

SOLEMN OPENING

of the

New Church

OF ST. BENEDICT, EASTERHOUSE
GLASGOW



Sunday, 29th August, 1965

SOUVENIR BROCHURE

Solemn Opening

of

New Church

of

ST. BENEDICT

Easterhouse, Glasgow

by

THE RIGHT REVEREND

FRANCIS THOMSON, S.T.L., M.A.

BISHOP OF MOTHERWELL

†

Sunday, 29th August, 1965



VATICAN CITY.

HOLY FATHER CORDIALLY IMPARTS PARISH PRIEST,
CLERGY AND PARISHIONERS, ST, BENEDICT'S, EASTERHOUSE,
GLASGOW, OCCASION SOLEMN OPENING NEW CHURCH,
PATERNAL APOSTOLIC BLESSING IMPLORED.



HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI

DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL



BISHOP'S HOUSE, BOTHWELL, GLASGOW

10th August, 1965.

DEAR FATHER MCGINN,

From what you have already told me, I am already aware of the loyalty and generosity of the people of St. Benedict's parish. Under your energetic and enthusiastic lead these qualities have shown themselves so evidently in the support that has been given to you in the building and completion of the fine new church now due to be opened solemnly. The hard work, the financial sacrifice are at last receiving their reward in another centre for the offering of the holy sacrifice of the Mass, another home for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

It will be a special joy for me, your bishop, to preside on this memorable occasion, and to rejoice with you and the assistant priests, and with the people of the parish. May God reward you all and may St. Benedict, the patron of Europe and of the parish, give us his continued protection.

With every blessing and good wish,

† FRANCIS THOMSON,

Bishop of Motherwell.



RIGHT REVEREND FRANCIS THOMSON, S.T.L., M.A.,
Bishop of Motherwell.

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Our great day has at last arrived! A day of course which has been brought about only at the cost of much prayer and sacrifice. However, the realisation that our efforts have provided a permanent home for Our Divine Lord and Master and a place of worship where we can honour Him in a fitting manner will be reward enough for us who have His cause at heart.

With God's help and the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and St. Benedict, it is to be hoped that the completion of the church will mark the beginning of a new spiritual era for each and everyone of us.

In bygone days this locality was known as "The Holy Land." I do not know how the title was earned, but I can certainly hope and pray that it might be known in the future by the same title and that the reasons for it will be obvious, viz. the quality and example of our own lives in the practice of the Faith, and the lives of those committed to our care.

Nevertheless, judging from your efforts and achievements in the past, I can undoubtedly be very hopeful of the future. My grateful thanks go out to you to-day for your wonderful efforts. Your loyalty, your co-operation and your spirit of sacrifice have been a source of inspiration not only to me and my assistant priests, but also to others further afield.

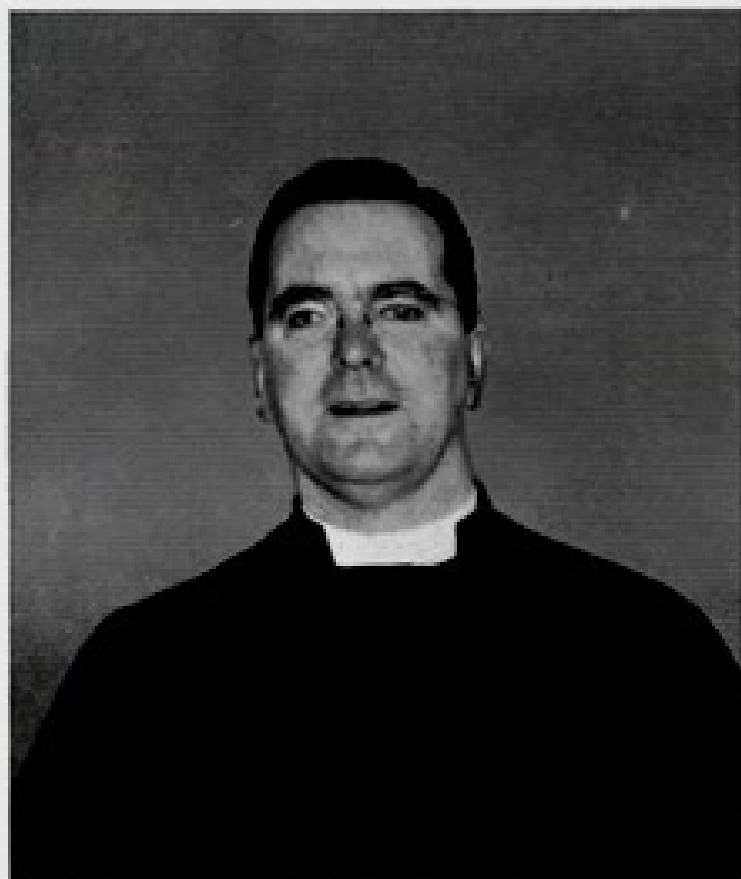
I should like to say a special word of thanks, on my own behalf and on yours, to the many friends, both clerical and lay, outside the parish who gave us incalculable help in running the parish and in building the church.

