
HISTORY OF OUR PREVIOUS TEMPORARY CHURCH

1. Land was bought for a future church—in August, 1899—by Thomas Whiteside, Bishop of Liverpool.
2. The memorial stone was laid by Frederick William Keating, Archbishop of Liverpool, on September 14th, 1924.
3. The new diocese of Lancaster was formed in 1924.

4. The temporary church was opened in February 1925. The first Parish Priest being Rev. Thomas Harker, O.B.E.
5. The temporary church was built by Rev. Thomas Kiernan—the Parish Priest of St. Mary's, Morecambe.

The number of parishioners at the beginning was 220.

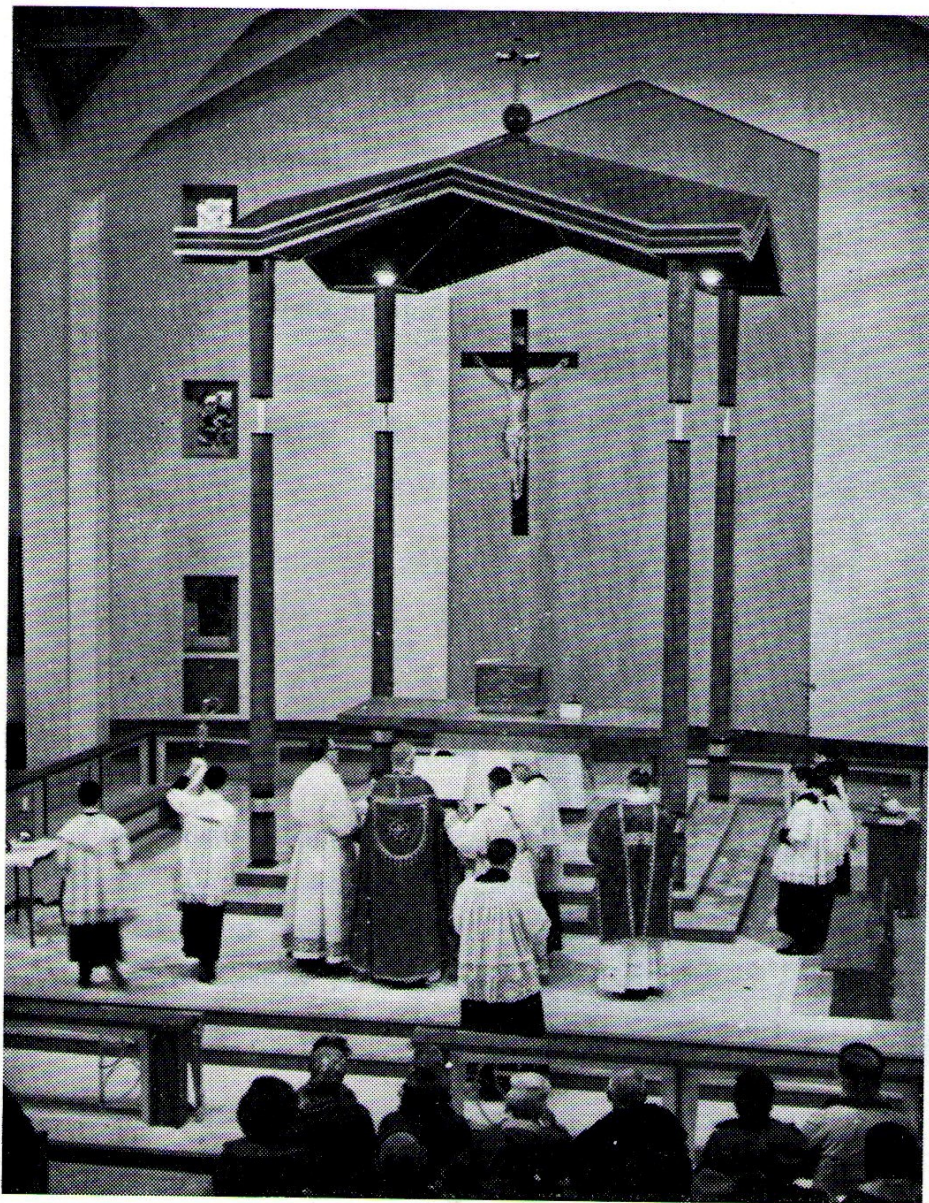
6. Rev. Thomas Harker was Parish Priest until November, 1929.
 7. He was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Moss—who was Parish Priest until July, 1936, and was succeeded by Rev. Frederick Turner—the present Parish Priest.
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HISTORY OF OUR NEW CHURCH

