

Father Michael Bell



Michael Bell was born in Edinburgh the 8th January 1927. He was educated at Holy Cross Academy Edinburgh and Campion House Osterley. He was ordained in Edinburgh in 1961.

Fr Bell was a member of the Society of Saint Sulpice, a Catholic Society of Apostolic Life founded in Paris and named after St. Sulpitius the Pious. Priests become members of the Society of St. Sulpice only after ordination. Uniquely for a Catholic Order they retain incardination in their own dioceses even after joining the society. The purpose of the society is mainly the education of priests and to some extent parish work. As their main role is the education of those preparing to become members of the presbyterate, Sulpicians place great emphasis on the academic and spiritual formation of their own members, who commit themselves to undergoing lifelong academic and spiritual development.

After his ordination in 1961 Fr Bell's first parish was St Patrick's Kilsyth where he served for 11 years from 1961 to 1972 as assistant Priest to Thomas Canon McGarvey the Parish Priest of St Patrick's at that time.

In 1972 upon the arrival of Fr Denis O'Connell and Father O'Brien into St Patrick's, Fr Bell moved to become the Parish Priest of Blanefield where he was to stay until 1985. In 1985 he was to move to what was to become his final Parish in Scotland that of St Catherine's in Edinburgh where he was to remain until 1989.

In 1989 Fr Bell moved to California in the United States where he ministered for 25 years even after retiring from his many roles there having been amongst other things, a prison Chaplin. He paid one final flying visit to St Patrick's Kilsyth unannounced in 2013 and quietly went to see the church where he had once been an assistant priest and visit the house where he had lived for 11 years. He was never to return to Kilsyth. After having a series of strokes Fr Bell died on 28th February 2015.

Faithful servant of God, may he rest in peace!

April 7th, 2015

Dear Rev. Daniel Doherty, Peter and Jean Rae
and parishioners of St. Patrick's Church:

Please accept our deepest gratitude for
the Holy Mass offered for dear Fr. Michael
Bell. It meant so much to all of us to
receive your kind note and to visit your
website. Truly, we are brothers and sisters
within the mystical Body of Christ. We
were so blessed to have had dear Fr. Bell
with us as long as we did. We all took
good care of him and tried our best to
please him. We mourn him deeply still.
He was a beautiful "shepherd" of souls,
keeping our traditional Latin Mass "flock"
on the path to Heaven. After his first
stroke, his first words to me were: "I
cannot lift my arms to do Consecration."

A sympathy letter to the parishioners of St Patrick's Kilsyth from the parishioners of St
Paul the Apostle Prismo Beach California

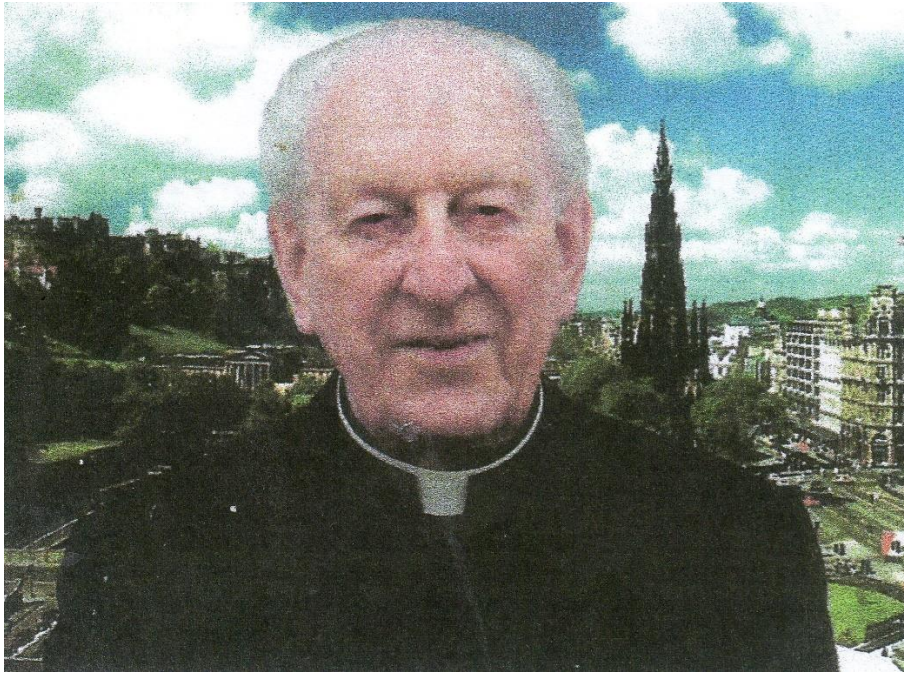
I assured him that with time and hard work of physical therapy, his arm strength would gradually return... his strong Scottish constitution would see him through the work ahead. He seemed relieved and at peace when I left him. He did very well for a week or so and then deteriorated with recurrent strokes.

