

OPENING OF THE NEW HALL IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S, FALKIRK

On Saturday evening, Cardinal O'Brien celebrated the Vigil Mass in the Church of St Francis Xavier's, Falkirk, speaking on the words of the Gospel and reminding the congregation of those words of Jesus: "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock".

Then, and in the new hall afterwards, the Cardinal reminded the gathered people of the 'rock' on which this new hall, like the magnificent church itself, had been built and as indicated by the naming of the parts of the hall.

The original hall is now called the 'Monsignor Tweedie Hall', since it was Monsignor Tweedie who was the parish priest when the hall was originally built on this site; the extension is being called 'St Martha's Hall' after the religious sisters of St Martha, who had accomplished such great work in the parish of St Francis Xavier's and hosted very many parish groups in their convent until the convent had to close in the autumn of 2006; and the new offices for Scottish Marriage Care are at the end of the complex, replacing the building adjacent to the street, which dated from the 1940's.

The Cardinal spoke of the ongoing growth of the faith of the people of Falkirk, built on those rocks of priesthood, religious life and family life and wished all of the many organisations now using the hall and who will use it in future every blessing for their ongoing activities.