomas and Father Bans went to Canada to study emigration problems, and produced a very important report, stressing the need for amalgamation of the various agencies.

1903 Catholic Emigration Association came into being; included Father Berry's Homes, the Crusade of Rescue, and obviously the Birmingham Rescue Society, as the Rev. G. V. Hudson took out a party in October. Canon St. John became President and Father Bans, Secretary. At first Hintenburg reserved for boys, St. Antoine Street, Montreal, for girls.

1905 St. Anthony's, Everton Road, transferred to 95 Shaw Street, for school children.

October, a Bazaar in St. George's Hall produced £4,500, and cleared the capital debt.

- 1906 Our Lady's Home for Homeless Babies started at 93 Shaw Street in 1903 by the Hon. Mrs. Molyneux, taken over by F.B.H. -  
21st July - death of Arthur Chilton Thomas, aged 43 years.
- 1907 March - Father W. Pinnington, Hon. Sec. Catholic Children's Aid Committee appointed Hon. Director, Father Berry's Homes, by the Bishop, on conditions clearly laid down by Father Pinnington. The Babies' Home becomes a Memorial to Arthur Chilton Thomas. The Fourth Station of the Cross in Westminster Cathedral is the gift of his mother to the memory of Arthur Chilton Thomas.
- 1908 Father Pinnington takes another party of children to Canada.
- 1909 Father Pinnington is promoted to the Chapter. He resigns from Father Berry's Homes, as the conditions under which he had accepted office had been broken. He disapproved strongly of the methods of Austin Oates, K.S.G., who was in charge of the appeals and editor of "Homeless".
- 1910 Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J. gave "Readings from the Poets" at the Philharmonic Hall for Father Berry's Homes.
- 1911 Father Thomas George, D.D., Ph.D., accepted the Hon. Directorship of the Homes.  
Laundry and workshops set up, the latter for shoe-making and tailoring. Later a printing shop set up.  
Father George goes as Vice-Rector to the Beda College, Rome, and is promoted Monsignor.  
Bishop Whiteside becomes Metropolitan and Archbishop.  
Sudden death of Austin Oates; B. Essington Fay, an old boy of Father Nugent's becomes Office Manager.
- 1914 - 1918 First World War.  
St. Bernard's Home houses Belgian refugees for a time.

Col. J.P. Reynolds (Hon. Treasurer) and Col. J.J. Shute (Hon. Manager) away on active service.

200 Old Boys on active service.

Financial difficulties increasing.

1920 Seabank House, Formby, bought as a Holiday Home in place of Castle Blake, Moreton, on expiry of lease.

1923 Negotiations begun between Archbishop Keating and the Committee as to the amalgamation of F.B.H. with other children's works.

1924 1st March - end of F.B.H. as an independent entity.

#### LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S PROTECTION SOCIETY

1881 16th April - This Society was founded by Bishop O'Reilly for the protection of Catholic children to save their faith by emigrating them under Catholic auspices, as a number were being sent to Canada under Non-Catholic agencies. Father Nugent was a member of this committee. Its aims were: to set up a Home in Liverpool on a modest scale, to receive their destitute boys and girls, to give them some small training for a few months, then send them to Canada exercising all necessary supervision, also to found a receiving Home in Canada. In a short time £2,000 was contributed to this work. At first the girls were placed with the Sisters of Charity, Mason Street, and the boys in the Orphanage, Beacon Lane, for training.

30th June - The first small party sailed to Quebec, and went to Lindsay, Ontario. They numbered sixteen - 8 girls and 8

boys, under Mrs. Wain. The priests around Lindsay supervised them. Father Nugent promised to make more permanent arrangements, and the Grey Nuns of Ottawa and the Sisters of Providence, Kingston, promised help.

99 Shaw Street rented as a Hostel for the children.

Mrs. Lacy, matron of 99 Shaw Street, took two parties to Canada each year, and reported on those already emigrated.

- 1888 1,100 children emigrated since 1881.
- 1894 Death of Mrs. Lacy who had taken 1,511 children to Canada.  
Miss Yates becomes honorary matron of 99 Shaw Street.
- 1896 Death of Mr. Richard Yates, president of the Society from its inception. Bishop Whiteside appoints Mr. Doughan president.  
Children now going to Miss Brennan's hostel, Montreal.  
Richard Yates, assistant secretary.
- 1897 Sisters of Nazareth, Great Crosby, offer to take over the girls from 99 Shaw Street.  
Concern of the Committee at the few children offered for emigration.
- 1898 Father James Hughes going to Canada and U.S.A. offers his services to the committee; is asked to report on conditions at the hostel, and adequacy of after-care arrangements. He made his report in October.
- 1899 Complaints from the Canadian Government about some workhouse children being medically unfit for emigration. Only one party sent out this year owing to lack of funds.
- 1900 Chilton Thomas, on behalf of Father Berry's Homes, rented 53 Everton Road, and sub-let it to the committee of L.C.C.P.S. Mr. Hemelryk promised £25 to help the finances, then at a low ebb, if nine others would do the same.