Please find enclosed a CD of Fr. Bell's Requiem Mass & 'holy cards'. There is a plastic bag containing some soil gathered from his grave site. Hopefully, it will bring you comfort to sprinkle it on your Church garden... and know he is home.

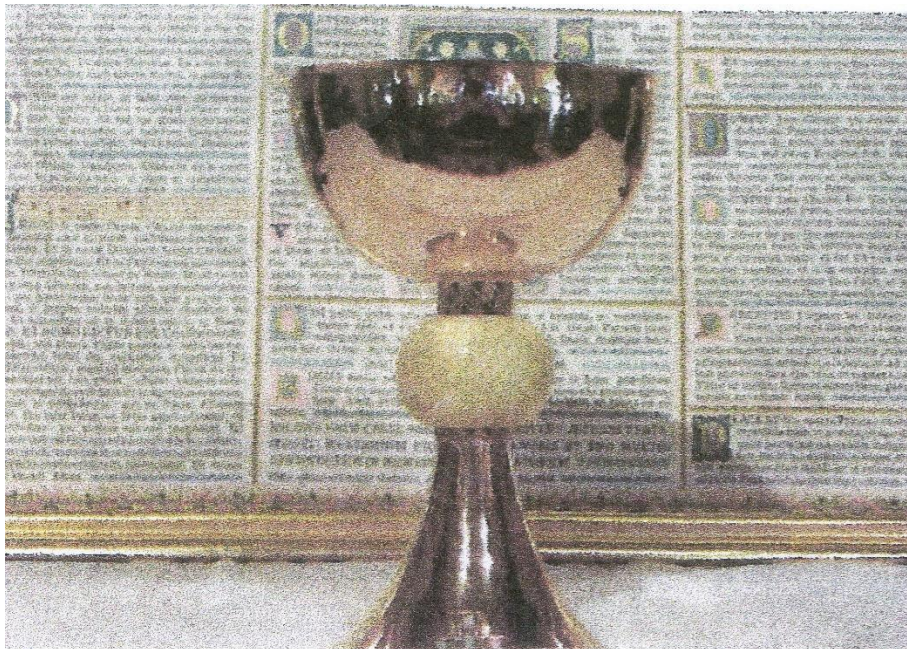
Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for sharing Fr. Michael Bell with us!

Sincerely yours,
The Latin Mass
Community of St. Paul
the Apostle, Pismo Beach,
California

A sympathy letter to the parishioners of St Patrick's Kilsyth from the parishioners of St Paul the Apostle Prismo Beach California



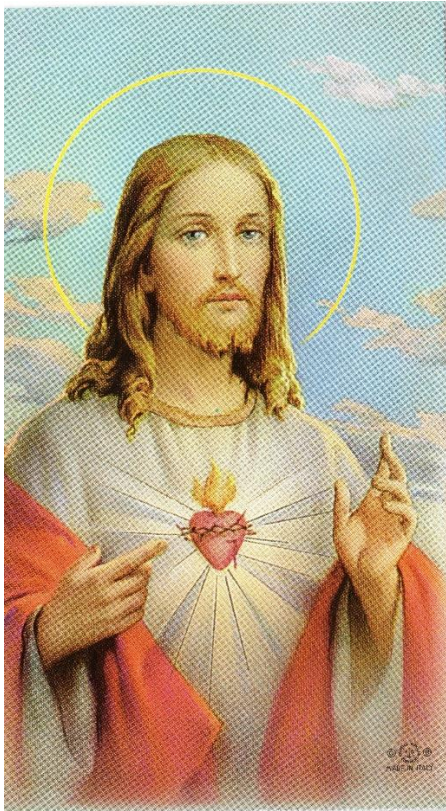
Fr Michael Bell



Fr Bell's Chalice

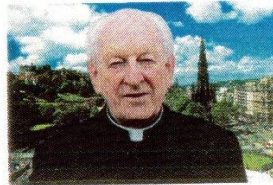


Fr Bell baptises John Trower in March 1966 with
Godparents Miss Catherine Trower and Mr
Michael McCue.



In Loving Memory of
Fr. Michael T. Bell

Member of Arch Diocese of
Edinburgh, Scotland
Jan. 8th 1927 ~ Feb. 28th 2015



The Lord ruleth me: and I shall want nothing. He hath set me in a place of pasture. He hath brought me up, on the water of refreshment: He hath converted my soul. He hath led me on the paths of justice, for his own name's sake. For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evils, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they have comforted me. Thou hast prepared a table before me against them that afflict me. Thou hast anointed my head with oil; and my chalice which inebriateth me, how goodly is it! And thy mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And that I may dwell in the house of the Lord unto length of days.

Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

Fr Bell's Memorial Card