

Dowry

(N°28, Winter 2016)

“O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gracious Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry.” (Cardinal Wiseman)

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*Special
Warrington
issue*

Editorial: Beauty and Mercy

Dear Friends of our Fraternity in Great Britain and elsewhere, this special issue of our quarterly magazine *Dowry* should reach you in time for us to wish you a most blessed Christmas. Our Fraternity certainly has great cause for rejoicing as, for the first time in this country, we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Saviour in a beautiful church we own, with the blessing of a Metropolitan Archbishop who established it as a shrine dedicated to “the celebration of the extraordinary form of Mass and the sacraments.”

In principle, any church would do of course. Was not the Divine Child born in a cave borrowed from mere animals, rather than in His parents’ modest dwelling in Nazareth – let alone in King Herod’s great marble halls?

Also, in this happy season, we all keep very much in our prayers our fellow Christians from the Middle-East and other parts of the world whose churches were bombed, set on fire and profaned. They will consider themselves fortunate if they merely find a corrugated iron roof under which to offer the Sacred Mysteries this Christmas.

If they had the choice though, our suffering brethren would wish they could worship God in a worthy setting. Persecution can never take away that hope. Whenever God granted men the restoration of peace, the building of decorous places of worship bore witness to the splendour of the Saviour Who deigned to come and dwell in them, reaching out to suffering humanity. In turn, eloquent architecture inspires any visitor, pilgrim or regular worshipper crossing the threshold of the house of God.

Thus I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, O.P. of Liverpool for having entrusted a permanent ministry to the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter at Warrington. We are glad to

serve the people at St Mary’s and to work together with our fellow clergy from the Archdiocese. Since our arrival a few weeks ago, we have been blessed with the good will and support of local parishioners, people of deep faith and great charity. Browsing with interest through the *CTS* booklet on the Extraordinary Form, they gradually unfold the many riches hidden in the Mass of Ages. Their confidence in the mission entrusted by our Archbishop honours us. They want to be part of this venture and, with God’s help, to make it a success.

We also thank Abbot Cuthbert Madden, OSB, of Ampleforth who made possible the transfer of St Mary’s to our Fraternity. We will not forget that this beautiful church was founded a hundred and forty years ago by his monks, who planted the Catholic faith anew in this part of England. From the sons of the Patron of Europe, we receive St Mary’s as a precious instrument of evangelisation for our modern era. The various Benedictine saints depicted in this church – like St Benedict and his sister St Scholastica, will remind us to continue to pray for the Abbey of Ampleforth and for the Benedictine Congregation.

On the day of our inauguration last 21st November, in the presence of Archbishop McMahon and Abbot Madden, I had the opportunity of thanking the Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Geoff Settle. His presence was an encouragement for us to make this beautiful building a place of interaction with the town of Warrington and with the wider area. Local

population and visitors of any faith or none will always be welcome at St Mary’s to enjoy the many things of beauty – “joys for ever” – offered to the eyes and ears – and ultimately to souls, please God.

In particular, the high quality of the sacred music at St Mary’s is a worthy contribution to the social and cultural life of Warrington and of the North West. When in London fourteen years ago, I was involved in setting up monthly polyphonic Sunday Masses, the catchword was: “Come and enjoy the classical repertoire in the liturgical setting for which it was composed.” I hope not to be seen as partisan in saying how Pugin’s stunning architecture at St Mary’s is matched by the excellence of our polyphonic choir, conducted by our Music Director Michael Wynne. As he describes it: “Attend Sunday High Mass at St Mary’s, and you will hear something that is unique and still precious in the Church’s long history – the sound of well trained voices singing some of the most beautiful music ever written. Music has always played a special part in the life of St Mary’s. The church has had a distinguished choral tradition since its foundation in 1877, and attracts a congregation from across the Archdiocese and beyond.”

Sir James MacMillan CBE is the Patron of Michael’s Choral Society, which regularly performs at St Mary’s for concerts of sacred music, and most of his singers sing in our choir at Holy Mass every Sunday.

As we begin the *Holy Year of Mercy*, we may see liturgical beauty (encompassing sacred architecture and music) as a way of displaying the radiance of God’s mercy, particularly for those on the margins of the Faith. To quote Pope Francis: “Every form of catechesis would do well to attend to the “way of beauty” (via pulchritudinis).

Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 167).

