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HOLY ROSARY CHURCH  
LEEDS

SILVER JUBILEE

1937 - 1962

WYL 5046 3/7



The Rt. Rev. George Patrick Dwyer, D.D., Ph.D., B.A.,  
Bishop of Leeds



Fr. Rout



Fr. Delaney



Fr. O'Meara



Fr. Burtoft



Fr. Wilkinson



Fr. Tomblin



Canon Czorny



Fr. Walmsley

## Foreword

The aim of every parish is to have its own Church. The Church is the centre of the spiritual life of the parish. It serves as the second home of the parishioners. Twenty five years ago the Holy Rosary Church was built. The history of those years spells the work of the people of this parish. Our thanks to all those parishioners who by their sacrifices and help have aided the growth of the parish. Our thanks too to the priests who served in the parish during those years. The names of Fr. Ward (the first resident priest) Canon McShane and Fr. Collins are still mentioned among our people as also are the names of the many curates who ministered here. As a parish we are not old, but as this brochure will tell you, the image of the Dowry of Mary is evident in our local history. Our thanks to Mr. F. Fisher for his research work which has brought this interesting background of history to light.

The life of good parishes grows. Much has been achieved in this parish. For that we can be jubilant. Our jubilee year has been marked by the return from Rome of our first local priest Fr. G. Creasey. This has been a great honour for our parish. Prayer and sacrifice are the basis of such blessings and we are sure that the work of those people who laid this foundation of the spiritual life of this parish will be continued. As a fitting end to our celebrations it is hoped to have our Church consecrated in the near future. There are new parish schools to be built to replace the old school which has served as the foundation of the parish. With the continued co-operation of our people all our work will bear fruition to the honour and glory of God.

P. O'MEARA, Parish Priest.



Bishop Poskitt celebrates Mass at the opening ceremony.

Henry VIII. That the remains of the tower are still visible after 430 years is proof of the solidity of its construction, and a memorial to one who might be considered an early parishioner.

This district also provided a good citizen and a good Catholic in the person of William Scott of Scott Hall, whose memory is perpetuated in the Scott Hall estate and Scott Hall Road. He conveyed to Thomas Clarrell, Parish Priest of the Leeds Parish Church for forty years until he died in 1470, "a parcel of land" on which was built a modest mansion. The site existed for almost 400 years, and was known as Vicar's Croft, standing on the corner of Vicar Lane and Kirkgate, until it was bought in 1857 by the Leeds Corporation. It is now the home of the Leeds markets.

The last of the family was Gilbert Scott who lived at Newton (Potternewton) and died in 1542. At the time of his death Gilbert Scott possessed the Manor of Newton, 120 acres of land, 26 of meadow, 48 of pasture, 30 of wood, a water mill, 200 acres of moorland, etc.

The moorland was known as Chapel-town Moor and was famous for its "healthful and free air". It was actually 300 acres in extent, and was often used for races and other diversions.

Many exciting events were witnessed on Chapeltown Moor. In 1663 three men

were hanged there, and their heads placed on iron spikes on the Moot Hall in Leeds. In August 1765 the first recorded cricket match in Yorkshire was played on Chapeltown Moor between the Gentlemen of Chapeltown and the Gentlemen of Sheffield. The Countess of Mexborough presided over a great gathering of archers held here on August 12th, 1790. On January 25th, 1794, Mrs. Tarburton of Potternewton was frozen to death in a severe storm on the Moor.

The Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Wakefield Volunteers were reviewed here by General Cameron on July 27th, 1795. There were 60,000 spectators and 300 carriages present at this Grand Military Display.

In 1809 the Moor was enclosed, with the exception of a small portion south-east of Hen Corner (now Henconner) Lane, upon which stood a well and pump reserved for public use. Unfortunately, the Well House and the group of houses built around it have recently been demolished, and another of the remaining links with the past has disappeared for ever.

These were great days for the Mexborough Arms, The Bowling Green House, or The Three Hullots as it was sometimes called, the latter representing the Arms of the Saviles of Methley and Lords of the Manor of Chapel Allerton.

# The Church of the Holy Rosary

## Chapelton Road, Leeds

On the 30th September, 1962, the Church of the Holy Rosary celebrates its Silver Jubilee.

Twenty Five years is not a very long time in the life of any church, but the real story of a church is a story of graces received. Research would reveal the numbers who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation or Matrimony in the church, but only God knows what graces have been received through prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

All these benefits have been available to the parishioners of the Holy Rosary for much longer than the past twenty five years, since ours is the seventh oldest mission in the City of Leeds. Bishop Cornthwaite became the first Bishop of Leeds in 1878, and in 1886 the first Church and Schools of the Holy Rosary were built in Barrack Street to accommodate the rapidly expanding Catholic population. We still have an old parishioner who remembers being an altar boy at the celebration of the first Mass. There are many who remember the church parades of soldiers who were stationed at the Barracks, which then stood at the

Chapelton end of Barrack Street, and which were built in 1820 at a cost of £25,000.

Within the present boundary of our parish there are many landmarks of Catholic and historic interest. To the north of the Holy Rosary lies Chapel Allerton. Formerly a separate township, it is now included in the City of Leeds.

The earliest mention of the Chapel seems to be in a Charter of Alan de Grimston dated 1240, granting to the Abbey of Kirkstall land "which he had of the inheritance of Agnes, his wife, in the territory of Newton" (now Potternewton) "which lies between the road which goes to the Chapel of Allerton and the bounds of Stainbeck". It was known to exist in the time when William de Ledes was 12th Abbot of Kirkstall in 1269, and was also mentioned in a Charter of the Abbey relating to lands at Chapel Allerton, Leeds. The original Chapel was at one time probably a Chantry served by or belonging to the monks of Kirkstall.

