

# SOLEMN OPENING

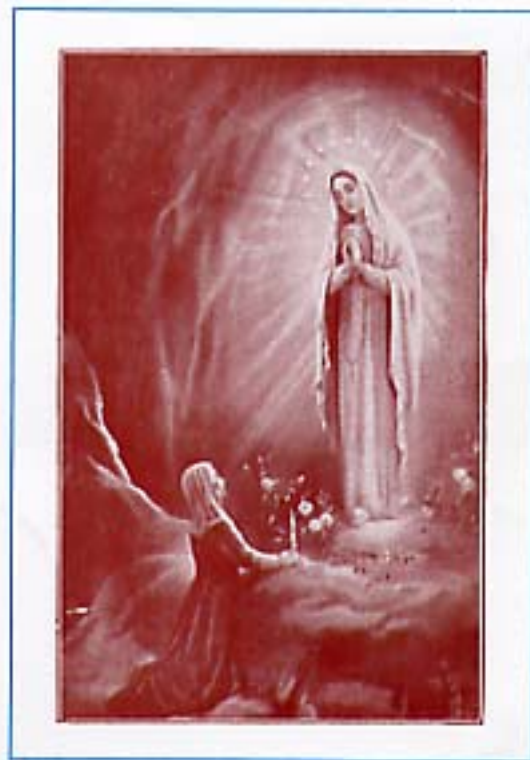
*of the*

New Church

*of*

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

EAST KILBRIDE



*Sunday, 6th September, 1964*

*SOUVENIR BROCHURE*

# Solemn Opening

*of*

New Church

*of*

Our Lady of Lourdes

East Kilbride

*by*

THE MOST REVEREND

JAMES DONALD SCANLAN, D.C.L., B.L.

*ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW*

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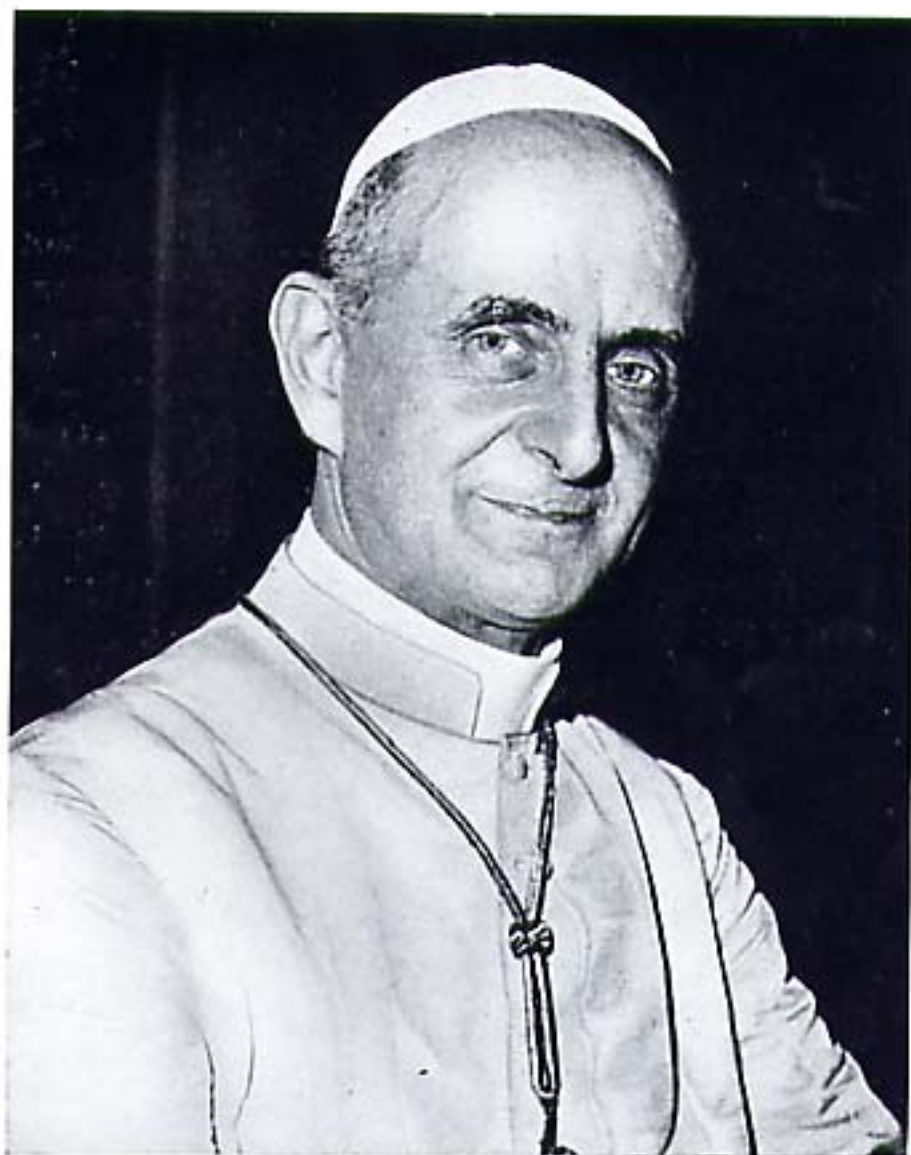
*Sunday, 6th September, 1964*