- 1901 In view of the financial position the committee considered whether they should carry on this work after the current year." Chilton Thomas wrote to the committee about the possibility of an amalgamation of Emigration Societies. Mr. Gradwell deputed to discuss this matter with Father St. John in London.
- 1902 Committee decided it was impossible to carry on the Home in Everton Road any longer. The Home handed back to Chilton Thomas 16th March and the Society ceased to emigrate children, but undertook to assist other agencies doing the work as far as finances permitted.
- 1906 Capitation fees of £14 per head paid to Father Pinnington (Catholic Children's Aid Committee) for twelve children and to Father Berry's Homes at the request of Mr. J. J. Shute for forty two children, for whom no public funds were available. This system obtained for some years.
- 1915 To avoid litigation as to one third of the residuary estate of Father James Eager, as between the L.C.C.P.S., Father Berry's Homes, and the Catholic Children's Aid Committee, the committee of the L.C.C.P.S. resigned their share.
- 1921 A legacy from Alice Durham of £818 11 6, plus £29 13 8 standing to the credit of the Society deposited with the diocese at 4%.
- 1923 15th November - Proposal to amalgamate the L.C.C.P.S. with Father Berry's Homes, and the Catholic Children's Aid Committee accepted by the committee. Money standing to the credit of the Society at date £897 14 7.  
1st March - The amalgamation took place, the amalgamated Charities becoming known as the L.C.C.P.S.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S  
AID COMMITTEE

1894 - 1900 Bishop Whiteside set up the following Poor Law Schools under the general supervision of Father Pinnington:

Bishop O'Reilly Memorial Schools at Leyfield, West Derby, and St. Vincent's, Fulwood, Preston.

Moorfields, Preston.

Greenfield House, Billinge.

Knolle Park, Woolton.

It was due to the unremitting efforts of Fathers Pinnington and Fred. Smith, members of the West Derby Union, that the Guardians were persuaded to board out Catholic children in Catholic Institutions. This was achieved mainly by a threat to get relations of Catholic Poor Law children to refer all cases to the Local Government Board on appeal.

1899 Bishop Whiteside set up the Catholic Children's Aid Committee at la Trueman Street as a bureau for advice on all matters affecting Catholic destitute children; Father Pinnington was appointed secretary.

Soon it was found necessary to place children in Homes; also that a Receiving Home was needed, and the Sisters of Charity in Everton Crescent devoted part of their premises to this purpose for girls. It soon developed into a Residential Home. Nazareth Houses, Lancaster, for girls, and Ditton, for boys, had followed shortly after Nazareth House, Great Crosby opened in 1897.

1906 Father James O'Connell became assistant to Father Pinnington at Trueman Street, and continued until the amalgamation, 1924.

- 1902 Bishop Whiteside started the Good Shepherd collection among the school children during Lent, copying the scheme from Westminster started the previous year. The first year's collection amounted to £270. 1945 it reached £10,055. This money was ear-marked for the Catholic Children's Aid Committee.
- 1903 St. Edward's Orphanage opened for boys.
- The Catholic Children's Aid Committee did not publish annual reports, so it is not possible to give a detailed account of their activities, but they acted as a feeder to Father Berry's Homes, as well as to other Homes, and early took up the work of emigration, ultimately becoming the chief emigration agency for the diocese, and being one of the founder members of the Catholic Emigration Association with Westminster, Southwark, and Birmingham, in 1904.
- Industrial Schools and Reformatories; the following were closed after the 1914-1918 War, as redundant:
- May Place Reformatory.
- St. Elizabeth's Industrial School.
- The Boys' Refuge.
- St. Anne's Industrial School, Freshfield.
- 1923 St. George's Industrial School, West Derby Road, was transferred to the premises vacated by St. Anne's.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S  
PROTECTION SOCIETY  
(1924 - 1949)