In the short sketch of St. Benedict's life given us by St. Gregory the Great, we read of the faithful of all walks and conditions of life flocking to the "Man of God" for guidance, encouragement and consolation. Let us flock to him by means of this great house of God that is dedicated in his honour.

It is my fervent prayer that our new church will be a power-house of grace and blessing for you and yours for many generations.

Yours sincerely and gratefully,

HENRY MCGINN, P.P.



REV. HENRY MCGINN, P.P.

History of

EASTERHOUSE

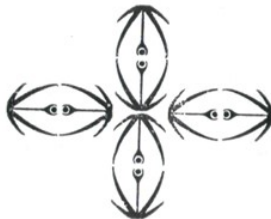
This the largest new housing project in the Eastern part of the city of Glasgow has been given the name of Easterhouse. The name has been derived from a village, a farm and an estate in the area that were thus designated.

The district was made part of the city of Glasgow as recently as 1938; until then it formed part of the County of Lanark. The area lies mainly within the region that is known as the Monklands.

The lands surrounding the original church of this whole territory were given in the twelfth century by King Malcolm IV to the monks of Newbattle Abbey in the Lothians. Not only did the Cistercians come from Newbattle, but Benedictine monks came also from other monasteries. Thus we get the name of the Monklands or Old Monkland and the Monkland canal.

Part of this district is known as Provan, derived from Provan Hall which is the second oldest house in Glasgow. It was built in the fifteenth century and was the country house of the Lairds of Provan. Their town house was Provand's Lordship—the oldest house in Glasgow.

The name Provan is thought to be derived from Prebend. In the twelfth century this area belonged to the Diocese of Glasgow, and it was set up as a prebend of the Cathedral, that is, a parish which supported a canon of the Cathedral Chapter. By degrees it became known as the Prebend—Proband—Provan.



History of

ST. BENEDICT'S

This parish was founded in October, 1958. Prior to the founding of the parish the people flocking in to this new area were served from St. Bridget's, Baillieston, which is consequently the parent parish. Father Angus MacKellaig was the first Parish Priest and he was joined a year later by his first assistant priest, Father McGlinchey, who is still with us.

For fully a year after the inception of the parish the people had to travel to St. Bridget's for Mass on Sundays and Holydays. The opening of St. Benedict's Primary School towards the end of 1959 proved a great boon because it provided a Mass Centre for Sundays and Holydays.

The rough and tumble of pioneering a new parish proved too much for the somewhat delicate Father MacKellaig, and in April, 1962, his health broke and he had to go into temporary retirement. He was succeeded in that same month by Father H. McGinn who has ruled over the destinies of the parish since that date. Father Curley, our second assistant priest, came to join us in the summer of 1962; he also is still happily with us.

About a year after he came to us, Father McGinn had the plans of the new church and presbytery finalised, approved and priced.

