

# Dedication of the New Church and Blessing of the Community Centre

by His Eminence  
Cardinal George Basil Hume OSB  
Archbishop of Westminster  
25th September 1996

Church of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate, Mill Hill

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to the following for their services:

Architects	PRC Fewster
Quantity Surveyors	Philip Pank Partnership
Consulting Engineers	Donald Halstead Associates
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... and all those within and outside the parish whose generosity made the the Project possible

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ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

**Message on the occasion of the  
Dedication of the Church of the Sacred Heart  
and Mary Immaculate, Mill Hill**

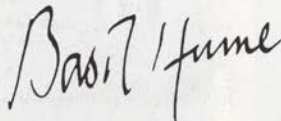
This is a day of great rejoicing. The act of faith which the parish of Mill Hill has made in the building of this new church is a testimony to the truth, that a church is not only bricks and mortar, but also the people who believe and worship. Your faith makes this church a place of prayer and a house fit for God.

I want to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the Diocese of Westminster to the Vincentian Fathers for their support of this new building and their faithful service to the people of this parish.

I have always believed that a church building is like a sermon in stone, it acts as a silent witness constantly reminding us of God.

I pray that all who gather here in this place to listen to the Word of God and celebrate the sacraments experience the person of Christ, true man and true God and his promise to be with those who gather in his name.

Yours devotedly,



Archbishop of Westminster



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# PARISH HISTORY

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The parish of the Sacred Heart can trace its origins back more than 100 years to 1889, when the Catholics of Mill Hill started to attend Mass in the chapel of the Sisters of Charity on the Ridgeway.

By 1920 Mill Hill was in the middle of the transition from village to suburb. Its population had grown by 44 percent in 10 years, but it was still surrounded by open country. Three churches were built around the Broadway at this time: Union Church, which in time was affiliated to the United Reform Church; the Church of St. Michael and All the Angels in Flower Lane; and the Church of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate, completed in 1923. The land on which the Church was to be built had previously been offered to Mr and Mrs Stallard for £1,000; but being unable to accept the offer, they buried Miraculous Medals in the ground and waited.

This act of faith was fully justified. A year later, the site was purchased by the Vincentian Fathers, and on December 6th 1923, the church was blessed and dedicated to the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate in the presence of Cardinal Bourne.

During the next 70 years the Parish and its church both flourished under a succession of dedicated Parish Priests from the Vincentian order. The church was enlarged by the addition of two side aisles and an organ loft in 1934. The original Parish Hall, a wooden building which had previously seen service as the woodwork classroom at St. Vincent's, was replaced by spacious Social Centre in 1968. The present Presbytery was built in 1964. Many of the statues and liturgical features which have been incorporated so successfully into the new Church were presented during this time by parishioners.

## Parish Priests: 1923 - 1996

Fr. Charles Bagnall, C.M.	1923 - 1932
Fr. Daniel O'Connell C.M.	1932 - 1935
Fr. Joseph Cullen C.M.	1935 - 1945
Fr. Henry Delaney C.M.	1945 - 1949
Fr. Michael Doyle C.M.	1949 - 1956
Fr. Bernard Maguire C.M.	1956 - 1958
Fr. Patrick Bannigan C.M.	1958 - 1964
Fr. Myles Dowley C.M.	1964 - 1970
Fr. Denis Corkery C.M.	1970 - 1976
Fr. Desmond Cleare C.M.	1976 - 1978
Fr. Ray Armstrong C.M.	1978 - 1984
Fr. Joe Cunningham C.M.	1984 - 1990
Fr. Aidan McGing C.M.	1990 - 1996



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# A NEW CHURCH FOR MILL HILL

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An old map shows that the 1923 church was built in the middle of three well fields, which presented drainage problems almost from the start. To make matters worse, the subsoil is London clay, which provides notoriously poor foundations. The building itself was quite tall, and its long South-West wall was built without the expansion joints which more modern building regulations would have insisted on. All these factors combined to create a series of structural problems which necessitated periodical remedial works from the 1950's onwards. In October 1990 an engineer's report concluded that both the church and the hall were in need of major structural work to make them safe. A Parish Development Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Mr Martin Gratte to investigate and assess our options. It concluded that structural repairs would be prohibitively expensive, with no long-term guarantee.

In November 1992 the choice between repairing the old church and building a new church was put to the parish in the form of a census. The parish responded with an almost unanimous vote for the 'new church' option.

Most of the next 12 months were spent in researching the issues: architectural, liturgical, engineering, financial, pastoral. The architectural design of the church was put out to competition, and design submissions were presented by four Architects in October 1993. The plans submitted by PRC Partnership were chosen, again by a majority vote of the whole parish.

A month later, an Appeal was launched in the parish to build 'A Church for 2000'. To date the appeal has raised £650,000, with a further £150,000 coming from insurance claims.

## The fall of the old, the rise of the new

Demolition of the old church started on Easter Monday 1994, and for the next year the Social Centre became also

the Centre for worship. (It is worth recording that several neighbourhood churches of other denominations offered space and facilities should we need them.)

The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Vincent Nichols on June 21, 1994.

The parish moved into the new church on Passion Sunday, April 8, 1995, and the first Mass was celebrated by Fr. Aidan McGing C.M. After some delays, work began on the new Community Centre in December 1995, and the building was completed in July 1996.

The eventual cost of the whole project - church, community centre, car park, landscaping, fixtures and fittings - was just under £1m. Now that the project is completed and all the costs are in, the outstanding debt is £200,000. Almost all the money has been raised within the parish, through individual gifts of cash, materials and professional services. Some parishioners showed their commitment to the future by making legacies to the appeal fund; others used their talents to organise fund-raising events. Nor was this support limited to the parishioners: the other churches in Mill Hill, as well as the community at large, were also generous with their gifts.



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# THE DESIGN OF THE BUILDING

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Because of the problems encountered with foundations in the past, the new church and community centre were built on deep piles, going down over sixty feet, on which was built a raft of reinforced concrete as a foundation for the superstructure.

Externally, the whole building has been designed so as to provide a handsome structure on this fine site. While it is clearly a modern building, the tower with the cross on top marks it out as a building for the worship of God. A long stained glass window, illuminated at night, and facing up towards Mill Hill Roundabout, further beautifies the tower. Both the church and the community centre are under one roof, separated from each other by the reception/toilet area, which is common to both. This means that parishioners can move from the church into the Centre after Mass without leaving the building.

