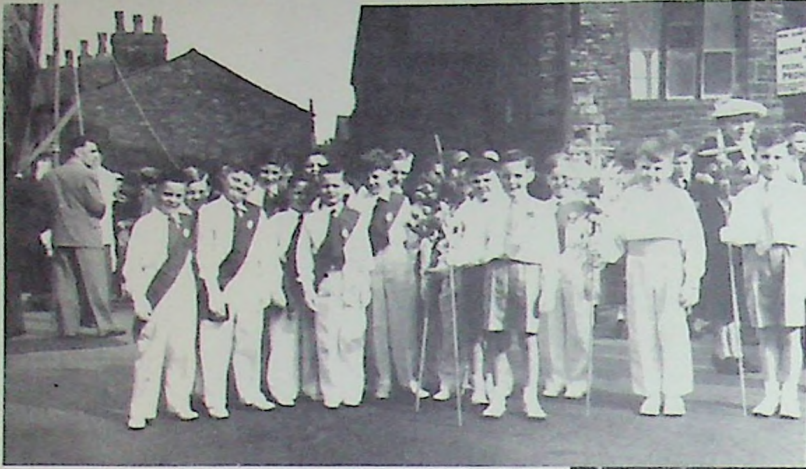


## *Assembling for the Walk*



**LEFT:** Some pageboys from the Crowning Group assemble in Hardybutts. The Junior Boys' School (1847 Church) is clearly seen in the background. The corner of the Girls' School and some houses in Hardybutts are also visible. (Date unknown).

**RIGHT:** A group of charming young ladies with one dashing young man, wait for their marching orders outside the present church. It looks as though it could have been taken recently but actually it is from the 1950's.



**LEFT:** The Blackburn Catholic Pipers who were frequent guests at the Whit Walks, warm up for some hard blowing outside St. Patrick's Church on a Whit Monday morning in the 1950's.

**RIGHT:** A group of young ladies and gentlemen wait patiently in Chancery Street early in the 1960's.



# Assembling for the Walk



**LEFT:** The bottom of Rupert Street, 1954 and the rainclouds threaten the walk but the sunny smiles of these young ladies would brighten any day up.



**RIGHT:** Miss Mears guards her charges as they wait on Hardybutts in 1933.

**BELOW:** A group of youngsters wait eagerly on Higham Steet in 1960.



**RIGHT:** This young lady looks like a member of a crowning group. She is waiting on the waste ground opposite Bradshawgate with Vauxhall road in the back-ground. The coach has brought one of the visiting bands.

## *Assembling for the Walk*



1937: A group of youngsters line up on St. Patrick Street, level with McCormick St.

**BELOW LEFT:** Final adjustments to the Sacred Heart Banner in 1964.



**BELOW RIGHT:** Thirty years before in 1934 and there's no doubting which parish this little lady belongs to.



## *Off to the Square*



1956: Retiring May Queen Christine Bowler gives a look of regal disapproval at her page Colin Mather, who has strayed ahead of her. She caught up with him in the end though and he is now her husband.



Heading down Rupert Street again. This time its in the 1960's that this group of infants escort the statue of the Infant Jesus.

## Off to the Square



**LEFT:**  
1964 May Queen Rita Tinsley and her attendants pass the bottom of Hardybutts as they head along Warrington Lane towards Scholes crossing on their way to the Market Square.

**RIGHT:**  
Slightly ahead of the crowning group, St. Patrick's banner approaches Scholes crossing probably in the same year.



**LEFT:**  
Our Lady's Statue approaches the same spot in 1954. Notice the wet road. That's the Stanley Arms in the background facing the bottom of Hardybutts.

## *Arriving at the Square*



A group of Notre Dame pupils escort Our Lady's Statue on to the Market Square in the early 1950s.



St. Patrick's Infants stride proudly on to the Market Square past the corner of the old Market Hall. British Home Stores can be seen in the background.

# On the Market Square



LEFT: A group of children in the St. Patrick's assembly spot in 1938.

BELOW: Father Lappin (far left) Mr. J. McDermott (far right) and the Mayor and other dignitaries some time in the 1950's.

BELOW: Three stalwart young men of the parish in 1960.



RIGHT: The altar boys of St. Patrick's on the Market Square in 1950, the first Whit Walk after the 2nd World War.



LEFT: The Bearers of the Sacred Heart Statue and their young attendants take a well - earned breather on the Square. This is sometime in the 1960s.