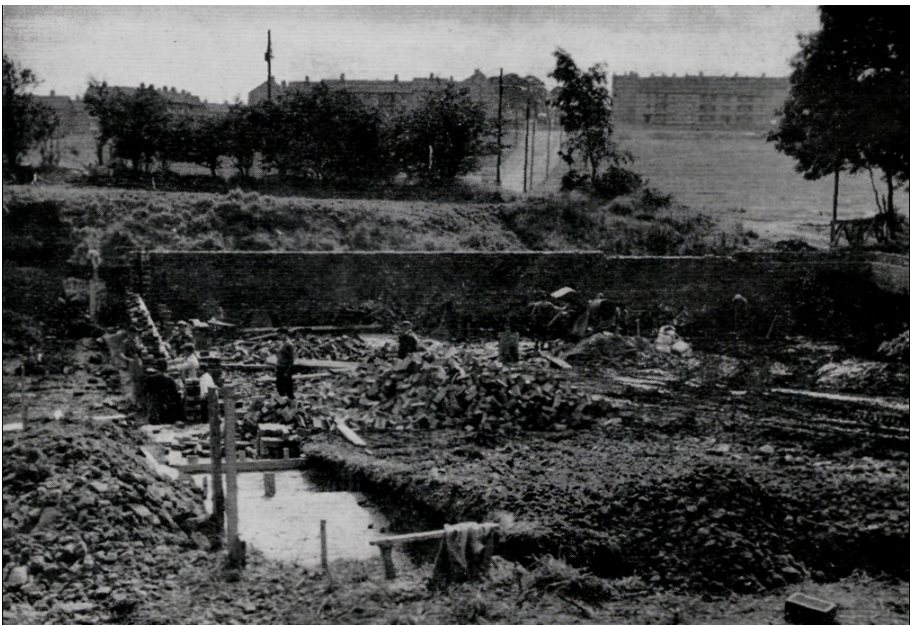
Work was begun in the middle of August, 1963, and proceeded with remarkable speed during the first few months. However, it was March 21st, 1965, the feast of St. Benedict, before we had the ceremony of laying the commemorative stone. This ceremony was performed by our new Bishop, Bishop Thomson, who celebrated Mass to mark the occasion. This was the first ceremony of its kind performed by the Bishop since coming to the Diocese.

On Sunday, July 11th, the feast of the Solemnity of St. Benedict, we made the first use of the almost wholly completed church. A Holy Hour preached by Father W. Strickland was attended by some 800 parishioners.

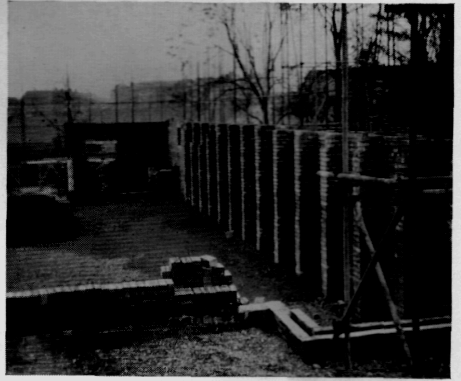
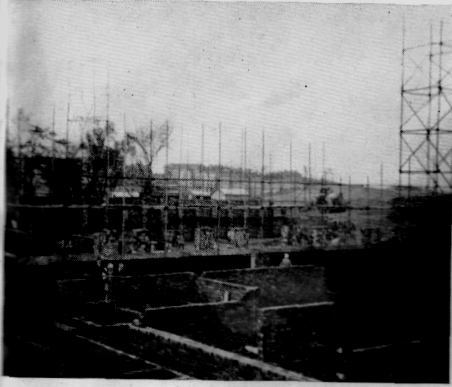
The climax is reached to-day, our solemn opening day, Sunday the 29th August, when our beloved Bishop celebrates Pontifical Mass. It is very appropriate that the Preacher for the occasion is the Right Rev. Abbot Haworth, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Abbey, Fort Augustus.



Early Beginnings

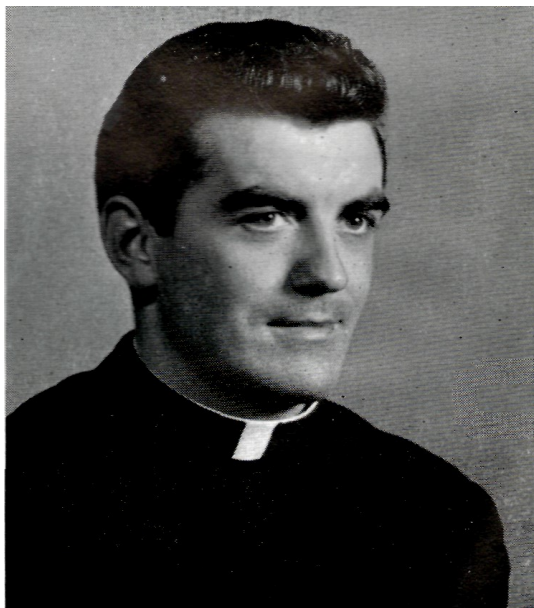


The Work Progresses





Rev. JAMES McGLINCHEY





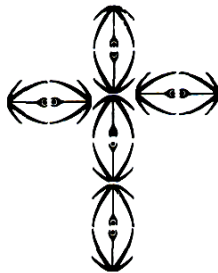
Saint Benedict

Our saint was born at Nursia about the year 480, of a good country family, and he was sent to Rome for his education. Repelled by the vices of the degenerate city, he cut short his studies, left Rome, and betook himself to a mountain hermitage at Subiaco. Here he remained in complete retreat for three years until the fame of his sanctity began to attract disciples eager to enter the monastic state under his guidance.