We hope that this arrangement will allow parishioners to get to know each other more easily, and will help the social life of the parish.

## INSIDE THE CHURCH

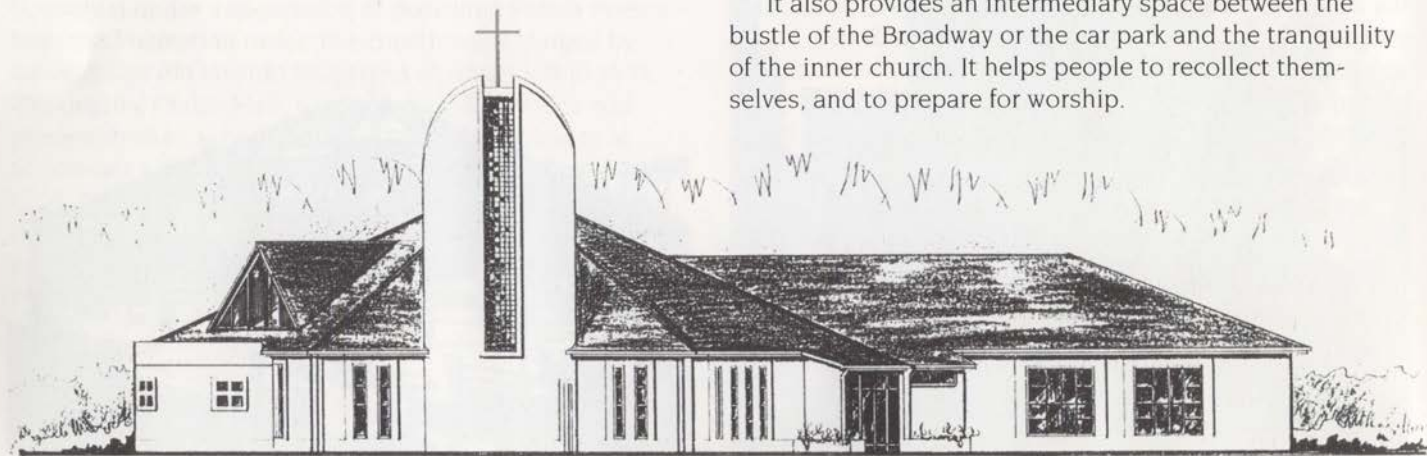
The church has three separate areas: the body of the church, the porch or narthex, and the tower chapel.

The BODY OF THE CHURCH is arranged so that all worshippers are close to the altar and close to each other, and consequently they feel that they are one body. Since modern building techniques do away with pillars, everybody has an unimpeded view of the altar. The area around the altar (the sanctuary) is clearly marked out by the marble floor, while the rest of the area is carpeted.

The oak ceiling, the brick walls, and the general shape of this area give an impression of devotion and tranquillity. The architect has succeeded in producing an interior that raises one's mind to God.

The PORCH OR NARTHEX was deliberately designed to be large, so as to give people an opportunity to meet each other before and after services. It is brightly lit, and the glass doors giving on to the Broadway are designed to make the building attractive, as passers-by on the Broadway see people moving round inside a well lit interior.

It also provides an intermediary space between the bustle of the Broadway or the car park and the tranquillity of the inner church. It helps people to recollect themselves, and to prepare for worship.



The TOWER CHAPEL has three functions. It acts both as a confessional, and as a place where parents can bring young children during Mass, but in addition, it opens onto the Broadway, and allows passers-by to visit the church and the Blessed Sacrament without entering the body of the church. This is of course a protection against vandalism.



## THE FURNISHING OF THE CHURCH

The furniture and decoration of the church are arranged so as to reflect our beliefs. For instance, if you look up towards the front, you see on the left-hand side a tabernacle, and on the right-hand, a beautiful baptismal font. Here we see the two foundation sacraments as it were set in stone and metal.

At the centre, we see an altar and lectern, representing the two parts of the Mass, the service of the Word and the Eucharistic Prayer. On the right of the altar we see a magnificent bronze crucifix, reminding us of the passion of Christ, and behind the altar we see a representation of the Risen Christ. Our whole religion is based on the death and resurrection of Christ, which reconciled us to the Father.

The stained glass window behind the altar show a bright light which represents God the Father, "who dwells in unapproachable light" (I Timothy 6, 16). If you look closely at the window, you will see a mysterious pair of hands, the hands of God. On the cross, before his death, Our Lord prayed to his Father: "Into your hands I commit my spirit", handing himself over completely to his Father's will.

While we come to God as individuals, yet there is no religion without community. We come to him in community. That is symbolised by the way the whole congregation is together. But yet we come in answer to God's invitation, for he has revealed himself to us in his Son. This is symbolised by the way in which we centre our attention on the altar which symbolises Christ.

If you look closely, you will see that there is a silver dove suspended over the font. This figure symbolises the Holy Spirit, who was present at the baptism of Jesus. The dove, a relic of the old church, is modelled on the type of Pyx which was used to contain the Blessed Sacrament in the middle ages.

As you look round the church, you will see the Stations of the Cross, to remind us of Passion of Our Lord. At each corner we have a life-size wooden figure, carved by Angela Godfrey. One is of Our Lord, to remind us that our God is not remote from us, but that he came to us in the man Jesus of Nazareth, true God and true Man. Another statue is of Our Lady, the Mother of God. There are also four figures of saints, St Joseph, St Anthony of Padua, St Vincent de Paul, and St Catherine Labouré, to remind us that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," that is, the saints who have gone before us, and who are still alive.

So the whole interior, while it provides a calm and religious space, also reminds us of our beliefs as Catholics.

## THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The new Community Centre is bright and spacious - the main hall is actually larger than the hall in the old Centre. We have economised by having no stage or green room, but instead we have invested in a very high quality kitchen, fitted out in accordance with the latest EU regulations in stainless steel.

Beside the kitchen is a club room for smaller meetings, with its own entrance. The club room can be partitioned off from the main hall, and the main hall in turn can be halved by a soundproof partition across it. This arrangement provides several areas of different sizes.

The Centre is under the same roof as the church, and both buildings communicate with each other through an attractive lobby. It is hoped that the proximity of the Centre to the church will encourage parishioners to meet each other after Mass, and of course at other times, and so stimulate the social life of the parish.