8. By 1962 the number of parishioners had increased to 1,400.
9. There was need for a permanent building and need to accommodate the growing parish and also the great number of holiday visitors.
10. When Bishop B. Foley succeeded Bishop T. Flynn, he decided that a new Church should be built. Permission was given by him for this to be done on September 3rd, 1962—the feast of St. Pius X.
11. Plans were drawn up by the Architects—Reynolds and Scott—and finally approved by the Bishop and Diocesan Sites Commission on May 30th, 1963.
12. The contract for the building was given to Messrs. W. Huddleston and Sons Ltd. of Morecambe, and signed on January 23rd, 1964.
13. The actual clearing of the site was begun on St. Patrick's Feast Day—March 17th, 1964.
14. The Foundation Stone was laid by Bishop B. Foley on February 19th, 1965. **17 MAR 1966**
15. On Thursday, ~~February 17th, 1965~~ **MAR 17 1966**—St. Patrick's Feast Day—the High Altar was consecrated by the Right Reverend Thomas Bernard Pearson, Ph.D., Bishop of Sinda—Auxiliary Bishop of Lancaster.

He was assisted at the ceremony by Rev. Bernard Lockwood, Rev. John Britt and Rev. Bernard Dewhurst.

The Low Mass which followed was said by Rev. Fredrick Turner, Parish Priest of St. Patrick's.



Consecration of High Altar

There was a congregation of 500, including about 36 Clergy. Bishop Pearson preached the sermon, and expressed the “earnest hope that the people who gather round this altar for generations to come, would draw the strength and grace to have a faith which is worthy of St. Patrick, and a faith for which even in this scientific world there is still a tremendous need.”

16. On Sunday, March 20th, 1966—the fourth Sunday of Lent—the Right Rev. Brian Charles Foley, S.T.L., Bishop of Lancaster, solemnly blessed and opened the new Church. He was assisted by V. Rev. Canon Arthur Clayton, D.D., Ph.D., V.F., Parish Priest of St. Mary’s, Morecambe, and Rev. Joseph Rawlinson Parish Priest of Bolton-le-Sands.

The Church was filled to capacity. Among those present were Rt. Rev. Mons. Canon Shaun, Monaghan, D.C.L.—Vicar General. Rt. Rev. Mons. Canon R. O. Brinley—Rt. Rev.

Provost T. A. Turner of Liverpool. Other members of the Lancaster Chapter and Clergy of the Lancaster diocese were also present.

Amongst the laity were present the Mayor and Mayoress of Morecambe—Mr. and Mrs. R. Airey, the Mayor of Lancaster, Mrs. C. J. Burt, Alderman N. Edmondson (Morecambe), Alderman Mrs. M. Sweeney and Councillor J. T. Hayton (Lancaster).

The architects (Reynolds and Scott) were represented by Mr. F. M. Reynolds, B.A., A.R.I.B.A., Mr. H. J. Souter, Dip.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., Mr. S. Kershaw, A.R.I.B.A. and Mr. R. Cardus (Clerk of Works).

The Contractors (Messrs W. Huddleston and Sons Ltd.) were represented by Mr. W. Huddleston Sen., Mr. W. Huddleston Jnr., Mr. H. Huddleston and Mr. H. Hartley (Foreman of Works).

The schools were represented by Mr. A. Warrington (Headmaster—St. Mary's, More-

cambe) and Mr. M. Conroy, M.A. (Our Lady's High School, Lancaster).

Rev. D. G. Pratt, M.A., B.D., and Rev. P. D. Mears—Vicar and Curate respectively of St. John's Morecambe were also present.

In the sermon preached by Rt. Rev. Mons. Canon R. L. Smith, Ph.D., M.A., V.F., of Carlisle he said that "this church is a standing monument to the people's will to house their Lord fittingly."