During the *Holy Year of Mercy* in Warrington, as in our other apostolates in Reading and Chesham Bois (as well as Scotland and Ireland), our priests will do their utmost to offer every one the grace of sacramental reconciliation with God in Confession and of a Eucharistic embrace with the Saviour in Holy Communion and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will continue to provide spiritual direction and, to the best of our abilities, to articulate the salvific Faith of the Church, food for the starving minds seeking the meaning of life.

The opening of the Warrington apostolate marks a significant step forward for our Fraternity in its service of the Church in Our Lady’s Dowry. It confirms that our liturgical charism is welcomed as a valuable resource for evangelisation in contemporary England. From wherever you read these words, please join us in thanksgiving – and in answering such a worthy calling. You and all those dear to you will be remembered at Midnight Mass. *Deo gratias et Maria!*

Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP

Superior of the English FSSP Apostolate,
St Mary’s Priory, Warrington, 8th December 2015 □



*Eloquent architecture
inspires any visitor,
pilgrim or regular
worshipper crossing
the threshold of the
house of God.*

Malleray

Holy Year of Mercy Retreats

For the laity: Douai Abbey 4-6 March 2016
 For clergy: Wigratzbad 02-06 May 2016

“The work of divine justice always presupposes the work of mercy; and is founded thereupon” (St Thomas Aquinas – *Summa* I.21.4).

Our Holy Father Pope Francis invites the universal Church to rekindle mercy in our hearts and across the world: “God’s justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus the Cross of Christ is God’s judgement on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certitude of love and new life” (Bull of induction *Misericordiae Vultus*, 21).

Pope Francis quotes St Thomas Aquinas: “It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and he manifests his omnipotence particularly in this way” (*Summa* II-II.30.4). Saint Thomas Aquinas’ words show that God’s mercy, rather than a sign of weakness, is the mark of his omnipotence” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 6).

With the help of the Church’s tradition, we will reflect on this fundamental virtue and on its practical applications: “Let us rediscover these *corporal works of mercy*: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the *spiritual works of mercy*: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 15).

The theme will be adapted to the condition and needs of the respective audiences, lay persons first (Lenten retreat in England), then clergy (Eastertide retreat in Bavaria).

Lenten Mercy Retreat for the laity at Douai Abbey: 4-6 March 2016.

Led by Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP on the theme: “*Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy*”. Starts Friday 4 March with EF Holy Mass at 6PM, before 7PM Supper (arrival from 4PM). Ends Sunday 6 March 3PM.

Costs: please choose from 4 possible rates, all *per person* full board:

- 1) £130: single room in main Guesthouse
- 2) £100: shared room in main Guesthouse
- 3) £82: in overflow Guesthouse (The Cottages)
- 4) £73: in overflow Guesthouse (The Cottages) if bringing your own bedding + towel

The prices above are to meet the costs of Douai Abbey. Please budget an added £15 per person (suggested) to hand to Fr de Malleray while at the Abbey for the costs incurred by his Fraternity to organise and give the retreat.

Location: Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5TQ.

Booking: ATTENTION: Please book *directly* with Douai Abbey. Please do NOT send any booking correspondence or fees to us. Thank you for sending your £30 deposit per person to: “Fr Finbar, O.S.B.,



Guestmaster, Lenten *Mercy* Retreat, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5TQ, England”.

You are welcome to contact the Guestmaster for any enquiry:

email: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk

website: www.douaiabbey.org.uk

Tel: 0118 9715 399

Clergy Retreat in ENGLISH in Bavaria: 2-6 May 2016

Silent *Year of Mercy* retreat for diocesan and religious priests, deacons and seminarians, led by Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP on the theme: “*Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy*”.

Cost: £249 (all inclusive for 5 days and 4 nights: Monday afternoon to Friday afternoon; full board in modern single rooms with en-suite bathroom + conference room + organisation fees + preaching).

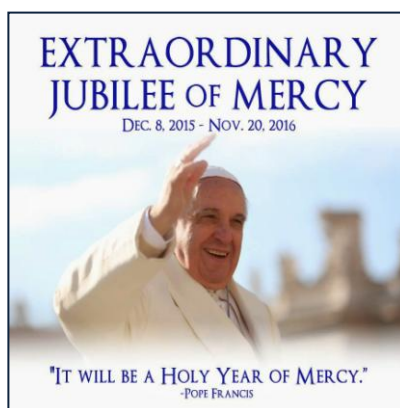
Not included: transportation. As on our previous retreats, group travelling is now being explored. **Update:** There are no **Ryanair flights to Memmingen on Mondays, which makes direct return flights to Zurich or Munich plus train or bus transfer more convenient.** Main airports: Zurich, Munich, Stuttgart (under 2h by car). Local airports: Friedrichshafen and Memmingen (40mn drive or 1h by train). Nearest railway station: Hergatz, on the Lindau-Munich mainline, 0.6 mile from hostel. Address: Pilgerheim Sankt Josef, Kirchstraße 18, D-88145, Wigratzbad, Germany. Website: www.gebetsstaette.de/.