VATICAN CITY.

HOLY FATHER CORDIALLY IMPARTS PRIESTS,  
PARISHIONERS, OUR LADY OF LOURDES'  
PARISH, EAST KILBRIDE, OCCASION  
SOLEMN OPENING NEW CHURCH, PATERNAL  
APOSTOLIC BLESSING IMPLORED.

CARDINAL CICOGNANI.



HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES,  
30 CANBERRA DRIVE,  
EAST KILBRIDE.

6th September, 1964.

Your Grace,

May I say on behalf of the priests and parishioners how happy I am to welcome you to-day? It was surely no mere coincidence that you should be officiating at the Solemn Opening of our new church.

To-day's historic ceremony sets the seal on the work which you began six years ago when, as Bishop of Motherwell, you established the new parish of Our Lady of Lourdes.

We shall always recall with deepest gratitude the interest you have shown in the welfare of our parish, and pray God that you may long be spared to direct the destinies of the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(REV.) A. MCGURK,  
*Parish Priest.*





MOST REV. JAMES DONALD SCANLAN, D.C.L., B.L.,  
*Archbishop of Glasgow.*

17 FERN STREET,  
MOTHERWELL.

July 30th, 1964.

DEAR FATHER MCGURK,

We have become used to thinking and speaking of our churches as Houses of God—but it is important for us to remember that first of all and above all, a church is the house of the people of God, the place where the local Christian community comes together to worship. The church is then and must be the hub of all parochial life, and no parish is complete without its own church.

It gives me great pleasure to know that your parish, with the official opening of your new church, is now well set in its course as a living unit of the Mystical Body which will daily re-enact the Mystery of Salvation, giving glory to God and bringing salvation to men through Jesus Christ.

The beauty of your church is such that it should enable all who enter it to raise their minds and hearts to God and the construction is such that it should make possible for each and everyone that active participation in the mysteries celebrated in it which is so desirable and necessary.

The official opening on September 6th does but set the seal on the labours of priests and people over a number of years—may it also act as an incentive to an intense Catholic liturgical life, so that the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes may become a model for the diocese.

Having just returned from Lourdes with the diocesan pilgrimage and having experienced the thrill of being there and of taking part in the homage to God and His Mother that is rendered there—I am proud to remember that we also have a church dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, and I pray that as Our Lady does at Lourdes, so she will do here—take special care of all who pray in her church and lead them to Jesus and to God.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN CONROY,  
*Vicar Capitular.*



RIGHT REV. MGR. JOHN CONROY, PH.D., D.D., *Vicar Capitular.*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES,  
30 CANBERRA DRIVE,  
EAST KILBRIDE.

Sunday, 6th September, 1964.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

It must be quite unique in the history of any town that two new Catholic churches should be solemnly opened within the short space of seven days. I feel sure that, in our own hour of glory, you would wish me to offer our felicitations to the priests and people of the Mother Parish, St. Bride's, on their historic achievement.