1924 1st March - Through the efforts of Archbishop Keating, and with the co-operation of Monsignor Pinnington, V.G., and Sir James Reynolds, Bart., and the members of the committees of the three societies concerned (L.C.C.P.S., F.B.H., L.C.C.A.C.) the amalgamation was effected under the title of the above Society, and under a constitution drawn up by Richard Yates, with Monsignor Pinnington as Administrator and Chairman, and Father John Bennett as Secretary. It had been a condition insisted on by Father Berry's Homes Committee that Canon O'Connell should not be associated with the new Society except as a member of the Committee. The new Committee was composed of the members of the previous three committees. The office at 1a Trueman Street was to be kept on for dealing with applications, and the office at 99 Shaw Street for finance and appeals. Archbishop Keating sent me to stay for a few days with Monsignor Hudson at Coleshill to learn something of the work from him. When Father Hudson began his work at Coleshill he had paid a visit to Liverpool with Canon Keating (as he then was) to study methods here. It was part of an agreed policy to move children from Shaw Street because of lack of amenities, and also to close down the Girls' Home in Everton Crescent under the Sisters of Charity for the same reason.



3rd May - St. Anthony's Home for girls, 95 Shaw Street was closed, and I took up residence there.

In August, B. Essington Fay, former manager of Father Berry's Homes resigned, and W. A. Kieran came into the work.

1925 At Easter I was instructed to close St. George's Working Boys' Home in Everton Road, mainly at the request of the Home Office. St. Anthony's Home for boys, 97 Shaw Street, was also closed.

October - I took a party of children to Canada to get to know emigration conditions.

1926 3rd March - The Babies' Home, 93 Shaw Street, was finally closed, and the children transferred to 12 Holly Road, to a new Home under the Sisters of Charity.

The Working Boys' Home, 105 Shaw Street, had been considerably re-organized on a more constructive basis, the matron, Mrs. Barry, who had been there since the start in 1891, was retired, and Nurse Lees, for many years Matron of the Babies' Home, was transferred to the Working Boys' Home.

The Girls' Home in Everton Crescent was closed.

1928 Death of Archbishop Keating; succeeded by Archbishop Downey. Moral Welfare Work for child assault cases recognized by the Education Authority, the work being done by Miss Desmond. A legacy of £12,000 received from the Kennedy estate when the financial position was growing desperate.

1929 The Sisters of Charity withdrew from the Babies' Home owing to differences I had with the Superior, and lay staff took over. Emigration: We were once more dealing with men and families as well as children, and took over the work of the Catholic Emigration Society from Father Linus Berger, O.F.M. Conv.

Outgoing ships were visited every week to see to the welfare of Catholic migrants, especially under Ministry of Labour schemes.

In May I took out a party of children, and visited all the main centres across Canada to inquire into the adult emigration schemes. I reported them as almost a complete failure. Visited also the Clandonald Colony in Alberta under Father Andrew MacDonnell, O.S.B. Submitted a report to the local emigration committee of the Ministry of Labour.

Spent some weeks in New York studying the methods of the New York Catholic Charities, and also the National Catholic Welfare Organization in Washington.

1930 A Children's Welfare Centre under the Sisters of Charity and the Ladies of Charity was opened in Everton Crescent by Monsignor Pinnington.

I took another party of children to Canada. Owing to the economic situation, emigration was drawing to an end after sixty years.

1932 12th April - Death of Monsignor Pinnington, whom I was appointed to succeed as Administrator.

December - Death of Sir James Reynolds.

The office at Trueman Street was closed, and all work concentrated at Shaw Street.

1933 Father W. Lancaster became Secretary.

St. George's Home, Ottawa, finally closed, and the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres returned to this country.

1935 Boys from the Working Boys' Home were encouraged to leave Liverpool for better employment centres such as London, Birmingham, Lancaster, and other towns, and much help in

supervision was given by the S.V.P. Brothers. The results were very satisfactory, as Liverpool is a bad centre for anything but casual labour for boys.

1936 Catholic Enquiry Office: For eleven months, at the request of the Archbishop, we operated a Catholic Enquiry Office to deal with and advise on many problems of a social and legal nature, until the setting up of the Catholic Social Service Bureau at Trueman Street.

Help afforded to Spanish refugee families.

A movement towards centralisation noted in the fact that I was by this time Chairman of the Catholic Reformatory Association which manages St. Thomas More School, Birkdale (formerly Birkdale Farm School), and St. Aidan's School, Farnworth (formerly the "Clarence" Training Ship); correspondent for St. George's School, Freshfield, and on the committee of St. Vincent's School, Beacon Lane, and Blackbrook House, St. Helens; correspondent for Pontville School, Ormskirk, Allerton Priory Woolton, and Gillibrand Hall, Chorley. Also on the committee of Druids Cross Orphanage.

1937 Babies' Home placed in the care of the Soeurs des Petits from Antwerp, who specialise in the care of babies and toddlers. Arrangements made for the care of Basque children in this area until their return home.

Scheme of child emigration to Western Australia approved by the Hierarchy.

