

Solemn Opening

OF

ST. LOUISE'S CHURCH

GLASGOW

On Sunday, 30th January, 1983.



Solemn Opening

of the

New Church

of

St. Louise, Glasgow

by the

MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOSEPH WINNING, S.T.L., D.C.L.

Archbishop of Glasgow

On Sunday, 30th January, 1983

"The work is great, for a house is prepared not for man but for God."

Paralipomenon 29.1



VATICAN CITY

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE JOHN PAUL II
LOVINGLY BESTOWS HIS FATHERLY APOSTOLIC
BLESSING ON THE PARISH PRIEST, BENEFACTORS
AND PEOPLE OF ST. LOUISE'S, GLASGOW,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOLEMN DEDICATION
OF THEIR NEW CHURCH.



ST. LOUISE,
ARDEN.

Sunday, 30th January, 1983.

My dear people,

It is with gratitude and heartfelt thanks to God that the long awaited day has come at last—the solemn dedication of our new church in honour of St. Louise.

When Father Burke was appointed parish priest in December 1973, he together with yourselves hoped that within a year or two a church would be built. But such was not to be. Plans were drawn up but later shelved. Sites were offered but none accepted. Indeed, for several years it looked as though all your hopes and aspirations were going to disappear forever, more so with the proposed motorway dividing Arden and Darnley.

But in 1979 the present site, though not ideally situated was offered and accepted. Plans were again drawn up in the spring of 1981 and in the following October, work on the church began, with its completion in December, 1982.

All during these years, St. Louise's School and, from 1977 St. Angela's School, became Mass centres. Thanks to the co-operation of the janitors and parochial workers, everything was got ready week after week for the Sunday Masses.

This is all behind us. After years in the wilderness, we have reached the 'promised land'—a new church.

At this stage it is only fitting that I express my thanks to the parish priests of the immediate parishes for the use of their churches when the occasions arose, as well as for their hospitality and kindness.

My own personal thanks go out to all those present and past who have made this day possible, in particular to Father Burke, Father Murphy and Father O'Farrell. Thanks are also due those parishioners and others who have given so generously towards the vestments, sacred vessels, stations and furnishings of the new church, with special mention to the Irish in Philadelphia for bearing the cost of the altar.

Lastly, this letter would not be complete without expressing my thanks to you the parishioners of St. Louise for your great example of perseverance and loyalty over the past nine years.

Today, as we all rejoice in witnessing the dedication of our new church may I on your behalf extend a very warm welcome to His Grace, Archbishop Winning, Bishop Renfrew, Bishop Devine along with our special guests in coming to share our joy.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN J. MCKEE.

REVEREND JOHN J. McKEE
Parish Priest



REVEREND PETER O'FARRELL
Curate

St. Louise de Marillac

1591 — 1660

Foundress of the Sisters of Charity

Louise was born on 12th August, 1591 into one of the best-known aristocratic families in Paris—the de Marillacs. Her mother died while she was still an infant, so most of her early years were spent in a select boarding school run by the Dominican nuns. There she received a good solid education, growing up in an atmosphere of holiness.

When fifteen years of age, one year after her father died, Louise had the desire to join the Daughters of the Passion, a religious community, but poor health on her part, debarred the girl from entering the convent. In 1613, Louise married Antoine le Gras and theirs was a happy marriage. Both she and Antoine had much in common, including a great love and desire to help the poor. Within a few years both had gathered together a group of men and women imbued with the same spirit and enthusiasm as themselves of working for the poor and sick in Paris.

Antoine died in 1625. Louise was now a widow with a young son who was in later years to cause her much worry due to his poor health. Providence was kind to Louise when shortly after Antoine's death she came under the spiritual guidance of Vincent de Paul who in due course persuaded her to establish Confraternities of Charity, to alleviate the sufferings of the needy and abandoned.

Within a few years, Louise had gathered a considerable number of women willing to live a community life, under rules and vows like religious and dedicated to charitable works.

Wife, mother, foundress, saint—such was the course through life and into eternity of a woman named Louise de Marillac—a woman of courage, interested in the great moral and social problems of her day, a woman for whose step the poor and hungry listened as she and her community went about serving their needs. Nurse, educator, social worker was Louise de Marillac to whom the world owes the innovation which she and her co-labourer, Vincent de Paul, brought into being in founding a religious community to serve the poor—the Sisters of Charity.

Louise de Marillac died on March 15th, 1660 and was canonised in Rome, 1934.



NOVENA

1 Pater, 1 Ave,
1 Gloria Patri.

PRAYER

*O God the author and reward
of charity, who didst raise up in
thy Church a new family, and
didst wish Blessed Louise to be its
mother, grant we beseech thee,
that exercising works of charity,
we may attain the promised
rewards of them in heaven.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen. (Three times).*

*St. Louise de Marillac,
pray for us.*



REV. JOSEPH MURPHY
Former Assistant Priest



REV. DONAL BURKE
Former Parish Priest

St. Louise, Darnley, Glasgow

Architects Account

In the spring of 1981 The Trustees of the Archdiocese of Glasgow commissioned the preparation of proposals for a new church on a site on the south side of Nitshill Road, Darnley. The site had formerly been open farmland around which a substantial private housing development had been established. Prior to the acquisition of this site a number of others in the area had been considered but uncertainty as to future road proposals and the establishment of new housing to the south of Nitshill Road made the chosen site seem most suitable.

