

## Couples renew commitment to marriage and family life - Tuesday, 22 September 2009



More than 50 couples took part in a special Mass of Thanksgiving for marriage and family life in St Patrick's Church, Dumbarton, on Tuesday (Sept 22).

The Mass, during which the couples – young and old - renewed their marriage vows, was concelebrated by Father Frank Wilson and Canon Gerry Conroy, the parish priest.

Later they were treated to a reception in the church hall, where wedding cake and sparkling wine was served by St Patrick's Care for All Group -- and each couple received a present of flowers.

The couple married longest amongst those present, Pat and Ella Scullion, of Miller Court, Round Riding Road, Dumbarton – their wedding took place 57 years ago - were given the honour of cutting a specially designed wedding cake.

Mr and Mrs Scullion were joined by Frank and Therese McAtear, Danny and Bridie Kerr and John and Catherine Moy, each of whom celebrated their golden wedding – 50 years of marriage – this year.

And all the couples were toasted by Father Wilson, who stressed the importance of married life and of families staying together and praying together and giving love and support to each other.

Blessing the couples, he told them: "The Church congratulates you and rejoices with you on your marriage journey."

During the service, the Offertory gifts were brought to the altar by Michael and Nan Docherty and appropriate hymns, including *Love Divine* and the Mozart anthem *Ave Verum* were sung by St Patrick's choir, conducted by Marie Therese Cleary.

Canon Conroy said: "We prayed for couples to come to know Christ's love better and to share it with others at home, in our parish and in the world around us.

"The couples renewed their commitment to marriage and family life, asking for help to show warmth, care, tolerance and acceptance, and they prayed to be enabled to help everyone so that all of us might feel that we belong."