It seems a far cry to the 28th March, 1958, when I arrived here to take up my appointment as Parish Priest of the newly constituted parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. Although I viewed the assignment with the greatest trepidation, I was confident that our glorious Patroness would guide our faltering steps. To-day's festive occasion is fitting testimony to the efficacy of her intercession.

Laying the foundations of a new parish is bound to be very complex, and yet, it is only in retrospect that one realises the debt one owes to so many willing helpers.

I recall immediately the sympathy, understanding and support which I received from my ecclesiastical superiors, and in particular from His Grace Archbishop Scanlan, who was until recently Bishop of this Diocese. It was consoling to know that they were not unaware of the difficulties to be overcome.

I also wish to record my gratitude to Father Ryan. Throughout the past five years he has displayed unflinching loyalty and zeal, and has willingly shouldered the many burdens which were inevitably imposed upon him.

What shall I say of the good parishioners, whose faith, loyalty and generosity were such a sustaining influence during its formative years? How gratifying that their efforts to build an edifice that could be truly called a House of God should be so richly rewarded.

I must also acknowledge in your name the many benefactions I received from well-wishers outwith the parish, many of whom are here to rejoice with us to-day.

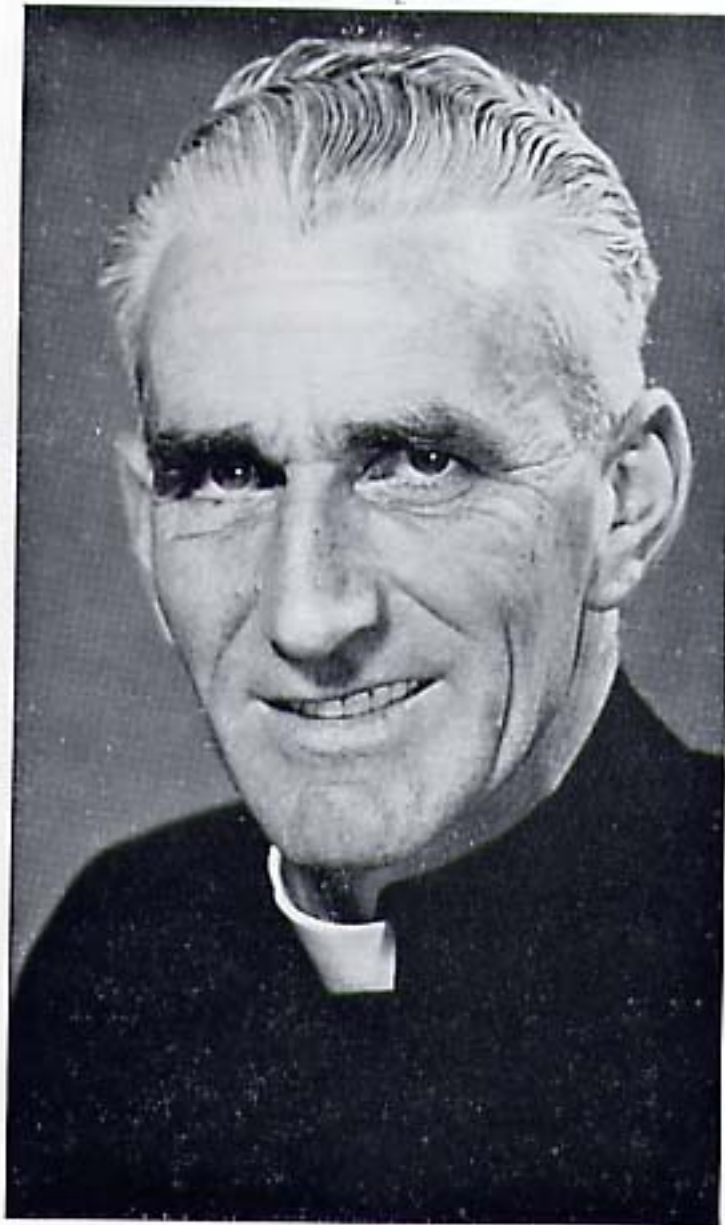
Finally, let me pay tribute to our architects and workmen, who have presented us with a beautiful building, of which they and we can feel justly proud.