1938 Help afforded to German and Austrian refugee children. Catholic Child Welfare Council met in Liverpool in November. As an experiment a conference was held of religious and lay staffs and committees from the North West under the

Chairmanship of His Lordship Bishop Griffin. I read a paper on "Standards in Children's Institutions" which was followed - by a discussion in which members of the Catholic Child Welfare Council joined.

- 1939 War started 3rd September. Babies' Home evacuated to Greenfield House, Billinge; St. Vincent's, Beacon Lane to Capel Curig; St. Aidan's, Farnworth to Langdale End, near Scarborough.
- 1940 Evacuation of school children caused a drop in the Good Shepherd Collection of £1,300.
- 1940 March - Babies' Home returned to Holly Road.
- Collapse of France brought forward a scheme for the evacuation of British children to the Dominions. At the insistence of Bishop Griffin and Canon Craven to Cardinal Hinsley, I was delegated to act as the Catholic representative on the Children's Overseas Reception Board set up by the Dominions Office.
- 5th August - Sailed as escort with a party of children to Canada. Returned 6th September. The scheme was abandoned owing to heavy shipping losses and the grave danger to the children.
- 10th September - Babies' Home evacuated at midnight during blitz; taken to Leyfield, and then to Bolton Hey, Roby.
- 1941 February - Babies' Homes moved to Freshfield.
- May Blitz - £20,000 damage at Leyfield.
- 1943 A trained moral welfare worker appointed to deal with the war-time increase in unmarried mothers and babies. Society registered as an Adoption Society.
- 1st October - Opening of the Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic

at 2 Maryland Street in co-operation with the Sisters of Notre Dame, Mount Pleasant, on the lines of the Clinic in Glasgow. Father Gerard Donnelly appointed secretary.

1945 Miss Porter resigned as moral welfare worker owing to ill health; succeeded by Miss Rockliffe.

31st October - Working Boys' Home closed, as the need for it had declined, and it was almost empty. It had been open for fifty-four years. Geoffrey Goss, superintendent for over twenty-five years was put on pension.

1946 Efforts now being made to find foster parents for deserted children.

Help afforded to mothers of families by taking children while the mothers are in hospital.

Adoptions completed this year, 45.

October - Publication of the Curtis Report on the Care of Children Deprived of a Normal Home.

Hostel for unmarried mothers opened at 14 Holly Road.

A second moral welfare worker, Miss Latham, appointed.

Family Care Worker appointed, Miss Hughes.

1947 October - A short course on Child Care for two weeks, exclusive to religious, was held at Mount Pleasant Convent, and attended by seventy-five Sisters from all parts of the country.

1st September - His Grace the Archbishop implemented a decision of the Hierarchy by placing all the Children's Institutions in the Archdiocese under one central authority, the Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society. Legal adoptions for the first time over fifty, actually fifty-four, thirty of whom were boys.

1948 Purchase of Shaftesbury House, Formby, after a public inquiry, for St. Vincent's School, formerly Beacon Lane, and still not returned from evacuation.

All Children's Institutions other than Schools for Handicapped Children, placed under the care of one Ministry, the Home office, in accordance with the Children Act, 1948.

1949 1st January - Centenary of Father Nugent starting his work for children and others in Liverpool.

1st March - the Silver Jubilee of the Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection in its present form.

Also the Silver Jubilee of my association with this work.

J. Canon Bennet

16th January 1949

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES/NUGENT CARE SOCIETY  
1950 to 1995

- 1950 High Mass celebrated at the Pro Cathedral to celebrate centenary of Father Nugent. Celebrant was His Grace the Archbishop.
- Family Group Home opened at Aughton Park for 20 children providing all the amenities of a large family.
- 1951 Each year an average of 50 adoptions are arranged and we have a hostel for unmarried mothers providing protection for girls and their babies who are waiting a settlement of their difficulties.
- 1952 Nazareth House, Crosby, Home for girls now receives some boys and the home for boys at Ditton receives some girls. In both houses the older children attend outside local schools.
- 1953 Development of the practice of placing children into foster homes. Services now include Child Welfare Clinic to which mothers bring their babies each week. Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic to deal with children who have problems.
- 1954 Rt. Rev. Mgr. Canon J. Bennett, Administrator, invited by the Home Secretary to serve on the Central Advisory Council and Central Training Council in Child Care.
- 1955 In September, after 104 years association with the Catholic Girls Orphanage, Druids Cross, the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur withdrew from this work in which they were a pioneering charity for our Catholic orphan girls.
- Changing social conditions mean that 2/3rds of children coming into care require only temporary accommodation, usually while mother is in hospital.
- 1956 Leyfield Girls Home, West Derby closed owing to economic difficulties due to drastic fall in the number of children and 7 Sisters of Charity and 50 children transferred to Druids Cross Home which had been handed over to the Society by the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur following its closure in 1955. St. Edwards' Orphanage closed at the end of September, also due to economic difficulties. The main concern was to establish a small hostel for boys.