On option: stay on with us for one day and attend the diaconal ordinations by His Grace Archbishop François Bacqué, Nuncio

Emeritus to the Netherlands, on Saturday 7 May at 9:30AM near Wigratzbad.

Booking: Please send your Name-Surname-Address-Telephone-Email with your **£100.00 deposit** cheque made payable to FSSP ENGLAND to: Clergy Retreat, St John Fisher House, 17 Eastern Avenue, Reading, RG1 5RU, England.

Email Fr de Malleray now at malleray@fssp.org for any enquiry. □



History of St Mary’s Warrington

By the Rt Rev Cuthbert Madden OSB, Abbot of Ampleforth

“In 1870, he was sent to Warrington. There too he built a church, which is the pride of the Catholics of the town and a credit to the Diocese in which it is situated”.

These were the words of Fr Wilfred Brown OSB, preaching at the funeral of Abbot Austin Bury OSB, Titular Abbot of Evesham, on 14 January 1904, and he was referring, of course to St Mary’s.

In 1870 Fr Austin had been sent on the missions to the parish of St Alban (at the time the only Catholic parish in Warrington) where he served as rector for seven years, and from where the parish of St Mary’s was founded with Abbot Austin as its first parish priest. As one publication states: “A native of Liverpool and a monk of Ampleforth, his knowledge was inexhaustible. From the Fathers of the Church and the intricacies of Monastic Rule and Canon Law to the mixture of cement made to his own mysterious specification and the manufacture of locks (there is still one at St Mary’s attributed to his craftsmanship), he was without rival”.

While Abbot Bury was its first parish priest, St Mary’s owes its foundation to Fr Placid Hall OSB, who served at St Alban’s from 1830-1870. For eighteen years he organised fundraising and eventually identified a suitable site occupied by a cotton mill, Allen’s Factory. When it was burnt down (accidentally, I’m sure), Fr Hall purchased it for £4,000. In 1875 building work began on the church designed by E. W. Pugin (1834-1875) – sadly, he died just a month after work began. The major benefactor was Mr John Ashton, who by a very substantial donation provided the shell of the church. He was a member of the legal profession, and when he died in 1875 his fellow solicitors in the town erected a window with three lights – Our Lord, Moses and St John the Evangelist and a tablet to his memory. The organisation and supervision of the building work was done by Abbot Bury himself. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop O’Reilly of Liverpool on Sunday 9 May 1875 and the work completed by Peter Paul Pugin in 1877.

St Mary’s was opened on 30 August 1877, but the Solemn Consecration

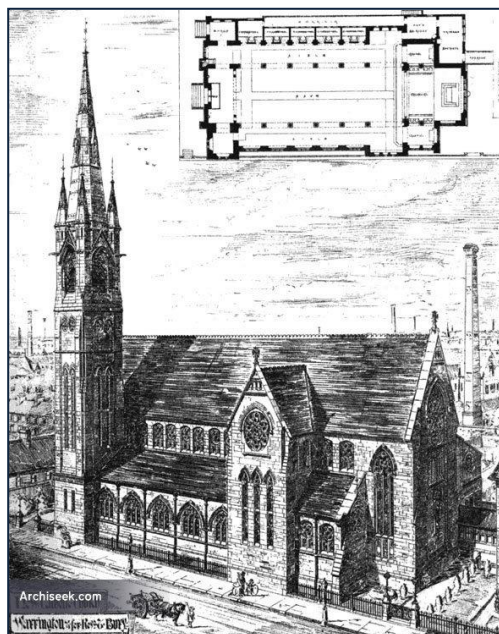
took place fifty years later to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations – 30 August 1927.

In those fifty years, the interior of the church was gradually embellished. For example, Fr Bernard Pozzi OSB replaced Abbot Bury in 1882 and began the interior decoration, putting up altar rails and a pulpit; Fr Wilfrid Sumner OSB (parish priest from 1883-1896) completed the fitting of the church, and



to him we owe the reredos, the statuary, the choir stalls and the screens, the two side chapels, the organ, the Stations of the Cross, and the carving (two capitals of the pillars bear the inscription, ‘The gift of the League of the Cross’); and Fr Vincent Wilson OSB (1896-1915 added the square tower in 1906 with its four-fold salutation on the parapet ‘Ave Maria’ and its carillon of eight bells.