The Centre will be used socially by different parish organisations, and it will provide rooms for the various classes which are taught in the parish. It will also provide an amenity for the community of Mill Hill at large by being let out for child care, and for community, educational and social purposes.

*"I think the worker did an excellent job.  
The new church has a good effect outside,  
and an even better in. I really liked the old  
church, but the new one's much better."*

Anon





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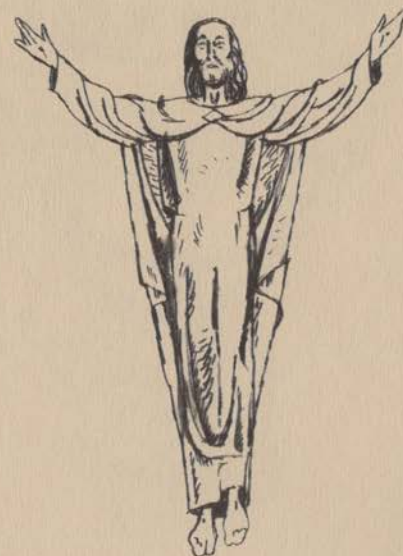
# THE LITURGY

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## ENTRANCE HYMN

STAND

1. All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice.
2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed  
and for his sheep he doth us take.
3. O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto,  
praise, laud and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? The Lord our God is good:  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.
5. To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from men and from the angel-host  
be praise and glory evermore.



*On arrival at the sanctuary, the clergy and servers go to their places.*

*The Cardinal then greets the people:*

- C. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
All. Amen.  
C. The grace and peace of God be with all of you in this holy church.  
All. And also with you.

*"When I walk in, it is as light,  
a beam of light has shone upon me  
and God has started a new song,  
a song of love and hope for the  
future and forever"*

Alberto Velarde



## BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF WATER

- C. Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this solemn rite of dedication, let us ask the Lord our God to bless this water, created by his hand. It is a sign of our repentance and a reminder of our baptism. May the grace of God help us to remain faithful members of his Church, open to the Spirit we have received.

*All pray in silence for a brief period. The Cardinal then continues:*

- C. God of mercy, you call every creature to the light of life, and surround us with such great love that when we stray, you continually lead us back to Christ our head. For you have established an inheritance of such mercy, that those sinners, who pass through water made sacred, die with Christ and rise restored as members of his body and heirs of his eternal covenant. Bless  $\text{✠}$  this water; sanctify it. As it is sprinkled upon us and throughout this church make it a sign of the saving waters of baptism, by which we become one in Christ, the temple of your Spirit. May all here today, and all those in days to come, who will celebrate your mysteries in this church be united at last in the holy city of your peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All. Amen.

*The Cardinal now walks through the Church and sprinkles the people.*

## HYMN

The light of Christ  
has come into the world  
the light of Christ  
has come into the world.

1. All men must be born again  
to see the kingdom of God  
the water and the Spirit  
bring new life in God's love.
2. God gave up his only Son  
out of love for the world  
so that ev'ryone who believes in him  
will live for ever.
3. The Light of God has come to us  
so that we might have salvation,  
from the darkness of our sins, we walk  
into glory with Christ Jesus.

STAND

*On return to the sanctuary the Cardinal says:*

- C. May God, the Father of mercies, dwell in the house of prayer.  
May the grace of the Holy Spirit cleanse us,  
for we are the temple of his presence.

All. Amen.

### Gloria (sung)

*From: A New People's Mass (Dom Gregory Murray)*

Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord, God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father,  
Amen

STAND

### Opening Prayer

- C. Let us pray.  
Lord, fill this place with your presence, and extend your hand to all those  
who call upon you. May your word here proclaimed and your sacraments  
here celebrated strengthen the hearts of all the faithful.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

All. Amen.

*"The church looks a lot more holy. It looks as though God is showing his light. It looks welcoming. I feel as if God is smiling at me because the church is so bright. I think that the Sacred Heart is a very pleasant place to be."*

Maria

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Lectionary is taken to the Cardinal by the readers.*

*The Cardinal, showing it to the people, says:*

- C. May the Word of God always be heard in this place, as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before you and achieves your salvation within the Church.

### First Reading

SIT

A reading from the first Book of the Kings.

*Let your eyes watch over this house.*

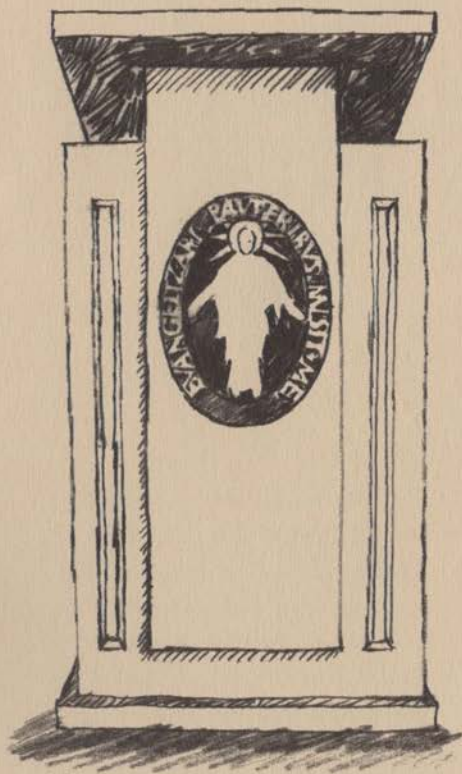
8:22-23, 27-30

In the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord and, stretching out his hands towards heaven, said, 'Lord, God of Israel, not in heaven above nor on earth beneath is there such a God as you, true to your covenant and your kindness towards your servants when they walk whole-heartedly in your way. Yet will God really live with men on the earth? Why, the heavens and their own heavens cannot contain you. How much less this house that I have built! Listen to the prayer and entreaty of your servant, Lord my God; listen to the cry and to the prayer your servant makes to you today. Day and night let your eyes watch over this place of which you have said, "My name shall be there". Listen to the prayer that your servant will offer in this place.

'Hear the entreaty of your servant and of Israel your people as they pray in this place. From Heaven where your dwelling is, hear; and as you hear, forgive.'

This is the word of the Lord.

- All. Thanks be to God.