The words of the Psalmist would seem to express most aptly the inspiration in the minds of all concerned:

*"I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Thy House, and the place where Thy Glory dwelleth."*

May I wish you every grace and blessing in the years that lie ahead.

(REV.) A. MCGURK.



REV. ANTHONY MCGERK.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

*A parish is a small section of the flock of Christ. Established in a definite place with the church at its heart, it forms a religious community of priest and people with a spiritual life of its own. This life lies deeper than any of its activities, but is manifested in them all according to its vigour. The aim of all parochial life is "That Jesus may be known, loved and served by all."—POPE PIUS XII.*

The following represents the humble efforts of priests and people to found a parish and to build a church.

The rapid growth of the new town of East Kilbride presented our Ecclesiastical Authorities with a problem with which they were familiar in other parts of the diocese since the end of the war, namely that of providing new churches for the Catholic population in the overspill areas. St. Bride's temporary church, which had catered for the needs of the Catholics of the town, had become so vastly overcrowded for Sunday Mass, that the provision of another church elsewhere in the neighbourhood became a necessity.



CUTTING THE FIRST SOD.



It was to meet this need that His Lordship Bishop Scanlan announced on 28th March, 1958, the formation of a new parish comprising the Murray and Westwood areas of the town. The enthusiasm with which this news was received by the parishioners of the infant parish can easily be imagined, more so since they were to have as their titular Our Lady of Lourdes. Until now no parish in the diocese had been dedicated to Our Lady under this title. Divine Providence has specially chosen our parish for this singular privilege.

Father Anthony McGurk, formerly curate in St. Patrick's, Coatbridge, was appointed Parish Priest and took up residence in a temporary presbytery at 121 Owen Avenue. His task was a formidable one; that of endeavouring to found a new parish which was without church or school, and carrying with it also the



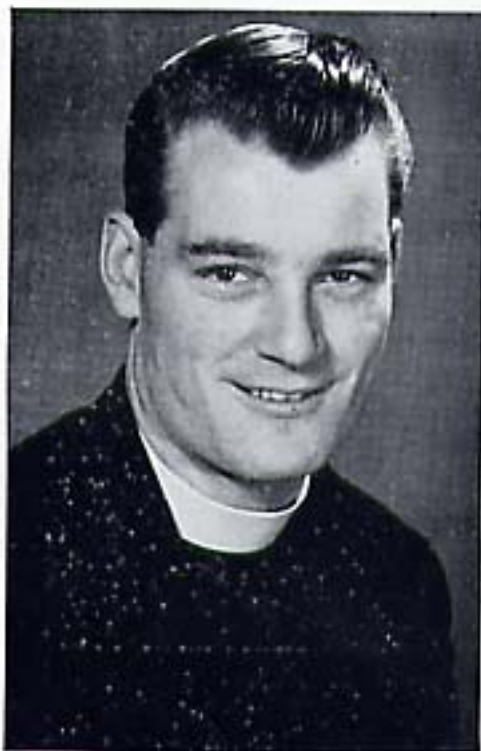
NEW CHURCH IN COURSE OF ERECTION.

added responsibility of bringing the consolations of the Sacraments to the patients of Hairmyres Hospital. In the early days of the parish this would have been an impossible task without the assistance of the priests of St. Bride's, whose help, so spontaneously given, we remember with gratitude.