1957

Following the closure last year of St. Edwards, The Society opened a small hostel for 10 boys at 25 Fairfield Crescent.

Sisters of the Little Ones (Soeurs des Petits) took over the hostel at Holly Road for expectant unmarried mothers.

The Mater Dei Hostel in Blundellsands run by the Legion of Mary provides for 182 mothers and babies.

The babies home at Freshfield is in steady demand and like the hostel in Holly Road is under the Sisters of the Little Ones. This home is equipped to care for babies from 2 weeks old and is now recognised as a Nursery Training Centre.

St. Catherine's Druids Cross now the responsibility of this Society is for 50 boys and girls and is established on a family group base under the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

During the year the Administrator visited Malta at the invitation of the Archbishop of Malta and Lady Laycock the wife of the Governor of Malta. He advised on methods of care of children. His subsequent report was adopted in its entirety and a number of Maltese religious came to this country to take part in the Home Office approved course to train as House Mothers.

1957/63

There is a gap in the records during this period as no Annual Reports were published.

1965

January - Mgr. Bennett appointed Protonotary Apostolic  
25th June 1965 - Mgr. Bennett died.

Archbishop Beck -  
Father Dunne appointed as Administrator.

Summary of facilities now provided by the Agency:

St. Gabriels, Woolton - Poor Servants of the Mother of God. 78 children. Boys and girls; 2 - 15 years.

Nazareth House, Crosby - Sisters of Nazareth. 25 children. Boys and girls; 2 - 15 years.

Eton Lodge Training Home for girls - Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Girls; 15 - 18 years.

Clumber Lodge - Sisters of the Little Ones.  
Residential Nursery. Also Nursery Nurses Training Centre. 30 children up to the age of 5 years.



Newstead - Sisters of Charity of St. Paul the Apostle.  
25 children. Boys and girls; 2 - 15 years.

St. Catherine's, Druids Cross Road, Woolton - Sisters  
of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. 50 children; boys  
and girls; 2 - 15 years.

Fairfield Crescent. Boys family group home. 12 boys.

#### Affiliated

Holly Road, Fairfield - Sisters of the Little Ones.  
Mother and Baby Home.

Mater Dei, Blundellsands - Legion of Mary. Mother and  
Baby Home.

Child Guidance Clinic, Maryland Street - Sisters of  
Notre Dame.

#### Approved Schools

St. Thomas More, Birkdale. 95 boys up to the age of  
18 years.

St. Aidan's, Farnworth. 120 boys up to the age of 17  
years.

Greenfield House, Billinge. 80 boys up to the age of  
17 years.

St. George's, Freshfield. 110 boys up to the age of 15  
years.

St. Vincent's, Formby. 47 boys up to the age of 13  
years.

Blackbrook House School, St. Helens for 60 girls up to  
the age of 15 years.

1966

Beginning of efforts to co-ordinate all services and  
develop new services to meet needs yet unprovided for.  
As a first step invited Catholic Social Services  
Bureau, Truman Street, to share premises. This agency  
was a Family Welfare Service; to be adapted as a  
Family Case Work Service. Act also as a referral  
centre, Citizens Advice Bureau and a Training Unit for  
Family Case Workers. The service of Court  
Missionaries to operate from this Agency.

Introduction of new training course devised by Home Office to allow staff to remain in post and undertake training on a day release basis for a Residential Child Care Certificate. Idea welcomed by all of our homes.

Small groups established to help children with learning difficulties to participate in the liturgy. Special methods of instruction devised. Imaginative teaching aids, including tape recording and music. Individual tuition given. Sisters, teachers, parish organisations, 5th & 6th year students from Grammar and Comprehensive School were all involved. 96 children attend the various groups. There are centres in Chorley, Widnes, Warrington, St. Helens and the Isle of Man. This year hope to start groups in Ormskirk, Leigh and Wigan. As well as being prepared for Confirmation, Confession and Holy Communion, children take part in Nativity Plays, May Processions and have their own retreat.

1967 All the establishments full. Whilst Local Authorities provide monies, considerable expense falls on the Society in maintaining the establishments.

Oct. 22. Archbishop Beck preached to full cathedral at Mass for Handicapped People.