## Responsorial Psalm (sung)

*Repeat the response after each verse*

- All. The Lord of Hosts is with us,  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
1. God is for us a refuge and strength  
a helper close at hand in time of distress  
so we shall not fear, though the earth should rock  
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea.
  2. The waters of a river give joy to God's city,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.  
God is within, it cannot be shaken;  
God will help it at the dawning of the day.
  3. The Lord of Hosts is with us:  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
Come, consider the works of the Lord,  
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth.

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

*All grow into one holy temple in the Lord.*

2:19-22

You are no longer aliens or foreign visitors: you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus himself for its main cornerstone. As every structure is aligned on him, all grow into one holy temple in the Lord; and you too, in him, are being built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

- All. Thanks be to God.



*"When you go past in the night, you see the gleaming lights welcoming you in the church and the beautiful trees and plants outside. When you go inside, it's like a warm feeling inside."*

Claire McDonagh

STAND

### Gospel Acclamation: (sung)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Father we praise you as Lord,  
all of the earth gives you worship  
for your majesty fills the heavens, fills the earth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

- C. The Lord be with you  
All. And also with you.  
C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John  
All. Glory to you, Lord.

*He was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body.*

2:13-22

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: 'Zeal for your house will devour me'.

The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

- All. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### HOMILY

SIT

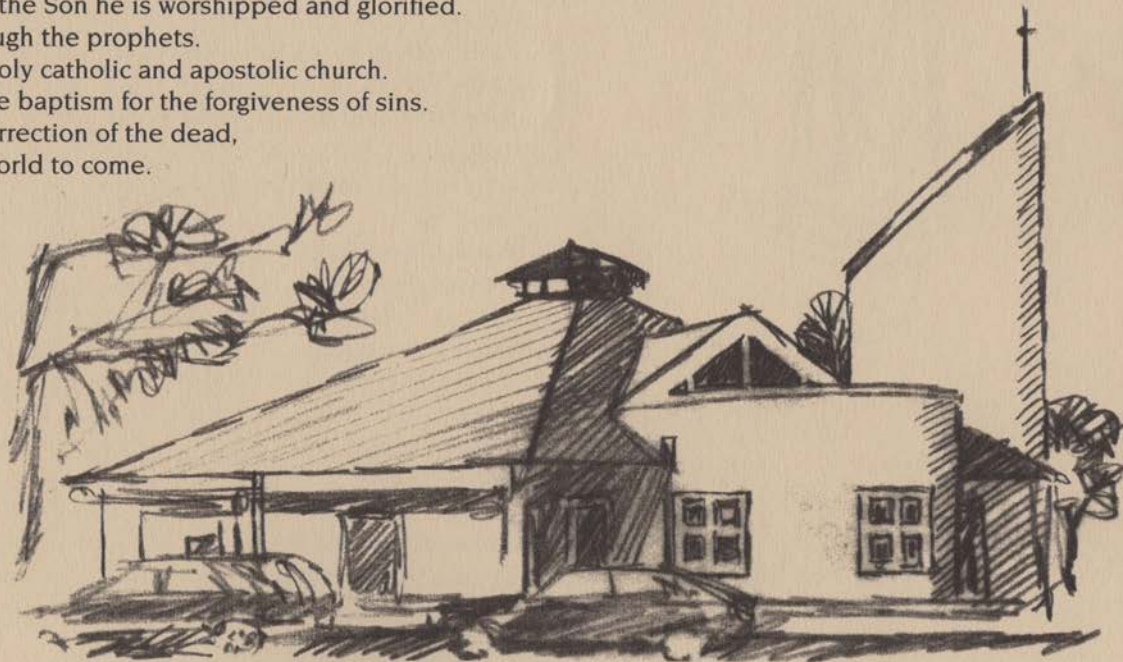


## The Creed

STAND

All. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us men and our salvation he came down from heaven:  
*All bow here*  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen



## LITANY OF THE SAINTS

STAND

- C. Let us ask the saints to support our prayers to God the Father Almighty, who has made the hearts of his people faithful temples of his Spirit.

*The assistant priest then says:*

Let us kneel.

KNEEL



- The Litany follows:*
- All. Saints of God in glory,  
be with us, rejoice with us,  
sing praise with us, and pray with us now.
1. Mary, Mother of God  
Joseph  
John the Baptist  
Peter And Paul  
Andrew  
James  
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
Mary of Magdala and Martha  
All women and men of the Gospel
  2. Stephen  
Ignatius of Loyola  
Lawrence  
Augustine of Canterbury  
Vincent de Paul  
Francis of Assisi  
Basil  
All preachers of the Gospel
  3. Benedict  
Teresa of Avila  
Peter Claver  
John of the Cross  
Teresa of the Child Jesus  
Francis and Dominic  
John Vianney  
All women and men of prayer





*When the Litany is finished, the Cardinal prays:*

- C. Lord, may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints make our prayers acceptable to you. May this building, which we dedicate to your name, be a house of salvation and grace where Christians gathered in fellowship may worship you in spirit and truth and grow together in love. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

KNEEL

*The Cardinal, standing without mitre at the chair, or near the altar, with hands extended, says:*

- C. Father in heaven, source of holiness and true purpose, it is right that we praise and glorify your name. For today we come before you, to dedicate to your lasting service this house of prayer, this temple of worship, this home in which we are nourished by your word and your sacraments.

Here is reflected the mystery of the Church. The Church is fruitful, made holy by the blood of Christ; a bride made radiant with his glory, a virgin splendid in the wholeness of her faith, a mother blessed through the power of the Spirit. The Church is holy, your chosen vineyard: its branches envelop the world, its tendrils, carried on the tree of the cross, reach up to the kingdom of heaven. The Church is favoured, the dwelling place of God on earth: a temple built of living stones, founded on the apostles with Jesus Christ as its cornerstone. The Church is exalted, a city set on a mountain: a beacon to the whole world, bright with the glory of the Lamb, and echoing the prayers of her saints.

Lord, send your Spirit from heaven and make this church an ever-holy place, and this altar a ready table for the sacrifice of Christ. Here may the waters of baptism overwhelm the shame of sin; here may your people die to sin and live again through grace as your children. Here may your children, gathered round your altar, celebrate the memorial of the Paschal Lamb, and be fed at the table of Christ's word and Christ's body. Here may prayer, the Church's banquet, resound through heaven and earth as a plea for the world's salvation. Here may the poor find justice, the victims of oppression, true freedom. From here may the whole world, clothed in the dignity of the children of God, enter with gladness your city of peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen



*"I noticed that everyone was paying attention. In some churches the priests sound as if they don't mean what they say, but this priest was saying things and he sounded as if he really meant it. He also made it sound really interesting."*

Eleanor Day

## ANOINTING OF THE ALTAR AND WALLS OF THE CHURCH

SIT

*In front of the altar, the Cardinal says:*

- C. We now anoint this Altar and this building. May God in his power make them holy, visible signs of the mystery of Christ and his Church.