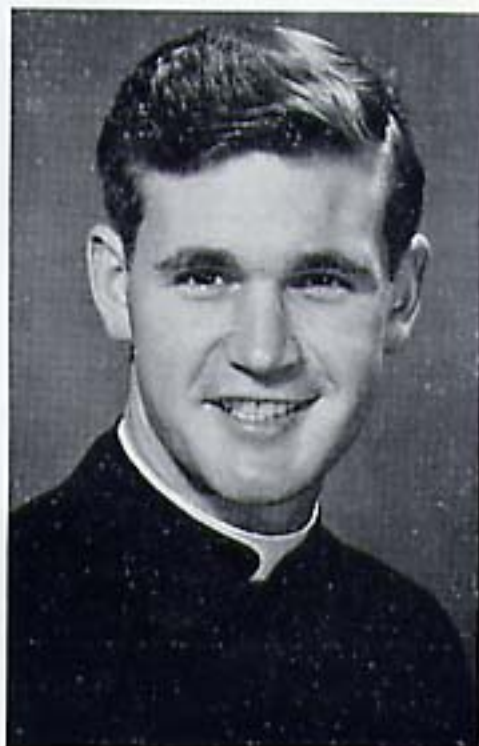
The following year was to usher in a new phase in the development of the parish. Father Ryan was appointed curate and proved himself an untiring worker. Shortly afterwards, Our Lady of Lourdes school was opened and was soon to become the focal point of the parish. By permission of the Lanarkshire Education Committee the school-hall was made available for Sunday Mass, thus giving the

parish a measure of autonomy that it did not previously enjoy. It was here, too, that the priests and people had an opportunity of meeting one another and plans were made to expedite the building of the new church. For this purpose a Parochial Committee was inaugurated and weekly collections introduced. Annual events such as the Garden Fete, Christmas Sale-of-Work and other seasonal functions filled the parochial calendar. Meanwhile the architects of East Kilbride Development Corporation were working on the plans of our new church and presbytery.

January 20th, 1962, was a memorable day for the priests and people, this being His Lordship Bishop Scanlan's first official visit to the parish. The date recalls the cutting of the first sod and the blessing of the site. A large number of parishioners witnessed the ceremony and heard Bishop Scanlan express the hope that the day would not be far distant when Holy Mass would be celebrated in the completed church.



REV. MICHAEL RYAN



REV. JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

A year later, on January 9th, 1963, we welcomed Bishop Scanlan back for the impressive ceremony of laying the foundation stone. The superstructure of the building was complete and the roof in place, making it possible for the ceremony to be duly solemnised. The ornate granite stone, suitably inscribed, was blessed and placed in position by His Lordship. In it were enclosed contemporary souvenirs, amongst which was a special medal which he had received from His Holiness Pope John XXIII, in commemoration of the first session of the Vatican



Council. "This medal," said His Lordship, "could find no finer resting place than in this church which is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. I pray that this place will become a place of popular devotion for the people of the diocese." He then celebrated the first Holy Mass in the new church, in the presence of a number of visiting clergy and a large congregation of parishioners.

Within a year the church was ready for use. Significantly, the date of the first Mass, the real birth of the parish—for now it had its soul—almost coincided with the date of the birth of the Divine Infant. On December 21st, 1963, the twenty-third anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, Father McGurk ascended the steps of the altar to celebrate for the first time with his people the Sacrifice of Calvary in the Holy Mass. It must have been a moment of inexpressible emotion for him, as indeed for the parishioners, for surely this was the day which the Lord had made. What thoughts, we wonder, were in the mind of Canon Battel, present in the sanctuary, as he marvelled at the simple beauty of this new church and recalled the memory of his own arrival in East Kilbride in 1946, as first Parish Priest of St. Bride's. The presence of the First Communion children, for whom Father McGurk had a special word of praise, made the occasion all the more impressive.

In another section will be found a description of the new church. However, a word about it here would not be inappropriate. One is struck by the good taste

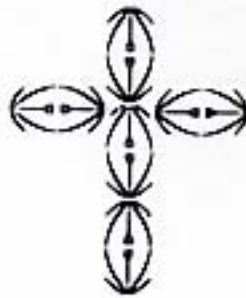


OUR LADY OF LOURDES CONFERENCE OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

shown throughout, so that furnishings and structure seem to blend so effectively that mention of any particular item is difficult. The width and simplicity of the sanctuary, the delightful sanctuary lamp presented by the workers of Rolls Royce factory, the unusual altar rails, the spacious porch, the artistic statues on the side-altars, the excellence of the woodwork—all combine to confirm the impression of skill in building a most worthy House of God and a church in which everything is conducive to prayer and contemplation.