The site for the church is generous in size and comfortably accommodates the church and its car park with ample room for the future development of other amenities. Access for both pedestrians and vehicles is from Nitshill Road and the central reservation of the dual carriageway has been modified to allow vehicles from both carriageways to turn into the site.

The brief for the church was that it should accommodate a congregation of three hundred persons, and that the layout should pay due regard to current liturgical thinking in terms of greater participation by the laity in the celebration of the Mass. To this end the sanctuary is positioned in the centre of the building and the congregation is seated on three sides of the altar. Other apartments to be provided were a creche, two sacristies, two confessionals, a repository, toilets and storage space.

The Fabric and Planning Board in consultation with the parish priest approved the design in the summer of 1981 and after all statutory consents had been obtained a contract was let to the Motherwell firm of Scott & Co (Builders) Ltd, who started work on site on 16th November 1981 and the keys of the completed building were officially handed over to Father McKee on 17th December 1982. Construction was hampered in the early stages by a period of exceptionally wet weather but good progress was made in the remainder of the year.

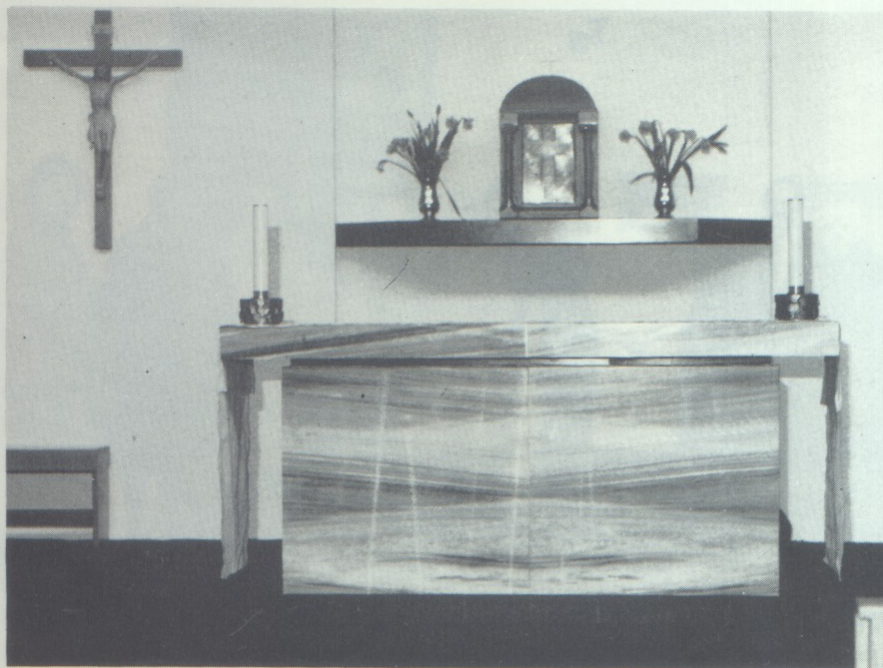
A generous paved area where the congregation can assemble is provided outside the main entrance which is located on the east side of the building. Because of the heavy traffic on Nitshill Road the noise generated by this traffic has been taken into account and as a consequence there are no windows on the side of the building facing the main road. Externally the building is finished with a buff render and grey roof tiles in harmony with the existing adjacent post-war housing.

Entering the building is a porch from which access is gained to the repository, toilets, creche, sacristies and the nave itself. The creche, although primarily for little children, can also serve as a secure day chapel when the church is closed. A ramped entrance is provided for invalid chairs and prams.

As previously described the nave is rectangular on plan with the congregation grouped on three sides of the altar which is raised above floor level. The nave is lit by high-level windows behind the congregation such that in their view of the altar and celebrant there is a minimum of distraction.

The interior is so designed to give the greatest significance to the sanctuary. The pine-boarded ceiling slopes upwards and outwards from the altar, very low over the tabernacle, to high above the opposite wall. In this way vision is naturally focused by the ceiling sloping down towards the altar, human in scale and devoid of any distraction by way of windows or doors.

The altar of grey white and green marble is built from stone used in the construction of the altar at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow on which Pope John Paul celebrated Mass in June 1982. A feature of the marble front is that the veining forms a natural St. Andrew's cross and reference to photographs of the Bellahouston altar shows that the two pieces of marble used for the front of the new altar were taken from the centre of the front of the Papal altar. Mr. McMillan, a master mason from Paisley, worked the marble to adapt it to its new purpose. The seating made of Columbian Pine was designed and manufactured by Mr. McNally of Bellshill.





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