*The Cardinal now anoints the middle of the Altar and each of its four corners with the oil of Chrism and, with assistance from concelebrating priests, the walls of the Church, signing the four crosses. During the Anointing the Veni Sancte Spiritus is sung:*

Veni, Sancte Spiritus,  
et emitte caelitus  
Lucis tuae radium.  
Veni, pater pauperum;  
veni, dator munerum;  
veni, lumen cordium.  
Consolator optime,  
dulcis hospes animae,  
duce refrigerium.  
In labore requies,  
in aestu temperies,  
in fletu solacium.  
O lux beatissima  
reple cordis intima  
tuorum fidelium.

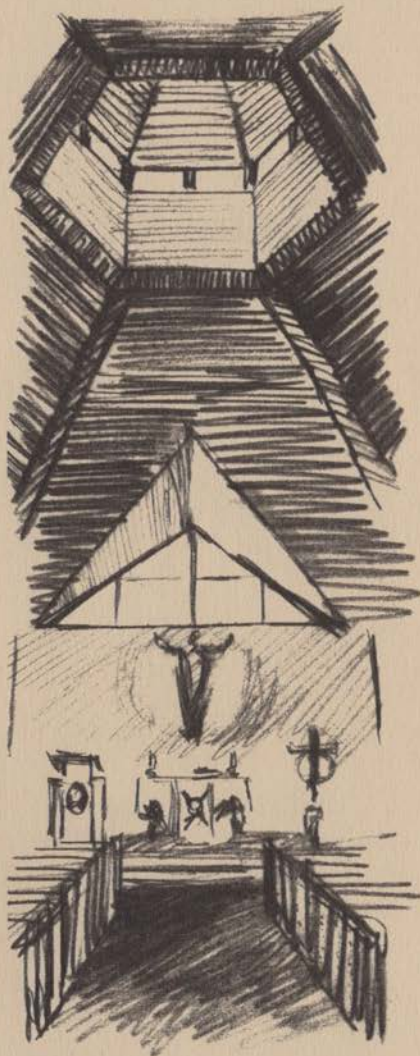
Sine tuo numine  
nihil est in homine,  
nihil est innoxium.  
Lava quod est sordidum,  
riga quod est aridum,  
sana quod est saucium.  
Flecte quod est rigidum,  
fove quod est frigidum,  
rege quod est devium.  
Da tuis fidelibus,  
in te confidentibus,  
sacrum septenarium.  
Da virtutis meritum,  
da salutis exitum,  
da perenne gaudium.  
Amen.

*After the anointing is completed, the Cardinal and clergy wash their hands.*

## INCENSING OF THE ALTAR AND CHURCH

*The Cardinal puts incense in the thurible on the altar, and then says:*

- C. Lord, may our prayer ascend as incense in your sight. As this building is filled with the fragrance so may your Church fill the world with the love of Christ.



*The Altar is then incensed, after which the Cardinal returns to his place, is incensed, and then sits. Ministers walk round the church incensing the walls and the people, whilst the first two verses of the following hymn are sung:*

## HYMN

1. On this house your blessing, Lord;  
on this house your grace bestow.  
on this house your blessing, Lord;  
may it come and never go.  
Bringing peace and joy and happiness,  
bringing love that knows no end.  
On this house your blessing, Lord;  
on this house your blessing send.
2. On this house your loving, Lord:  
may it overflow each day.  
On this house your loving, Lord;  
may it come and with us stay.  
Drawing us in love and unity  
by the love received from you.  
On this house your loving, Lord;  
may it come each day anew.

## STAND

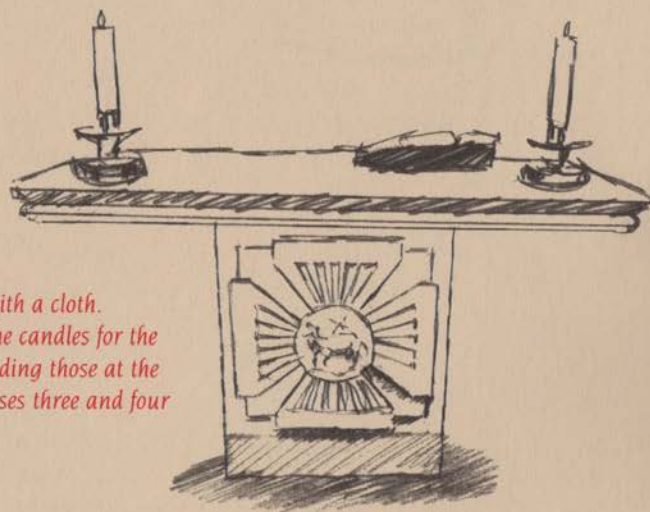
*The Cardinal gives the deacon the lighted paschal candle and says:*

- C. May the light of Christ shine forth in the Church,  
and bring all nations to the fullness of truth.

*The deacon now lights the four candles. The altar is wiped and covered with a cloth. Candles are placed on the altar. The server goes to the altar and lights the candles for the celebration of the Eucharist. All other candles in the church are lit, including those at the crosses, and all other lamps are lit as a sign of rejoicing. Meanwhile, verses three and four of the hymn are sung.*

*The Offertory procession now takes place.*

3. On this house your giving, Lord:  
may it turn and ever flow.  
On this house your giving, Lord:  
On this house your wealth bestow.  
Filling all our hopes and wishes, Lord;  
in the way you know is best.  
On this house your giving, Lord:  
may it come and with us rest.
4. On this house your calling, Lord:  
may it come to us each day.  
On this house your calling, Lord:  
may it come to lead the way.  
Filling us with nobler yearnings, Lord,  
calling us to live with you.  
On this house your calling, Lord:  
may it come each day anew.



## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

SIT

*The Cardinal offers the bread:*

- C. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
- All. Blessed be God for ever.

*The Cardinal pours wine and a little water into the chalice saying quietly:*

- C. By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The Cardinal takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, says:*

- C. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.
- All. Blessed be God for ever.

