

CONVENT OF MERCY

The Convent of Mercy is an integral part of St Mary's parish providing its chapel for Mass throughout the week. It also offers facilities for groups to meet throughout the year and especially during Lent when it becomes an ecumenical meeting place for a series of presentations and meetings.

It is located close to the city centre on the south-west edge where Durham Road and Tunstall meet. The convent is on Tunstall Road, bordered between Thornholme Road and Thornhill Terrace.

Two Convents are on this site; Oaklea, and Somerleyton, and the life and work of the Sisters of Mercy in both places can be summed up in the following quotation;-“As women in the Church today, we follow in the footsteps of our foundress, Venerable Catherine McAuley, by searching for God's Mercy and by working to alleviate and eradicate poverty, injustice, and oppression in collaboration with God's people.”

Searching for God's Mercy is principally done by our prayer life which basically consists of Meditation, Morning Mass, and the daily recitation of the Divine Office as well as other regular devotions.

Our work and care for the “poor, sick, and needy “is varied. Much of it takes place in the Convent itself where we extend a warm welcome to anyone seeking help, be they the poor men who come to us for food and clothes, or those who need Spiritual guidance, or a listening ear, or those who wish to pray, either alone in our chapel, or with various groups who meet for prayer.

Some Sisters visit people in their own houses or in the homes for the elderly, or in the hospitals, bringing spiritual and material comforts. Education still remains a vital apostolate with some Sisters involved in schools in the area. In addition the Sisters involve themselves in related apostolates e.g. working with the deaf, giving religious instructions. Also other Sisters work in the various parishes as Eucharistic Ministers, or Parish Sisters, There their work includes the running of, or the supporting of parish programmes such as R.C.I.A., parish councils, project for the Handicapped, Mother Teresa's Co Workers, Rainbows, Legion of Mary, etc.

The Sisters live a community or family life and appreciate the help of all the Sisters, who by their many gifts and talents keep the Convent running smoothly.

Behind it all the really old Sisters are devotedly and faithfully praying and living their Mercy Consecration which enables all the rest to become fruitful.