Unmarried Mothers. Age range of mothers 14 - 41 years. 322 cases dealt with during year. 123 mothers were admitted to our Mother & Baby Homes. Of 199 mothers who did not require accommodation, adoption arranged for the baby in 70 cases. Services for children with severe learning difficulties continue to thrive and develop and new groups opened in Ormskirk, Maghull and Bootle during the past year.

1968 Two new groups for children with learning difficulties in Garston and Halewood. Boys and girls now going out to work from approved schools after they pass school age. The Court service continues as an expression of our Christian concern, as many fall through the net of the Probation Service.

1969 As part of the training in Social Work services that we provide, this year 15 parishes of the Archdiocese who are involved in community work have been brought together in a support group and the University put on a course in Community Development.

Children Act 1969. Looks at the whole range of residential provision. In negotiation with Home Office and Local Authorities so we may play full part in the proposed system.

1970 Council of the Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society changed its name to Catholic Children's Society.

Oct. Catholic Social Services Bureau became affiliated to the Society and work fully merged.

Court Missionary Services - 25 men and women were helped during the year.

Work using volunteers started in 1969 is now established and some of the results can be seen. Groups exist in suitable premises throughout the Archdiocese to do welfare work: S.V.P - 173 groups; Union of Catholic Mothers 75 groups. Other associations draw in many volunteers. There are 20 groups throughout Archdiocese working with people with learning difficulties. These groups are visited weekly and an there is an Annual Mass for them at the Cathedral in October of each year.

New post of Professional Adviser established to enable the Society to take on new responsibility implied by Children & Young Person Act 1969. Under the Act the Society will be responsible for "Community Homes" technical term applied to all places providing residential accommodation for children.

1971 St. Catherine's Children's Home, Druids Cross, Woolton closed during the year. Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul no longer able to staff this work.

1972 Training & Consultancy Development - The Agency continues to act as placement for trainee social workers from Universities and Colleges.

Services for children with learning difficulties - 218 children now being helped by the Society. Each group arranges its own weekly programme but representatives attend quarterly meetings to share their experiences.

Flatlet Scheme, set up in Grey Road, Liverpool for 5 unsupported mothers with their babies.

Training Officer to be appointed to assist recruitment, selection and training of new staff. To be attached to the Child Guidance Centre which is developing its role in relation to work with children in residential care.

- 1973 Requests for assistance continue to grow in the areas of family case work, family advice, and court social work.
- Marjorie Hughes - Children's worker - retired in 1973 after 49 years service.
- As a result of a National study ("Children who Wait") it is estimated that amongst 6000 children in care waiting for families as many as 2000 may be Catholic. The Adoption Team is developing its service to find families.
- An Urban Aid grant was received to extend work with volunteer groups working in the community. Group Worker appointed.
- Holly Road Mother and Baby Home closed as there is no longer the need for such accommodation.
- 1974 Development of Holly Road as short stay facility for mentally handicapped children and adults. 33 families involved who between them have 40 children or adults.
- Training day for helpers. 90 voluntary workers attended.
- Bishops set up Social Welfare Committee to look at improvements to be made in working with the elderly.
- 1975 Extensive modernisation and reorganisation of residential establishments commenced this year. Modernising buildings to provide units where children can live as a group with their own house parents. Established two special units - one at Blackbrook House and one at St. Aidan's for children with violent or disruptive behaviour.
- Changed name of Society from Catholic Children's Society to Catholic Social Services.
- Family Advice and Case Work service provided by team of 8 workers. Dealt with over 1000 individuals and families.
- Children Act 1975 gave the right to adoptees to obtain details of the record of their birth.
- Deaf People - Work was carried out by S.V.P. and Sisters of Charity. The latter have had to withdraw from the work and so service is to receive more support from the Archdiocese. A Sister of Our Lady of Evron will be joining staff as full-time social worker with deaf people.

Bishops' Social Welfare Committee carried out survey on the needs of the elderly. One day conference held in Liverpool. Subsequently 3 groups formed to work on the issues raised at the Conference. The homes provided by religious orders in the Archdiocese care for 715 elderly men and women. Christopher Grange provides care for 81 elderly blind people.

Archbishop Beck retired.

Bishop Worlock from Portsmouth appointed Archbishop of Liverpool.

1976 Fairfield Crescent Home for boys closed.

Residential services to take over management of Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt shelter for homeless.

Agency to offer advisory service for homes in the archdiocese that cater for elderly and handicapped people.

Child Guidance Centre in Maryland Street closed.

Developed service which parishes can call upon for support and advice to meet local needs. First group of volunteers established in Netherton numbering 12.

1977 Appointed Adviser in Community Care of the Elderly. Advice and Information Services received 1500 referrals during the year. Training volunteers in the Netherton Project.