*The Cardinal bows and says quietly:*

- C. Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

*Standing at the side of the altar, the Cardinal now washes his hands, saying quietly:*

- C. Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

*Standing at the centre of the altar, facing the people, he says:*

- C. Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
- All. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

STAND

### Prayer over the Gifts

- C. Lord, accept the gifts of a rejoicing Church. May your people, who are gathered in this sacred place, arrive at eternal salvation through the mysteries in which they share.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
- All. Amen



*"Every Sunday when I go to the Sacred Heart, I feel proud to be there. I think it is the nicest church I have ever seen. It is beautiful, I think it is peaceful too."*

James Labib

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

STAND

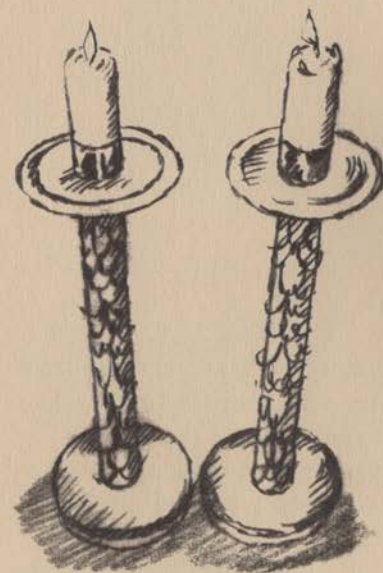
- C. The Lord be with you.  
All. And also with you.  
C. Lift up your hearts.  
All. We lift them up to the Lord.  
C. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All. It is right to give him thanks and praise.  
C. Father of holiness and power, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, your Son. For you have blessed this work of your hands and your presence here makes it a house of prayer. Nor do you ever refuse us welcome when we come in before you as your pilgrim people. In this house you realise the mystery of your dwelling among us: for in shaping us here as your holy temple you enrich your whole Church, which is the very body of Christ, and thus bring closer to fulfilment the vision of your peace, the heavenly city of Jerusalem. And so, with all your angels and saints who stand in your temple of glory, we praise you and give you thanks as we sing:

### Sanctus

- All. Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

KNEEL

Lord, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness.  
Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and eat it:  
this is my body which will be given up for you.  
When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
It will be shed for you and for all men so that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in memory of me.





*"When I first went to Sacred Heart church I was quite surprised. It was the steeple that surprised me, because it was shaped like a Bishop's mitre. I had never seen a church like it before so you can understand why..."*

Eleanor Day

## Eucharistic Acclamation

- C. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- All. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
- In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Father, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.
- Lord, remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together with John Paul our Pope, myself your unworthy servant, and all the clergy.
- Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence.
- Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the virgin Mother of God, with the apostles, and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.
- Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
- All. Amen.

STAND

## THE COMMUNION RITE

- C. Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:
- All. Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.
- C. Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of your Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- All. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

- C. Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.
- All. Amen.
- C. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- All. And also with you.

*The Cardinal now invites the congregation to offer one another a sign of peace.*

- C. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

### Agnus Dei:

- All. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

*The Cardinal takes the host and breaks it.*

*Then, showing the host to the people, he says:*

KNEEL

- C. This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
- All. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.

### Communion

*During Communion the Choir will sing:*

Ave Verum (Mozart).

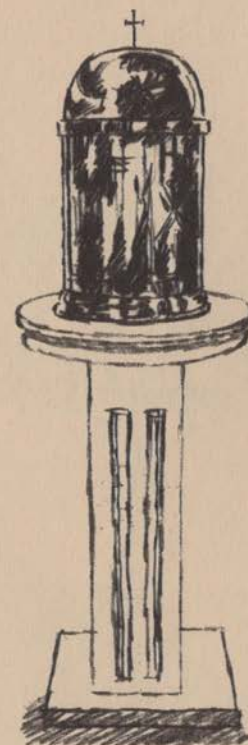
The Lord's My Shepherd.

SIT

### Prayer after Communion

STAND

- C. Let us pray.  
Lord, through these gifts increase the vision of your truth in our minds.  
May we always worship you in your holy temple, and rejoice in your presence with all your saints.  
Lord, our God, in your love you chose the Virgin Mary and kept her free from sin. May this sacrament of your love free us from our sins.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord
- All. Amen.



## BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

SIT

*The congregation are asked to remain in their places while the Cardinal proceeds to the Community Centre to bless it.*

## THE FINAL BLESSING

STAND

C. The Lord be with you.

All. And also with you.

C. The Lord of earth and heaven has assembled you before him this day to dedicate his house of prayer. May he fill you with the blessings of heaven.

All. Amen.

C. God the Father wills that all his children scattered through the world become one family in his Son.  
May he make you his temple, the dwelling place of his Holy Spirit.

All. Amen.

C. May God free you from every bond of sin, dwell within you and give you joy.  
May you live with him for ever in the company of all his saints.

All. Amen.

C. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All. Thanks be to God.

## THE FINAL HYMN

1. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended;  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended;  
thy praise shall signify our rest.
2. We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night
4. The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high.
5. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empire, pass away;  
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
till all thy creatures own thy sway.





## A MESSAGE FROM THE VINCENTIAN PROVINCIAL

On behalf of the Vincentian Fathers, I should like to offer my congratulations to all those who have worked together to build this beautiful new church in Mill Hill. The building of the old church in 1923, under the direction of the Parish Priest, Fr. Charles Bagnall, was a great act of faith by the people and priests of the time and now, 73 year later, the building of this new church on the same site is evidence of the sacrifices the people of this parish have been prepared to make to ensure there would be a worthy church in place for the Catholic community of this area as we move into the 3rd millennium.

A few days ago, I looked through the documentation in our Archives about the beginnings of this parish and I was struck by how frequently the words 'missionary parish' recurred in the correspondence.

I hope and pray that new forms of mission and ministry will develop here in the Sacred Heart Parish and I thank Fr. Aidan McGing and the various committees of the parish that have worked so hard for this day. I also welcome your new Parish Priest, Fr. Perry Gidea and I hope and pray that the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul will continue to inspire all those who are members and will become members of this parish community.

My hope and prayer today is that the very rich missionary hopes, which were so evident when the first church was built, will continue to be evident today, as we now prepare to engage in a new era of evangelisation at the dawning of a new century.

Kevin Rafferty C.M.