The High Mass which followed the opening ceremony was celebrated by Rev. F. Turner, P.P.—assisted by V. Rev. Canon A. Clayton and Rev. J. Rawlinson.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH MORECAMBE

The new Church of St. Patrick, completed in March of this year, was built to provide the required facilities for worship for a growing parish and replaces the old Church, which is still on the site and which is shortly to be demolished. The site itself at the junction of Fairfield Road and St. John's Road presented a number of planning difficulties, particularly when one considers that two buildings, the old Church and the Parochial Club existed on the site and had to be retained. These in turn limited the area available for new building and the levels of the site compared to the adjoining roads indicated from the start that there could only be one vehicle access. All credit is therefore due to the builder in carrying out work under these awkward conditions.

An Architect's brief was formulated to design a Church seating 450 under normal circumstances with provision for extending the seating to approximately 500 during holiday periods. Although away from the town centre, the Church is subject to the usual seasonal influx of visitors, and this in turn involves the provision of adequate car parking space within the site area.

The final design of the Church which was eventually approved, enables the congregation to participate in the Mass at close quarters. The seating is split into three groups in the Nave and two Transepts and those in the transepts face inwards towards the central High Altar and Sanctuary. This Altar, accentuated by a lofty Baldachino, is the natural focal point of the Church and designed to conform to the new liturgy. Mass can be celebrated from either side, and the tabernacle has doors to both the front and rear. The side Altars are placed against the gable wall of the Transepts behind the seating.

One of the problems created by this type of planning, when two groups of people in the transepts are sitting directly opposite each other, is the danger of silhouetting the Altar and celebrant, thereby creating difficulty in following the Mass if large windows are placed in the transept gable walls. At the same time, adequate light source must be provided to the sanctuary area.

At Morecambe the solution was therefore to build solid gable walls and to place the windows at the inter-sections of Nave and transepts at the nearest points to the sanctuary. These gable walls also emphasize the solidarity of the Church in its struggle with the elements. Further light is provided by the louvred fleche over the highest point of the Church at the roof crossing over the High Altar. The main West front of the Church faces Morecambe Bay, and adequate protection had to be provided against sea gales. The main entrances are, therefore, situated at each end of the Narthex rather than a central position, and this enabled the

West front to be emphasised by the largest window in the Church. It was here that most interesting coloured glass was fixed in a window which rises from the Baptistry floor to the apex of the gable. The Baptistry, which is screened from the Narthex by a wrought iron grille, is on the axis of the central aisle and thus reminds one of its importance in the Church, second only to that of the High Altar.

Three Sacristies are placed on the Gospel side of the Church in a suitable position for eventual connection with a proposed Presbytery facing Fairfield Road. The Sanctuary, which is square on the plan, has a Communion Rail on all four sides, and there is provision for the extra seating referred to above, against the reredos wall and transept gables.

The general construction of the Church was carried out in load-bearing brickwork with a concrete frame, and portals which are supported on concrete strip foundations. The portal frames are

An integrated design has resulted from the fact that the various items of furniture and fittings throughout the Church are new and were designed to match and follow the lines of the main building. The proximity of Morecambe to the Lake District has resulted in the ample and economic use of polished Westmorland slate obtained from the Kirkstone Pass Quarries. This slate has been used for the Altars, Communion Rail, Font and window cills and where appropriate. The bronze Altar furniture and gates were made and designed by Gills Limited of Dublin. Benches and Sacristy fittings are again in Sapele Mahogany and this hardwood finish matches the turned columns and Canopy of the Baldachino. Each column of the Baldachino has a central steel core for strengthening purposes, and these are connected to a steel frame, around which is built the Canopy containing the flood lights over the High Altar.

The building work commenced in March, 1964,

and was completed after two years on St. Patrick's Day, 1966, at a cost of £62,000 excluding certain items of furniture and fittings.

Further plans are in hand to develop the remaining part of the site, after the old Church has been demolished, and eventually it is hoped that a new Social Club and Parochial Hall will be provided at the rear of the site whilst retaining sufficient ground for a future Presbytery.

Architects and Quantity Surveyors:

Reynolds & Scott, F/A.R.I.B.A.,
9 Albert Square,
Manchester, 2.

General Contractors:

William Huddleston & Sons,
Back Sefton Road,
Morecambe.