To-day's event is both a beginning and an end. The solemn opening officially designates the church of Our Lady of Lourdes and concludes the years of preparation that have gone before. No one was more keenly interested in each stage of the development of the new building than Bishop Scanlan. It seemed a matter of regret that his elevation to the See of St. Mungo would deprive us of the privilege of having him officiate at the Solemn Opening of the new church. However, this, happily, was not to be the case and our delight is the greater in welcoming His Grace to-day.

In the twelfth century the "Church of Kilbryd" had been recognised as a possession of Glasgow Cathedral and now in the twentieth century the bonds between East Kilbride and the Cathedral of St. Andrew are equally strong.





## *Architect's description of*

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WESTWOOD, EAST KILBRIDE

The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, built to serve a parish of approximately 3,500 people, was commissioned by the Diocese of Motherwell and designed by the Architects' Department of East Kilbride Development Corporation.

The new church group is situated on a prominent site, overlooking the junction of Westwood Road and Murray Hill, and consists of the church itself, the presbytery and the campanile (bell-tower): there is provision for the erection, at a later date, of a church hall to accommodate varied community activities.

The approach to the main entrance of the church is by a flight of steps from Westwood Road, leading to a covered terrace and a glazed porch linking the church and the 70-foot high bell tower.

The church is designed to seat 750 people: 600 in the nave and 150, including the choir, in the balcony at the rear. The accommodation consists of an entrance hall, nave and sanctuary, a baptistery, a mortuary, three confessionals, priests' and boys' sacristies, with alternative entry from the nave or directly on to the sanctuary.

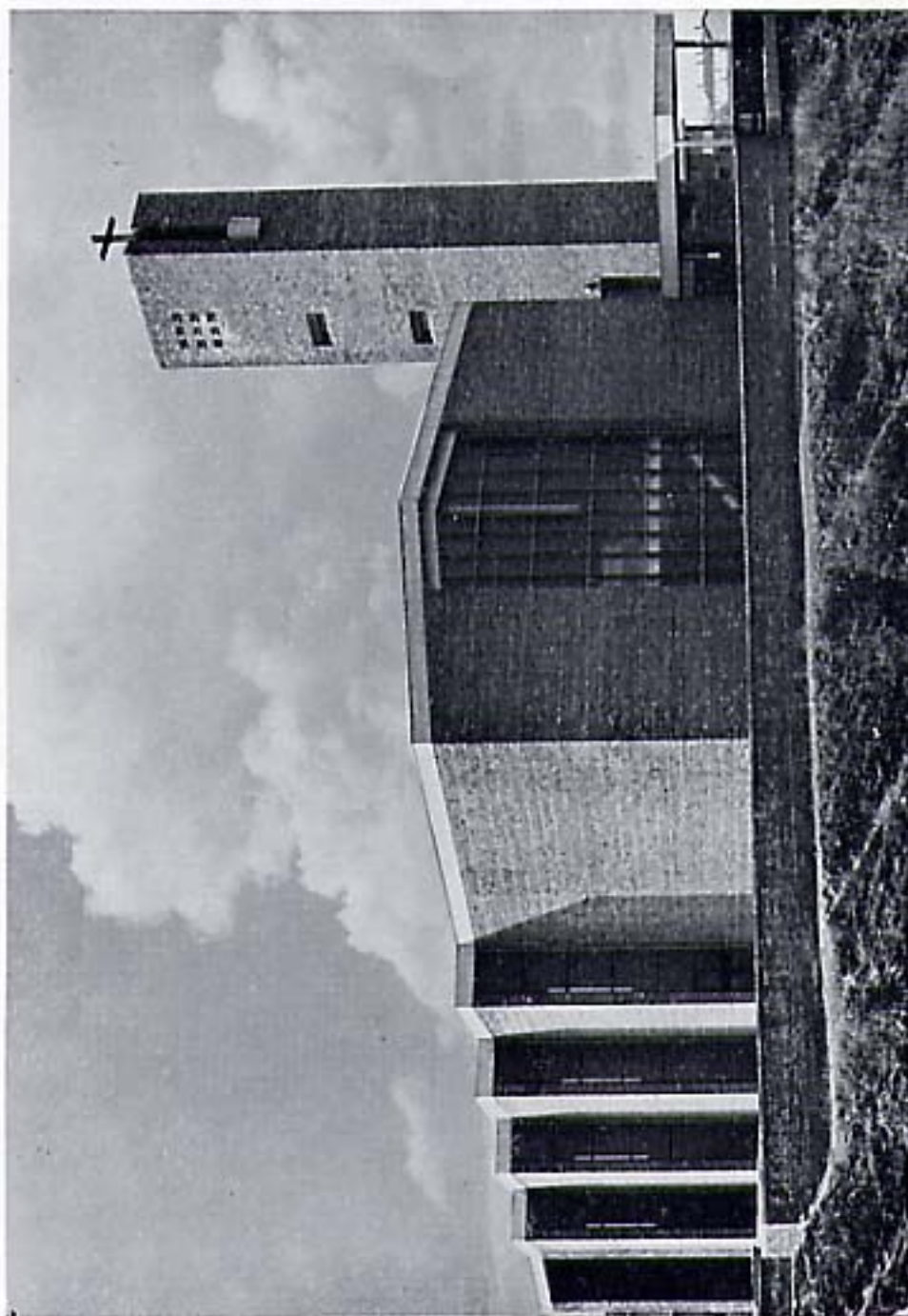
The presbytery and the church are connected by a glazed porch giving direct communication between the church sacristies and the upper floor of the presbytery. The accommodation in the house consists of a small suite of rooms for the parish priest, study-bedrooms for two curates, a guest room, dining room and kitchen, bedrooms for a housekeeper and a maid, two call rooms and a garage for two cars.