Later, he moved from Subiaco to Monte Cassino, where again numerous disciples gathered around him. There at Monte Cassino St. Benedict led his life of work and prayer, ruled over his monks, wrote the Holy Rule and died. His life could scarcely have been more remote from the great currents and trends of the turbulent sixth century. Yet so clearly do his achievements stand out from the turmoil of his time, that the term “Benedictine” has been applied by historians to the following six centuries.

The year 1947 was celebrated as the fourteenth centenary of the death of St. Benedict. Pope Pius XII to mark the occasion published an Encyclical Letter, in which he speaks of Benedict of Nursia as “shining like a star in the darkness of the night.”

Only a few short months ago, towards the end of 1964, our present Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, proclaimed St. Benedict as the Patron of Europe.



Acknowledgments

The Priests and people of St. Benedict's will always be grateful to Mr. Jack Coia and his associates for designing such a fine church and presbytery to serve the needs of our parish. The thought, study and meticulous care that have gone into the design are clearly evident. The plan of the church is very much abreast of the best liturgical thought and development. As one distinguished cleric remarked recently, "He (Mr. Coia) is away ahead of them all, and that includes the Continent."

We are grateful also to His Grace, Archbishop Scanlan, formerly Bishop of Motherwell, for approving the design and giving us the go-ahead.

Grateful thanks are also due the many donors, both from the parish and outside it. Some of them have already gone to their eternal reward, but they will always have a special place in our prayers.

Apart from the individual donors, there have been the schools (St. Benedict's and St. Scholastica's) and the parochial societies and organisations. We thank them individually and collectively.

The outdoor collectors and other church workers are due very special thanks because their constant and persevering efforts have contributed greatly to the raising of the funds without which a project of this kind could never be attempted.

Then, of course, there is our new Bishop, the Right Rev. Francis Thomson, who since coming to the Diocese has given us great help and encouragement.

A special words of thanks is due Canon McCrory and Father T. Reilly for putting their churches at our disposal and for other varied help. Father M. Kinsella is also due much gratitude for his interest, help and encouragement.

Architect's Description

The new St. Benedict's Church and Presbytery in Easterhouse stand in a well-wooded site on Westerhouse Road facing an area which, though barren at the moment, is scheduled for development as a Town Centre for the area. The church itself has a large volume and a forceful external form which will enable it to preserve its identity in these future developments.

There is seating accommodation for 850 in the spacious, clerestory-lit nave, and it is interesting to note that the design anticipated the recent liturgical trends in providing for a centrally placed high altar, surrounded on four sides by seating to allow Mass to be said facing the congregation. A separate Blessed Sacrament altar is situated at a slightly higher level beyond the sanctuary in an area which is partially enclosed and may serve as a small chapel.

Above the narthex, which incorporates a mortuary chapel and penetrates into the main volume of the church through a glazed timber screen, there is a gallery with seating for a further fifty and two generously sized rooms for Guild and St. Vincent de Paul activities, with glazed openings overlooking the sanctuary.

The baptistery to the left of the narthex, entered down a short flight of steps from the nave, is low ceilinged and suffused by a subdued light from a series of slit windows incorporating tinted glazing. On the opposite side are the sacristies for priests and boys with a glazed link to the presbytery. This comprises a suite for the Parish Priest, three split-level bedroom/sitting rooms for curates, a guest room, dining room, kitchen and accommodation for two domestic staff, plus two call rooms, garage, etc.

Both buildings are of load-bearing brick construction, the buttresses of the tall church gables being expressed externally and internally. Roofs are timber joisted and boarded and covered in copper, the longer spans of the church being carried on steel beams. Ceilings are softwood throughout, close boarded in the presbytery and slatted in the church. The walls are cement rendered and painted white internally, and the floor of the church is finished in mixed red, brown and buff quarry tiles, the latter being used as a facing for the altar bases also. Timber finishings are of Makoré, as are the seats in the church.