# On the Market Square



**LEFT:** These young men carried the banners of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1950.



**RIGHT:** 1961: More pretty young ladies find time for a photo call while waiting for "Faith of Our Fathers".



**LEFT:** Miss Underwood and colleagues with two of the Notre Dame guide troop.



**RIGHT:** Father Robert Lee with two elegant ladies of the parish sometime in the early 1950's.



# The Walk Begins



**ABOVE:** These ladies of the parish show good humoured dignity as they leave the market square on a Whit Walk in the 1950's.



**LEFT:** These strong - armed young men carry the Statue of Our Lady from the square early on the 1960's.



**RIGHT:** The Holy Family banner and attendants head off up Upper Dicconson Street on a sunny Whit Monday in the 1950's.



**LEFT:** A group of young ladies from St. Patrick's on Upper Dicconson Street, date unknown.

## Coming down Standishgate .....



**LEFT:** Chief Marshal, Mr. J. McDermott resplendent in top hat and tails, leads St. Patrick's down past Notre Dame High School (the Convent) early in the 1960's.



**RIGHT:** Father Lappin and guests prepare to turn the corner from Standishgate into Powell Street / Greenough Street in the same walk.



**LEFT:** Our Lady's Statue escorted by St. Patrick's girls from Notre Dame Convent, goes past the convent.

**BELOW:** May Queen Nellie Heggarty leads the 1934 crowning group past the convent.



# Coming down Standishgate .....



LEFT: 1937: A group of young St. Patrick's boys pass the convent with their teacher (it looks like it could be Miss Ansboro?).

RIGHT: 1939: St. Patrick's Statue passes the convent for the last time before the Second World War. It would be 1950 before it would do so again.



LEFT: 1955, Mr. Frank Regan walks for the last time. Mr. Regan is on the far right of the row of dignitaries behind the papal flag.

RIGHT: the Sacred Heart statue passing the convent in the early 1950's.



## *Powell Street and Greenough Street*



**LEFT:** A banner and its attendants head along Powell Street past St. John's church towards Greenough Street (Date Unknown).



**RIGHT:** Our Lady's statue passing the same spot in the early 1950's.



**LEFT:** Mr. David Lawson and the boys of St. John Fisher just about level with Central Park (Late 1950's).



**LEFT:** St. Patrick's statue nears the top of Greenough Street. Excitement is rising as we prepare to enter the parish.

# Down Scholes



**ABOVE:** "Here we come!" St. Patrick's statue turns into Scholes and on to parish ground.

**RIGHT:** The Notre Dame High School banner passes down Scholes. The young lady carrying is from St. Patricks as is her companion on the right of the picture (a former May Queen).



**LEFT:** To the strains of "Wearin' o the green", these young ladies turn from Scholes into Wellington Street.

# Along Wellington Street

**RIGHT:** St. Patrick's infants toddle along Wellington Street showing no signs of fatigue.



**BELOW:** Another group of infants. Both shots are from around 1950.



**RIGHT:** St. Patrick's statue on Wellington Street in the Fifties.



**LEFT:** St. Patrick's Statue on Wellington Street a decade later.

## *Hardybutts*



**LEFT:** St. Patrick's Statue turns from Wellington Street into Hardybutts. The Wigan Arms can be seen in the background.

**RIGHT:** May Queen of 1955, Christine Bowler, moves along Hardybutts towards the Church. In the background are the Wigan Arms and the Prince of Wales. The latter was at the foot of John Street which now forms the drive into St. Patrick's junior School.



**LEFT:** St Patrick's Statue draws level with the Church prior to turning into Rupert Street.

## *Down Rupert Street*



**LEFT:** Our Lady's statue passes down Rupert Street (date unknown).



**RIGHT:** The drum major of a pipe band adjusts his bearskin hat as he nears the bottom of Rupert Street.



**LEFT:** St. Patrick's banner prepares to turn the corner into Darlington Street East.



## *Along Darlington Street East*



**LEFT:** A banner turns from Rupert Street into Darlington Street.

**BELOW:** May Queen of 1963, Susan Gaskell and her retinue move along Darlington Street East towards the bridge.



**RIGHT:** Young men of St. Patrick's on Darlington Street East (date unknown).



## *Somewhere Along the Way*

The parts of the route shown in the three photographs shown below have not as yet been identified. As no photographs of our passage through St. Joseph's parish have turned up, we've put them here to fill the gap.