The basic structure of the church itself is a reinforced concrete frame of columns and beams to support the timber lined roof. The main walls are formed by panels of facing brick alternating with splayed windows of obscured glass reaching from floor to ceiling, directing light towards the sanctuary.

The interior of the church has been designed to create an atmosphere of quiet repose and seclusion and to direct attention consistently towards the sanctuary and the altar, the focal point of the worship. To achieve this effect, interior finishes are simple and for the most part, unadorned.

The walls of the nave are of facing brick, contrasting sharply with the back wall of the sanctuary which has a close textured plaster-finish painted white, and is flooded with natural light from two large side windows.

The sanctuary has a wood block floor, and the floor of the nave is formed of special floor tiles impregnated with metal fragments to withstand the effect of stiletto heels. Heating is provided by electric coils embedded in the floor itself.



THE NEW CHURCH

The woodwork is mainly of West African mahogany, as are the pews and sanctuary furniture, which were designed by the architects.

Within the sanctuary the main altar is composed of a simple slab of Creetown granite set on a base faced with a black Belgian marble. The communion rail has a cope of black Belgian marble supported by square panels of Creetown granite alternating with square panels of plate glass held in gold anodised frames and ornamented with the cross of St. James etched with gold leaf into the glass. This motif of the cross of St. James together with accents of Creetown granite is sparingly used throughout the church to maintain consistent character of the decoration.

A special tribute must be paid to Robert Reid, A.R.I.B.A., the architect who was largely responsible for the church at the design stage and during the early part of the construction. Mr. Reid did not live to see the building completed: he died tragically young at the age of 39, on February 8th, 1963, but his name will always be remembered with affection and respect in connection with this church.

Building work started in February, 1962, and the laying of the ceremonial foundation stone took place on January 9th, 1963.

The first Mass in the church was celebrated on December 21st, 1963, by the parish priest, Father Anthony McGurk.