1978 Bishop Harris, Chairman of the Society, appointed as Bishop of Middlesbrough. Father Dunne resigned 31st August 1978 to devote himself to pastoral work. He had been administrator of the Society for 13 years.

Society took over responsibility for Marmaduke House, which accommodates 18 homeless men and Ozanam House, Green Lane, which accommodates 20 men.

1979 Mother Teresa opened a house for homeless women in Seel Street, Liverpool. The agency was asked to provide a service for problem drinkers.

Services for People with Learning Difficulties. There are now 26 groups. This puts the agency in touch with approximately 1000 people.

1980 Work with the elderly increasing with over 400 referrals. Annual Mass held at the Cathedral for Elderly People.

1981 Centenary Year. It might be appropriate to list those who have headed the service from its inception to the present day.

1881 - 1891 - Mgr. James Nugent - Administrator  
1891 - 1898 - Father John Berry  
1898 - 1932 - Mgr. William Pennington  
1932 - 1965 - Mgr. John Bennett  
1965 - 1978 - Mgr. James Dunne  
1978 - 1981 - Mr. Anthony McCarthy  
1981 - 1993 - Miss Bridget Fann  
1994 Mr. John Kennedy

Miss Kathleen Moriarty, who joined the agency in 1939, was honoured for her services with the award of the Papal Honour Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice?????

1981 St. Aidan's, Farnworth closed. Direct successor to the training ship HMS Clarence set up by Mgr. Nugent.

1982 Newstead Children's Home closed.

Pope John Paul II paid a visit to Liverpool. He made reference to the work of Father Nugent.

1983 10th Jan. Nugent House School for Children with Special Needs opened on the former site of Greenfield House. Officially opened by Archbishop Worlock.

Liverpool Mentally Handicapped Information Service jointly funded by Liverpool Area Health Authority, Liverpool Social Services and ourselves.

Gairloch, Victoria Road, Freshfield opened to provide holiday and respite care for the elderly. Official opening in May by Bishop Hitchen.

1984 Newstead to become an establishment for physically handicapped people. Officially opened in Jan. 1984 by Archbishop Worlock.

Wilfred Kieran died. He started work in the Agency in the 1920's with Cannon Bennett and toiled for 50 years in the service of the agency. Knight of St. Gregory.

Clarence House has become educational establishment for St. Thomas More and St. George's boys with curriculum developed on the advice of the D.E.S. Officers.

- 1985 Advice and Information referrals continue to increase
- St. Vincent's has this year seen further development as a Children's centre following major changes of last year.
- Lime House - a new home for 30 elderly people in Lowton opened as a joint project between C.S.S., Wigan Social Services and Wigan H.A.
- St. Thomas More Centre at Birkdale - continued re-development with the closure of the St. Thomas More Community Home with Education. New projects on the site include the Chancellor Project opened as a Youth Training Scheme and a variety of services and groups for elderly people based at Margaret Roper House. Crosby House, the name given to the original main school building is a rehabilitation unit for people who have been in psychiatric hospitals. Bishop Hitchen was the chief celebrant at the Mass for the official opening.
- A group of 15/16 elderly housebound people, known as the Wednesday group, meet in Cecily Heron House.
- 1986 St. Vincent's children's centre fully occupied with 36 children.
- Clarence House received approval to increase number of pupils to 90.
- 1987 In January a fifth unit was opened at Clarence House. It was officially opened by Bishop John Rawsthorne on 2nd July 1987. Approved to take up to 100 pupils including 25 day pupils.
- In September the Sisters of the Little Ones celebrated 50 years of service to the Archdiocese, having come to the agency in 1937 at the invitation of Cannon Bennett.
- 1987 was the Year of Celebrating Age. The Agency began its celebrations in July with the Annual Mass with retired and elderly people and the usual 1 day Autumn Festival was extended to a week of festivals.
- 1988 This year saw the setting up of Alzheimers Disease Support Groups in the Merseyside area.
- New training centre at Elizabeth Daunce House was opened.
- 1989 Margaret Roper House officially opened on 28th April 1989 by Rt. Hon. Lord Ennals.

During the year part of our beginnings became part of our future when the Agency moved back onto the Kelton site following the departure of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. This site was originally purchased by Father Nugent.

Isle of Mann - September 1989 Miss Mary Ling retired after 25 years of service as the social worker for the Agency on the island.

1990 On 26th March 1990 Othona Children's Home opened on the St. Thomas More site and the boys left in St. Vincent's transferred to Othona. St. Vincent's closed.

Two new residential homes for Elderly Severely Mentally Ill people developed during the year in partnership with the Health Authority and will be managed and run by Catholic Social Services. Hitchen Court in Garston and Geel in Aigburth. Both will accommodate 24 residents.