ABOVE: St. Patrick's Junior Boys stride out in 1950 under the watchful eye of Miss Julia Egan.



LEFT: Just where have these pipers stopped?



RIGHT: Is that Vauxhall Road that Our Lady's statue has just passed?

## *Returning Home*



**ABOVE:** St. Patrick's altar boys approach the bottom of Hardybutts on their way back home.

**RIGHT:** St. Patrick's statue returns up Hardybutts with the Stanley Arms in the background.



**LEFT:** The Sacred Heart statue arrives back home safely.

## *St. Patrick's Walk Alone (1945)*

**RIGHT:** Father Murray proudly leads St. Patrick's past Chancery Street and on their way up Hardybutts towards Birkett Bank.



**LEFT:** The Crowning Group which was the showpiece of the procession.



**RIGHT:** The boys have just passed Chancery Street with the Girls close behind them.



**LEFT:** Here come the girls. In the background is St. Patrick's Banner. The old girls school can be clearly seen and the Vulcan Arms with the Union Jack hanging from the window.

## *The Complete List Of Walks*

(All dates and facts taken from Wigan Observer and Wigan Examiner 1890 - 1968)

| No. | YEAR | DATE      | LEADING PARISH | ST. PATRICK'S POSITION | REMARKS                                                                     |
|-----|------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 1890 | AUG. 9th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    | Held on Saturday afternoon.                                                 |
| 2   | 1891 | AUG 3rd   | St. John's     | 3rd                    | Coincided with National C.Y.M.S. conference held in Wigan.                  |
| 3   | 1892 | AUG 1st   | St Mary's      | 2nd                    | Held Bank Holiday Monday.                                                   |
| 4   | 1893 | MAY 22nd  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | <b>FIRST WHIT MONDAY WALK</b><br>All walks from now on Whit Monday          |
| 5   | 1894 | MAY 14th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                                             |
| 6   | 1895 | JUNE 3rd  | St. John's     | 3rd.                   |                                                                             |
| 7   | 1896 | MAY 25th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                                             |
| 8   | 1897 | JUNE 7th. | St.Patrick's   | 1st                    | <b>ST. PATRICK'S GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR</b>                                    |
| 9   | 1898 | MAY 30th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                                             |
| 10  | 1899 | MAY 22nd  | St John's      | 3rd                    | Rained off after reaching Market Square                                     |
| 11  | 1900 | JUNE 4th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                                             |
| 12  | 1901 | MAY 27th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    |                                                                             |
| 13  | 1902 | MAY 19th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    | J. P. Mannion walks for first time                                          |
| 14  | 1903 | JUNE 1st  | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                                             |
| 15  | 1904 | MAY 23rd  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                                             |
| 16  | 1905 | JUNE 12th | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    |                                                                             |
| 17  | 1906 | JUNE 4th  | St .Joseph's   | 4th                    | Sacred Heart join in 5th position                                           |
| 18  | 1907 | MAY 21st  | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                                             |
| 19  | 1908 | JUNE 8th  | St . Mary's    | 2nd                    | First Photo of Walk in Observer                                             |
| 20  | 1909 | MAY 21st  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | Rained off after leaving Market Square                                      |
| 21  | 1910 | MAY 16th  | Sacred Heart   | 5th                    | First Photo of St. Patrick's in Observer                                    |
| 22  | 1911 | JUNE 5th  | St . Joseph's  | 4th                    |                                                                             |
| 23  | 1912 | MAY 27th  | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                                             |
| 24  | 1913 | MAY 12th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                                             |
| 25  | 1914 | JUNE 1st  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | <b>SILVER JUBILEE WALK</b><br>Britain declares war on Germany on August 4th |

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**FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-18**  
**No Walks Held**