## *Acknowledgments*

### **List of Contractors**

- Main Contractors - - R. W. Stewart & Co. Ltd., 286 Clyde Street, Glasgow, C.1.
- Carpenters, Joiners, etc. - R. Cochrane & Sons, 19 Dobbies Loan, Glasgow.
- Glaziers - - - - City Glass Co. Ltd., 130 Denmark Street, Glasgow, C.4.
- Metal Windows - - - Standard MacLean Ltd., 10-12 Milton Road, East Kilbride.
- Plumbers - - - - A. W. Thomson Ltd., 132 Main Street, Bellshill.
- Plasterer - - - - J. Russell, Main Street, High Blantyre.
- Tile, Terrazzo Work - - Toffolo Jackson & Co. Ltd., 110 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2.
- Floor Tile Work - - Marley Tile Co. Ltd., Kirkintilloch Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.
- Tile Paving Work - - Sementex Ltd., Salford.
- Bituminous Felt Roofing - R. M. Douglas & Co., 1650A London Road, Glasgow, E.1.
- Metal Railings and Gates - R. Marchbank & Son, 39 Union Street, Larkhall.
- Electrical Work - - W. Briody, 20 Hanley Place, Bellshill.
- Painter Work - - - McLean & Speirs Ltd., 4 Fitzroy Place, Glasgow, C.3.
- Landscaping - - - Sportworks Ltd., Kirkintilloch Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.
- Church Seating - - - F. Kenny & Co. Ltd., Quarry Road, Cabra, Dublin, 7.
- Church Furnishings - - F. Vickery, 182 Saltmarket, Glasgow, C.1.
- Ornamental Stonework - J. & G. Mossman Ltd., 56 Cathedral Street, Glasgow.
- Structural & Precast Concrete Work - - - Girlings Ferro-Concrete Co. Ltd., Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch.

## *Diary of the Apparitions of Lourdes*

1858

Feb. 11th—Bernadette Soubirous saw, for the first time, "the Beautiful Lady," dressed in white and carrying a Rosary.

Feb. 19th—The Lady asked Bernadette to make fifteen visits to the Grotto.

Feb. 24th—Bernadette repeated the Lady's message: "Penance, Penance, Penance."

Feb. 25th—"Go, drink and bathe at the spring.' As I knew of no spring and did not think there was any there, I went toward the Gave. The Lady called me back and made a sign with her finger to go under the grotto to the left, I obeyed but saw no spring. Not knowing where to find it, I scooped up the earth, and the water came." Thus Bernadette described the source of the miraculous waters of Lourdes.

Feb. 26th—The Lady told Bernadette to PRAY and DO PENANCE.

Mar. 2nd—"Tell the priests to have a chapel built here."

Mar. 25th—Having frequently asked the Lady to identify herself, Bernadette repeated the request three times. "At the third request, the Lady raised her eyes to heaven and at the same time, lifting her hands, which had been outstretched towards me, and joining them on her breast, she said:

'I am the Immaculate Conception.'"

July 16th—Our Lady appeared to Bernadette for the last time.

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Jan. 7th, 1844—Bernadette Soubirous was born.

Jan. 16th, 1879—At the age of 35, with the words, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, a sinner, . . . a poor sinner . . ." Bernadette died.

Dec. 8th, 1933—Pope Pius XI canonised Bernadette Soubirous.

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FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES . . . FEB. 11th

FEAST OF ST. BERNADETTE . . . FEB. 18th

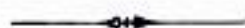
# ORDER OF SERVICES

6th SEPTEMBER, 1964

## Pontifical Mass

at 12 o'clock noon

<i>Celebrant</i>	· · ·	Most Rev. JAMES DONALD SCANLAN, D.D., D.C.L., B.L., Archbishop of Glasgow.
<i>Deacon</i>	· · ·	Rev. JOHN F. GIVENS.
<i>Subdeacon</i>	· · ·	Rev. MICHAEL RYAN.
<i>M.C. at Throne</i>	· · ·	Rev. JOHN J. BURNS, S.T.L.
<i>M.C. at Mass</i>	· · ·	Rev. NOEL CAREY.
<i>Assistant Priest</i>	· · ·	Rt. Rev. Mgr. JOHN CONROY, Ph.D., D.D., VIC. CAP.
<i>Assistant Deacons</i>	· · ·	Very Rev. JOHN CANON McCRORY, Very Rev. JAMES CANON KILPATRICK.
<i>Preacher</i>	· · ·	Rev. ANTHONY KILCOYNE.



## Sacred Music of the Mass

BY OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHOIR

<i>Conductor</i>	· · · · ·	Mrs. DALY.
<i>Organists</i>	· · · · ·	MR. JOHN McCRORY, MISS JANE McKENNA MISS GERALDINE MONTGOMERY