Fr Austin Hind became parish priest in 1915 and ensured the church was completely ready for the Solemn Consecration in 1927. The consecration was performed by Archbishop Keating of Liverpool and lasted over four hours! The Warrington local press gave the event due prominence, noting that it was a culminating point in the history of Warrington Catholicism since it was “The First Church to be Consecrated in the District in Post-Reformation Times”.



A few days later, on Sunday 4 September, the Golden Jubilee festivities were celebrated. The Abbot of Ampleforth sang Pontifical High Mass in the presence of the Archbishop of Liverpool; the sermon was given by Dr Downey, Vice-Rector of Upholland and later Archbishop of Liverpool, who, “in a

brief retrospect” – so reported the *Warrington Examiner* – “said the history of Catholicism in Warrington, like the history of the Church throughout the world, was a triumph of the Risen Christ over the manifold forces of evil. The lesson of history was always the same; no power on earth could resist the power of the Risen Saviour in His Church”.



‘the Athens of the North’ because of its remarkable school, the printing press established there, and the foundation of the Warrington library, the forerunner of the modern public library.

In more recent years, shifts in the population and in parish boundaries, and responding to changed pastoral needs of the Catholics present in the town, St Mary’s became well known for its polyphonic tradition at

While we have concentrated on accounts which, just under ninety years ago, focussed largely on the bricks and mortar of this church, we must not forget that the Benedictine presence in Warrington spanned over 240 years, with 135 years in the parish of St Mary’s. What was happening here was a key element of what Ampleforth was about – missionary work, with the very language of the Community reflecting this, for those monks working on the parishes were known as ‘Mission Fathers’.

Sunday Mass, as an oasis of daily prayer and Mass at weekday lunchtimes Mass provided in the midst of the bustling consumer world – a true place to find God in an ever increasing secularised society and as a place where many Catholics paused to make their confession and so draw closer to their beloved Lord.

The Benedictine mission to Warrington dated back to before the 1770s, when Fr Benedict Shuttleworth OSB would celebrate Mass in secluded farm houses and in a public house called ‘Hole i’ th’ Wall’. From the middle of the 18th century, the Catholics of the neighbourhood often attended Mass secretly in a loft behind the ‘Feathers Hotel’ in Bridge Street. The room was approached purposely by a dark narrow passage on a tortuous plan, and at each angle a watcher was placed to give timely notice of potential enemies. Each worshipper carried a jug as if going to the inn for beer. The sack room itself formed the upper floor. The trap-door in the centre would enable the person to drop to the ground floor. A heap of old sacks covered this trap door, and in the event of an alarm being raised by the watchers, the priest and his belongings passed down rapidly out of sight, the sacks were again thrown down over the trap-door, and the worshippers became engrossed in mending old sacks.

Throughout these ages we can see that the challenge to provide witness to our faith, to be a beacon to the world around us, has always been central to the apostolic mission in Warrington: from Masses in the lofts of public houses, to a society where the numbers of people practising their faith is diminishing – the centuries have seen many changes and it is against this backdrop that we are invited to look to the future.

I began with a reference to St Mary’s: “a church, which is the pride of the Catholics of the town”. This beautiful church built of stone and mortar is, of course, but one element of what it is to be Church today: the living Church is the men and women who gather around the altar to listen to God’s word proclaimed for them in the reading of the sacred scriptures and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ made present for them through the ministry of the priest. It is a delight, then, to know that the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter, a Roman Catholic community in communion with the Bishop of Rome, will now carry on the work begun by our Mission Fathers many centuries ago so that the living stones who form the living Body of Christ continue to gather and proclaim the Gospel to those with whom they live their lives.

The first parish – St Alban’s – was established in 1823, with St Mary’s following just over fifty years later. Towards the end of the 19th century St Benedict’s school became a Mass centre served from St Alban’s, and then gained its own parish priest in 1902 and church in 1904; and finally a fourth Benedictine church was established at Padgate, dedicated to St Oswald, in 1927.