After the chilly Autumn evening in 1990, when Mr Donald Halstead informed us that we had serious problems both with the church and the hall, life changed totally for me. I had hoped to carry on quietly like my predecessors, but now it was to be bricks and mortar as well.

The parish rallied round in a way I would not have believed possible, and members of the various committees that came and went with the progress of the building, worked valiantly. Individual parishioners dug deep into their pockets and made their sacrifices, and many fundraising events were held. Now six years later, almost to the day, we have a beautiful new church and hall on the Broadway, surrounded by a handsome car park and landscaping.

However, "the beauty of the queen's daughter is from within." More important than any church are the people who come to it and pray there, and most important of all is their closeness to God and to each other. May these

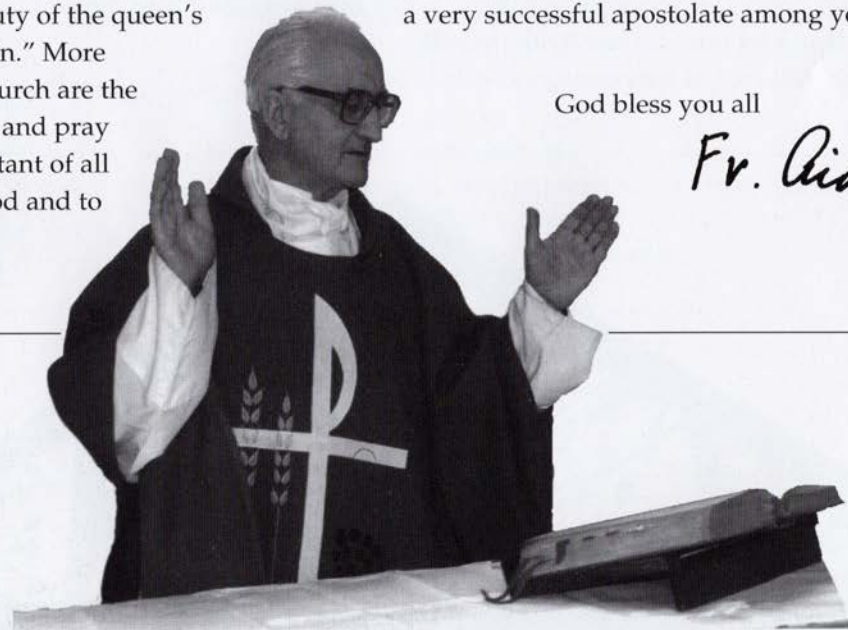
buildings truly bring you closer to God and to each other. They leave you with a debt, it is true, but as you have taken up this burden, you will not lay it down until all is paid.

The years in Mill Hill have been the happiest of my whole life. They were made especially pleasant by my initiation under Fr. Joe, and later by the presence of Fr. Fintan, who in spite of indifferent health, looked after you devotedly, and took a great load off my shoulders. For a shorter period too, Fr. Hugh made his own contribution.

I leave with many regrets, but after ten years, six of them involved in building, it is time to take up a less strenuous position, and hand over to a younger man. May I wish Fr. Perry, and after Christmas, Fr. Charles, a very successful apostolate among you.

God bless you all

*Fr. Aidan*



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST

Two years after the first church was built I was baptised in that magnificent building with its Byzantine exterior, but it was much later that I have any memories of the original church. To a child the inside of the building seemed so vast with its high ceiling, blue like the sky, and studded with gold stars. The pillars by the high altar and the steep steps leading to the altar table all seemed to emphasise the dignity and authority of the Church. The altar rails at which we knelt to receive Holy Communion allowed only the clergy and altar servers to be in the Sanctuary. Mass was said in Latin, with the priest's back to the congregation, whilst they read the translation in their missals or said the rosary. At the 11 o'clock Mass each Sunday the voices of the large choir floated down from the organ loft; incense drifted from the altar where numerous servers assisted carrying candles, (and one setting fire to a surplice), thurible, incense boat and holy water. One could contemplate the Way of the Cross from the sepia pictures on the walls, replaced later by the moulded figures which are still in use. There were four wooden confessionals inside the church, until the brick ones were built on to the exterior walls (which the priests found very cold in Winter).

With the advent of Vatican II, from the 1960's onwards, we saw many changes both to the liturgy and the fabric of the church. The steps to the altar were widened to give more room to the now forward facing altar, the altar rails were removed so that the Eucharist could be received standing up and in the hand. Most welcome of all, to many parishioners, was the change of the Mass being said in English, aided by microphones, with responses by the congregation and accompanied by hymns. Gradually, the parishioners were given the opportunity to co-operate with the clergy by becoming ministers of the Eucharist or Readers at Mass. Pope John XXIII initiated reforms which gave the impetus to the Ecumenical Movement, resulting in close links with other local churches when both Catholics and other Christians started to worship together in each other's churches.

Sad though it was to watch the old church being demolished, with its memories of baptisms, weddings and ceremonies associated with our departed families and friends, on entering our new church one is immediately struck by the peaceful atmosphere, a coming home to a quiet, safe place. As you enter the church your eyes are drawn to the figure of the Risen Christ, with the hands of the Loving Father in the stained glass window above. On the plain walls the repainted Stations of the Cross are shown to the best effect. As the people of God are now closer to the altar, this reflects the service of the laity in unity and co-operation with the clergy. The altar, tabernacle, lectern and beautifully restored font are links with the history of the old church, so that there is continuity as families grow up, marry and bring their children to church in the new millennium.

*A Parishioner*



## OBSERVATIONS OF A NEWCOMER

I feel I am rather a "Johnny-come-lately" to the Parish to be writing these few words about the new church as I arrived only after it had been built and was already in use. I had no part in all the planning, prayer and fund raising which must have gone on to get the new building up. I was simply a newcomer at a brand new, if slightly bare-looking, church.

But what a delight it has been since my arrival to witness week by week the gradual beautification of the church's interior. My first Sunday Mass coincided with the arrival of the new crucifix in the Sanctuary. Then came the specially commissioned painting brightening up the left hand side of the church. This was followed from time to time by beautifully executed wooden carvings mounted on their specially designed plinths. I was continually being amazed by all the attention being given to so many details - to the lighting of the statues, for example, and even to the design of doorstops!

What newcomer could have failed to be impressed by such evidence of the enthusiasm and dedication of so many parishioners, not to mention their priests. How I loved the way the Parish Priest himself fussed like a mother hen over the heating system and the delays to the Parish Hall, and worried like a Hausfrau about keeping the carpet clean.