The lighting is by concealed fluorescent tubes round the perimeter and the heating by circulated hot air through floor grilles from gas-fired burners in the basement.



Hymn to Saint Benedict

Words by Father W. Strickland.

Music by Father Francis Duffy.

When Europe's Christian dawn awoke
So many years ago,
And time was ripe for Satan's yoke
Of sin to overthrow,
God sent into this mortal world
His message to proclaim
A saint of burning holiness
And blessed was his name.

Thou holy teacher, Benedict,
Who taught at God's command,
Whose monks enlightened Christendom,
O make us understand,
And raise our minds and hearts to God,
Away from sin and shame,
For Europe prays to thee to-day
And blessed is thy name.

To-day in evil days we live,
When many minds have fled
From Faith and Hope and Charity,
And many souls are dead;
O Father of our Teaching Church,
O Patron of the West,
Be ever ready with thine aid
And may thy name be blessed.

Saint Benedict, we sing to thee,
Our Patron Saint in Heaven,
Unto thy children here on earth
Thy cherished help be given,
And while we pray for all our own
Who this their parish claim,
We plead thine aid for all mankind,
O blessed be thy name.

- ARCHITECTS - - - - Gillespie, Kidd & Coia,
20 Park Circus, Glasgow, C.3.
- QUANTITY SURVEYORS - - - Mackintosh & Robertson,
132 West Nile Street, Glasgow, C.2.
- STRUCTURAL CONSULTANTS - Vivian Rossi and Associates,
8 Park Terrace, Glasgow, C.3.

List of Contractors

- Steelwork - - - - Donald Clerk & Son Ltd.,
Caledonian Steelworks, Rutherglen.
- Builder Work - - - Hunter & Clark Ltd.,
1173 Gallowgate, Glasgow, E.1.
- Joiner Work - - - John C. Burns & Co. Ltd.,
200 Quarry Street, Hamilton.
- Plaster Work - - - McCartney & Reid Ltd.,
32 Glasgow Road, Wishaw.
- Plumber Work - - - R. W. Muir Ltd.,
100 Brandon Street, Motherwell.
- Roofing Work - - - Hugh Twaddle & Son Ltd.,
130 London Road, Glasgow, C.1.
- Tile Work - - - Galbraith & Winton Ltd.,
48 Balnain Street, Glasgow, C.4.
- Electrical Work - - - A.B.C. Electric,
486 St. George's Road, Glasgow, C.3.
- Heating Work - - - John Chalmers (Plumbers) Ltd.,
369 Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2.
- Painter Work - - - J. Connelly,
4 Church Road, Muirhead, Chryston.
- Glazier Work - - - McDonald & Hughes,
164 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, N.W.
- Seating - - - Alex. Stephen & Sons Ltd.,
Linthouse, Glasgow, S.W.1.
- Upholstery - - - R. & H. Cowan,
43 Rosehall Street, Glasgow, C.4.

The Medal of Saint Benedict

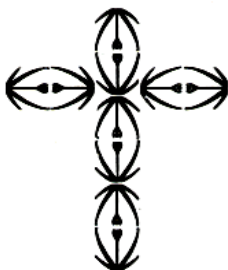
Our front cover depicts the Medal of St. Benedict. The medal bears, on the side shown on our cover, the representation of St. Benedict holding in one hand the cross, and in the other hand his Holy Rule.

The obverse side of the medal has a cross together with certain letters, the most prominent those between the arms of the cross, viz. C. S. P. B.—Cruz Sancti Patris Benedicti. (The Cross of Holy Father Benedict.)

Tradition assigns this special form of the cross depicted on the medal to the actual lifetime of the saint. It is a well-known historical fact that St. Benedict performed many miracles by the sign of the cross, to which he had a particular devotion.

It is an interesting fact that the Sisters of Charity have always worn this medal attached to their Rosary from the time of their foundation by St. Vincent de Paul in the seventeenth century.

Innumerable instances are on record of the special protection afforded by St. Benedict against accidents, maladies, tempests, and the assaults of evil spirits on being invoked by those who carry about the medal.



Printed by
JOHN S. BURNS & SONS
25 FINLAS STREET
GLASGOW, N.2