There is no reference to the dedication of the Chapel of Allerton to any of the





Bishop Poskitt and Bishop Shine at the opening ceremony, 1937.

saints. John Killingbeck of Allerton Gledow, in his will of 1527, bequeathed "to the Chapel of Alhalouse (All Hal-lows) xxxs for waiges to the Priest" to be paid by his wife Agnes. The older records of the Chapel do not mention any dedication—it is simply known as the "Chapel of Allerton". Dedication festivals in the time of Henry VIII were often transferred to All Saints Day or Lady Day in order to obviate a multiplicity of Holydays, and the real name or dedication was probably forgotten.

It is also interesting to know that the same family, the Killingbecks, who were tenants of Allerton Grange before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, bought, together with others, from Edward, Lord Clinton (afterwards the Earl of Lincoln) the Manor of Allerton, in the eighth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for the sum of £258/10/11½d. Lord Clinton had received the Manor of Allerton from Queen Elizabeth at the beginning of her reign.

The Killingbeck family, like many others, suffered from the many fines inflicted on them for not attending the Chapel after the Reformation. In the Archdeaconal and Archiepiscopal Visitation Records preserved at York it is stated that in 1633, Isabella, wife of Edward Killingbeck, together with Elizabeth Killingbeck, Ursula Hodgson, Thomas Thackery, Margaret his wife,

Cuthbert Palliser and his wife Frances, being recusants, were fined 10/-d for not attending chapel. The same families, together with others, were fined again in 1640 and 1675.

It is difficult to discover what happened to the Chapel immediately after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, although it is believed to have become a Chapel of Ease to the Leeds Parish Church. With the departure of the monks their property was left to the mercy of the destructive influences of the time. In 1583 the Churchwardens of Leeds hired labourers to convey stone from Kirkstall Abbey for repairs to Leeds Bridge. Something of a similar nature may have occurred at the Chapel of Allerton, for Robert Killingbeck of Chapel Allerton, in a will dated May 23rd, 1573, bequeathed 10/-d towards the reparation of the Chapel. At that unfortunate period in the history of the Church, the property of the monks had become a stone quarry for any who desired to remove the stones which had been so lovingly laid for the glory of God.

William Marshall, the last Abbot of Kirkstall to die in office, came from what is now our parish. He built the tower of Kirkstall Abbey in 1527, just twelve years before his successor, John Ripley, the 27th and last Abbot, had the sad duty of surrendering the Abbey to King



The Procession of Clergy.

Here the stage coach set down its passengers on the road to the North. On August 8th, 1774, a grand Cricket Match was played here between the Gentlemen of Leeds and the Gentlemen of Wakefield. The Wakefield team lost, and returned home poorer by £10, the amount of the stake.

In 1645, when the terrible plague raged in Leeds, and hundreds of town-folk died, so great was the alarm that the markets in Leeds were closed. In lieu of these, two other markets were authorised, one at Hunslet Moor and the other on Chapeltown Green, which was situated on the west side of Chapeltown Road below Reginald Terrace. To avoid the spread of infection a stone trough filled with vinegar was placed there, so that the town-folk might put in their money in payment for produce from the country. This trough may now be seen in the museum at Kirkstall.

To the south of our present church is Sheepscar, or, as it is written in the accounts of the monks of Kirkstall, "Shipcar", which, in 1839 was described as a small pleasant hamlet with a few good houses, and through which ran Sheepscar Beck. Unfortunately, Sheep-sar Beck, once a clear running stream flowing through woodland and meadow, is now, to all intents and purposes, nothing more than an open sewer, receiving the effluents of modern industry. It was

by the banks of Sheepscar Beck that the old Church and Schools of the Holy Rosary were built.

There is little to tell of Sheepscar, except that it can claim to be the site of the first electric tramways system in England, which opened here in 1891, and ran from Sheepscar to Roundhay. This idea spread rapidly to other large cities and towns.

The district covered by Sheepscar to Moortown has been developed only since the late 19th Century. Until then the country between Chapeltown and Sheepscar was very lonely, and the road was frequented by footpads. There is a story told that on December 27th, 1774, a wealthy butcher's daughter and her servant maid were returning from Sheepscar to Chapeltown, when they were stopped by an armed footpad, who searched their pockets and took from them one shilling and three halfpence, and a silver thimble!

From Sheepscar, up the hill to Potternewton, Chapeltown and Moortown, a district which was once moorland, woodland and pasture now consists of Council houses, private houses of all types and large residential properties. Due to this fact, and the ever-growing population, the old Rosary Church and Schools were found to be totally inadequate to fulfil the needs of the people. It was therefore



The Altar of the Old Rosary Church, Barrack Street.

decided that a new church should be built. In 1927 the first step was taken when, at the request of the Rev. Canon Mitchell, architects were invited to submit plans for the construction and design of a new church.

For various reasons, the first tangible signs of the new building were not apparent until 1935, when the digging of test holes began in the garden of what was then known as Ashbourne House in Chapeltown Road. Two years later, the climax of twelve years of waiting brought joy to the people of this district. On September 30th, 1937, His Lordship the late Bishop Poskitt, of Leeds, in the presence of His Lordship the late

Bishop Shine, of Middlesbrough, and a large concourse of priests from all parts of the diocese, celebrated Pontifical High Mass at the official opening of the new Church of the Holy Rosary.

Among the priests on this occasion was a young priest who, only the previous year, had been ordained in Ireland for the Leeds Diocese. Fourteen years later, in 1951, this priest, the Rev. P. O'Meara, became the first Parish Priest of the new Church of the Holy Rosary. Upon him will fall the responsibility of the next step forward—the erection of new schools to replace the old school, now condemned. We wish him, most sincerely, "AD MULTOS ANNOS".