And now, with the material furnishing of the church all but complete, we have had the icing on the cake - the crowning of everyone's endeavours - our spiritual refurbishing. I can say "we" and "our" because as a result of the Mission I no longer feel a newcomer - I have been made to feel that I am part of the family of the Sacred Heart Church in Mill Hill. The Holy Spirit has truly been at work in so many ways in this Parish!

Jean Murdoch

## MOVING FORWARD

When the demolition of the old church and rebuilding plans for a new one were originally discussed, I questioned, as I would imagine did many other parishioners, whether this was really necessary. The cost of the rebuilding programme seemed enormous and I felt extremely uneasy when I realised that the responsibility for raising the money would fall on parishioners. We were asked to examine our consciences and dig deep into our pockets to raise the money, but unfortunately, there were holes in my family's pockets from digging too deep in the past, on numerous occasions, in order to survive in Britain in the 1990's.

Amazingly the money was found and great credit is due to those who organised the fund raising and those who did manage to contribute. Many fund-raising events were held ranging from those which raised large amounts in one evening to smaller events such as coffee mornings and cake sales which raised smaller but equally significant amounts and all of which involved individual parishioners taking the initiative and responsibility for their success. The whole procedure, I feel, highlighted the differing needs and priorities of the community which the new church was to serve.

Now that the church has been finished and the hall is just about ready for use, I feel we can plan for what this means for us as a community. We all have differing expectations which at present might seem unlikely to be fulfilled but equally we all have a voice and with patience, hard work and prayer, nothing is impossible. I am grateful to Father McGing for having the courage and vision to undertake the task and to the various committees who gave up so much of their time and energy to assist him; but in my opinion this is only the beginning and it is now our responsibility to move forward.

Sabrina Johnson

*"I'm glad we've got a new church. Sacred Heart is now more brighter, livelier, there are speakers so we can hear, there's a small chapel for the mothers, central heating, space so everyone can see and last of all friendly clergy"*

Theresa Grace

## A YOUNG PARISHIONER WRITES:

Although I was invited to contribute these observations as a young person, I am in fact old enough for my confirmation - at the age of 14 - in the old church to be a fairly distant memory, and to have attended services in the church for over 20 years. It was therefore not without some sadness that I saw the old church fall under the constructor's demolition equipment. Like other parishioners I had studied various designs for a new church and voted for what I thought most suitable. I prayed that what we decided to do would work in practice!

It was evident that whichever of the new designs we chose would lead to great changes in our church. From a personal point of view, the old organ, installed while I was at primary school, (I remember accompanying hymns on my recorder while the organ was out of action at this time) could not be fitted into the new church because it was too tall, so would have to be replaced. This caused a certain amount of consternation, but it has worked out for the best. We now have a beautiful new organ in our beautiful new church. It produces a superb sound and is rather easier to play than its predecessor - though I can no longer skulk in the organ loft when I make a mistake!

The installation of a new organ is only one of a tremendous number of developments that have taken place in the new church since the first bricks were laid in 1994.

Who could fail to have been impressed by the huge efforts that have gone into making it such a beautiful place for Christian worship, and indeed a fine successor to the old church. Barely a week has gone by without some substantial addition, whether it be a new painting, a statue, or a few weeks ago a new set of hymn books.

Now, with the completion of the new Community Centre, the project to replace the old church and social centre is all but complete. I feel very grateful to be a member of such a hard-working and forward-thinking parish!

*Gregory Howard*



## FROM THE MILL HILL CHURCHES

The decision to embark on the building of this new church and community centre was a bold and courageous one. Of the local clergy no-one knows better than I do all that is involved in such a project. But when we rebuilt John Keble Church Hall after its fire we had the advantage that almost 80% of the total cost was covered by the insurance settlement.

What has been undertaken here will benefit not just the congregation of the Church of the Sacred Heart but the whole local community. The tower stands at the entrance to Mill Hill as a witness and testimony to the place of the Church within it. Christians of every tradition share the delight at the completion of these new and brilliantly integrated buildings.

For sixty years the church of which I am Vicar has been the newest in the local community. That distinction now passes to Sacred Heart. I trust that this building, as innovative as John Keble was in its time, comes to be as much loved and appreciated.

On behalf of all the Christians of Mill Hill, I offer you congratulations and best wishes.

Oliver R. Osmond  
Chairman, Mill Hill Churches

RIGHT REV. VINCENT NICHOLS  
BISHOP IN NORTH LONDON  
LAID THIS STONE  
FOR THE  
CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART AND  
MARY IMMACULATE, MILL HILL  
ON 19TH JUNE 1994

## CATECHETICS IN THE PARISH TODAY

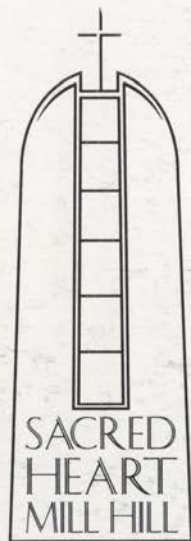
Jesus claimed himself to be *the Way, the Truth and the Life* (John 14:6). He offers us the master vision of reality; and we believe - as Christians - that his vision is the truth that sets us free. So, how do we come to accept the invitation he offers us to enter into conversation with him? We used to think that academic knowledge was the way. Today we say that, while this is important, we come to focus on this vision through the lived faith of the past being alive in the here and now.

The task of the catechist is to help people do this. Catechetics today normally begins with Scripture. We use stories drawn from our own experience to help explain the Scripture. We look at Jesus. It is his life in the Scriptures that we follow. We question. We reflect on the meaning of life shared in tradition. And then, we begin to change in our response to the values we discover. In other words, we turn from Scripture to life and from life to recognising and connecting the events of life with the significance and promise of Jesus' message.

In our parish we have an active catechetics programme with dedicated and committed people who are helping others to find *the Way, the Truth and the Life*. We have programmes to prepare people for the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Communion and Confirmation. We have a programme to help people who want to become Catholics and a programme of classes for children attending non-Catholic schools. We have a children's liturgy on Sunday mornings, which helps young children to understand *the Word* in the context of their own experience, and we have a catechist who will help people with learning difficulties.

Our Community Centre provides a focal point for handing on the Faith through many different social and group activities, and in particular through the teaching of catechetics.

Diana Klein



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