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Walks cancelled, Thursday March 25th 1915

| No. | YEAR | DATE      | LEADING PARISH | ST. PATRICK'S POSITION | REMARKS                                                                                                 |
|-----|------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | 1919 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
| 26  | 1920 | MAY 24th  | Sacred Heart   | 5th                    | First walk after war.                                                                                   |
|     | 1921 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
|     | 1922 |           |                |                        | } WALKS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF TRADE DEPRESSION.                                                          |
|     | 1923 |           |                |                        |                                                                                                         |
| 27  | 1924 | JUNE 9th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                                                                         |
| 28  | 1925 | JUNE 1st  | St. John's     | 3rd                    | Mistakenly numbered as 36th see Wigan Observer.                                                         |
|     | 1926 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD CANCELLED: GENERAL STRIKE                                                                  |
| 29  | 1927 | JUNE 5th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    | Sacred Heart drop out.                                                                                  |
| 30  | 1928 | MAY 28th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | Route change to Library Street from King Street. Mr. Frank Regan conducts singing.                      |
| 31  | 1929 | MAY 20th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                                                                         |
| 32  | 1930 | JUNE 9th  | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                                                                         |
| 33  | 1931 | MAY 25th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                                                                         |
| 34  | 1932 | MAY 16th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    |                                                                                                         |
|     | 1933 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD<br>Walk cancelled due to laying of foundation stone of Liverpool Cathedral on Whit Monday. |
| 35  | 1934 | MAY 21st  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                                                                         |
| 36  | 1935 | JUNE 10th | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                                                                         |
| 37  | 1936 | JUNE 1st  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                                                                         |
| 38  | 1937 | MAY 17th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    |                                                                                                         |
| 39  | 1938 | JUNE 6th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                                                                         |
| 40  | 1939 | MAY 29th  | St. John's     | 3rd                    | OFFICIAL GOLDEN JUBILEE WALK.                                                                           |
|     | 1940 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
|     | 1941 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
|     | 1942 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
|     | 1943 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
|     | 1944 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |
|     | 1945 | MAY 21st  |                |                        | ST. PATRICK'S WALK ALONE WAR ENDS.                                                                      |
|     | 1946 |           |                |                        | NO WALK HELD                                                                                            |

**SECOND  
WORLD  
WAR**

| No. | YEAR | DATE      | LEADING PARISH | ST. PATRICK'S POSITION | REMARKS                                                       |
|-----|------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | 1947 |           | NO WALK HELD   |                        | CENTENARY OF ST. PATRICK'S                                    |
|     | 1948 |           | NO WALK HELD   |                        |                                                               |
|     | 1949 |           | NO WALK HELD   |                        | ROUTE CHANGED: Dicconson Terrace for Clifton Street           |
| 41  | 1950 | MAY 29th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                               |
| 42  | 1951 | MAY 14th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | Estimated 12,000 people walk.                                 |
| 43  | 1952 | JUNE 2nd  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                               |
| 44  | 1953 | MAY 25th  | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                               |
| 45  | 1954 | JUNE 7th  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    | Rained off after reaching Market Square.                      |
| 46  | 1955 | MAY 30th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | Notre Dame High School walks as individual unit for 1st time. |
| 47  | 1956 | MAY 21st  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    | Sacred Heart rejoin the procession for first time since 1929. |
| 48  | 1957 | JUNE 10th | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                               |
| 49  | 1958 | MAY 22nd  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                               |
| 50  | 1959 | MAY 18th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | REAL GOLDEN JUBILEE WALK.                                     |
| 51  | 1960 | JUNE 6th  | Sacred Heart   | 5th                    |                                                               |
| 52  | 1961 | MAY 21st  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                               |
| 53  | 1962 | JUNE 11th | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                               |
| 54  | 1963 | JUNE 2nd  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    |                                                               |
| 55  | 1964 | MAY 18th  | St. Patrick's  | 1st                    | J.P. Mannion walks for last time*.                            |
| 56  | 1965 | JUNE 7th  | Sacred Heart   | 5th                    |                                                               |
| 57  | 1966 | MAY 30th  | St. Joseph's   | 4th                    |                                                               |
| 58  | 1967 | MAY 22nd  | St. John's     | 3rd                    |                                                               |
| 59  | 1968 | JUNE 3rd  | St. Mary's     | 2nd                    | LAST WALK EVER .....<br>..... OR IS IT...?                    |

In 1953, somebody seems to have woken up to the fact that something had gone wrong with the numbering of the walks. The account in the Wigan Observer that year gives all the years when no walks took place, except for 1933. It goes on to say that "but it is believed that the walks began in 1880." but it does not give its authority for that statement. Its own records show that the first walk was in 1890, as do those of the Wigan Examiner, as well as the log - book entry of Miss Mead of St. Patrick's. All the walks are in the above list and anyone who wishes may count them for themselves .

\* J. P. Mannion walked with St. Patrick's in every walk except one from 1902 to 1964 when he was 83.