Training - The training section has continued to develop and is now based on part of the Kelton site where there are more facilities to develop a Training Centre.

1991 Advice and Information referrals now over 5000, which reflects growing poverty in society and highlights the pressure placed on people caused by the restraints of the Social Fund.

New nursing Home to be known as Kelton Grange opened in July on the Kelton site in Aigburth.

Sister Elizabeth retired as Head of Blackbrook, ending the long Association of the Sisters of Charity with the Home.

Clarence House opened special accommodation for a new Junior Department.

Gairloch closed in September 1991.

1992 Blackbrook House opened in the 1920s as an orphanage and subsequently became an Approved Home/ Community Home with Education. Since 1930 the work was supported by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, closed this year. The Home closed this year.

Advice & Information received 5000 referrals, 1413 of which concerned financial problems.



Miss Angela Plater celebrated her 90th birthday this year but continues to give the Society the benefit of her long experience. She has been particularly involved in the Court Missionary work, which has undergone many changes over the years.

The Children's Fieldwork Section received 150 requests from adoptees for details of their birth records, many of them going on to trace their birth mother.

September this year saw the start of a specialist day care scheme providing individualised day support for people with learning disabilities.

On the 1st April a small Voluntary Children's Home was opened in Chain Lane on the former Blackbrook site to house 7 children aged 10 to 18 years of age.

Also on the 1st April, St. Catherine's Centre for Girls opened in the former Blackbrook House as an Assisted Community Home for 20 girls aged 11 to 18. As part of this development the Orrell School was established to provide education for the girls at St. Catherine's.

1993 The Society changed its name to The Nugent Care Society and the Duke of Norfolk became a Patron of the newly named Society. The name was chosen to honour the Founder, Mgr. James Nugent.

In November this year Miss Bridget Fann retired after 12 years as Director of the Society. Mr. John Kennedy was appointed as the new Director.

A new establishment, known as The Bungalow, opened on the Lime House site for 4 men with dual disabilities.

1994 The Sisters of Nazareth requested The Nugent Care Society to take on responsibility for their Children's Home in Nazareth House, Crosby. The Society was happy to do this.

Gairloch Family Centre changed from being a pilot project to a permanent establishment now known as the Gairloch Family Centre. The emphasis in the Centre is on self help so families are encouraged to find their way around in the local community.

Nugent House School received approval from the Department of Education to increase their numbers from 75 to 117 and now caters for children aged 7 to 19 years of age. A new lower school block was built and was officially opened by Archbishop Worlock.

- 1996 The Deposit Guarantee Scheme came into operation. in the first six months of the project 175 homeless or potentially homeless single people were interviewed by the project worker and given advice and assistance.
- 1997 The administrative office of the Children's Fieldwork Services Team transferred from Brownlow Hill to more spacious premises on the site of St. Catherine's Centre for Girls at Blackbrook.
- 1998 The Director John Kennedy and Archbishop Kelly visited Canada at the invitation of Home Children Canada.  
Angela Plater who was a key figure in the work of the society particularly with the Court Missionary Service died.  
The Society went on the web with it's own website.
- 1999 The Volunteer Management Project came into operation in April. The National Lotteries Charities Board will fund this area of work for three years.
- 2000 The Service for Children in the Isle of Man commenced in September and comprised an Adolescent Unit, three small Children's homes and an outreach service.  
The Society moved from Brownlow Hill to Edge Lane in November 2000. The society had been at Brownlow Hill since 1926.  
Moredale opened it's doors in July when staff and children relocated from the former home, Othona in Birkdale.  
Residents and staff move from Newstead to St. Josephs.  
Hollystead becomes the new home for the residents of Holly Road when they move in November.
- 2001 Children's villa at Nazareth House Lancaster closed with effect in February

**HEADS OF NUGENT CARE**  
**FROM 1881 -**

Supporting our community since 1881



**MONSIGNOR NUGENT**  
**ADMINISTRATOR 1881 - 1891**



**FR. BERRY**  
**ADMINISTRATOR 1891-1898**



**MONSIGNOR PINNINGTON**  
**ADMINISTRATOR 1898-1932**



**MONSIGNOR BENNETT**  
**ADMINISTRATOR 1932-1965**



**FR. J. DUNNE**  
**ADMINISTRATOR 1965 1978**



**MR. A. J. MCCARTHY**  
**ADMINISTRATOR 1978 - 1981**



**MISS B. FANN**  
**DIRECTOR 1981 - 1993**



**MR J. KENNEDY**  
**DIRECTOR 1993 - 2003**



**MS KATHLEEN PITT**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE 2003 -**