I leave you with the words addressed to the parishioners of St Mary’s at our final service there in 2012: “And so, dear friends, I want to thank you for all that you have done over many years to sustain our work in the parishes of Warrington; and my prayer tonight is that you will remember us in your prayers. ... but most of all my prayer is that you will be faithful to the call of almighty God to make the message of his Son known in this place – for that would be the most eloquent testimony to the years we have spent among you”. □

At one time, in fact, Warrington, a major industrial centre, had the largest number of Ampleforth missionaries, with a dozen monks serving the four parishes that had been established by the mid-20th century. Warrington had been called





An Extraordinary Inauguration

The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter officially began its ministry at St Mary's, Warrington, on 21st November 2015, Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a great grace for us to inaugurate our first apostolate in the North West under the patronage of Our Lady.

Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP, and acolyte Marcus Williams, FSSP, arrived in Warrington on 13th November 2015. We were warmly greeted upon our arrival to St Mary's by a welcome party led by Fr Dave Heywood, Parish Priest of St Mary's, St Benedict's and St Oswald's. The welcome party included our dedicated secretary Jane Wright and our talented Director of Music, Michael Wynne. We are particularly grateful to Fr Dave Heywood, and to the faithful and local clergy who have made us feel so welcome here in Warrington.

With effect from Sunday 15th November, Fr de Malleray was officially appointed Rector of St Mary's Shrine Church by decree of His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool, our Ordinary. We are profoundly grateful to Archbishop McMahon for entrusting St Mary's to the Fraternity and, with God's help, we intend to serve St Mary's and our faithful to the very best of our abilities.

On Sunday 15th December we celebrated our first Sung Mass at St Mary's, accompanied by the choir, who sang Franz Joseph Haydn's *Missa Brevis in F*, Robert Parson's *Ave Maria*, and Richard Farrant's *O Sacrum Convivium*. St Mary's boasts a first class choir, which has been directed by Michael Wynne since 2003. Michael trained at the *Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia* in Rome and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He studied Organ with Ian Tracey, Susan Landale, David Titterington and Patrick Russell; Improvisation with David Briggs and Olivier Latry; and conducting with Fraser Goulding and Vernon Handley. He is the founder and director of the Warrington Choral Society, titular organist of the University of Lancaster and also directs a choral outreach programme in Warrington.

Our first week at St Mary's was extremely busy, getting to know the faithful, local clergy, townsfolk and the civil authorities. A plethora of practical activities took up most of our time, but we were happy to sing Lauds and Compline in St Mary's on a daily basis, taking our places in the choir stalls once used for the Divine Office by our predecessors from Ampleforth. Holy Mass is, both spiritually and literally, the centre of our day at St Mary's. After reciting the Angelus with the faithful at 12 noon, we celebrate Holy Mass at 12:10 pm.



We have been deeply impressed by the piety and Eucharistic devotion of the faithful of St Mary's and by the sheer number of souls attending weekday Mass here (between thirty and fifty; and about one hundred and twenty on Sundays).

Saturday 21st November marked the official Inauguration of our ministry at St Mary's. Fr de Malleray celebrated a Solemn Mass in the presence of our Archbishop, who assisted at the throne. We are most grateful to His Grace for his presence at this important milestone in the history of St Mary's and that of our young Fraternity. We are also very grateful to The Right Reverend Cuthbert Madden, OSB, Abbot of

Ampleforth, who undertook a long journey to Warrington to be with us.



The choir accompanied the Sacred Liturgy magnificently, singing Sir Hubert Parry's *I was glad*, Claudio Monteverdi's *Messa a quattro voci da capella*, Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Ave Maria a 8*, and Claudio Monteverdi's *Adoramus te*. The best of England, Venice and Spain! Once again, our grateful thanks go to Michael Wynne and his talented choristers.

The Inaugural Mass was offered in the presence of a numerous congregation and the clergy who came to support us filled the choir stalls. We are very grateful for the presence of our Dean, Canon Christopher Cunningham, and of our Parish Priest, Fr Dave Heywood, who generously covered for us here in September, October and at the start of November. We are also grateful for the presence of other fellow clergy who came from various parts of the Archdiocese, and indeed from more distant parts of the country. They include old friends who have supported us with their faithful prayers and friendship over the



years. We should also like to address a special word of thanks to our confrères from the Manchester Oratory and the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, who graciously came to support us on 21st November.

We thank The Worshipful, the Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Geoff Settle, and his wife, the Mayoress. Their presence and support was a great encouragement as we very much desire to make St Mary's a place of interaction with the town of Warrington. We also thank the Reverend Kingsnorth, the Mayor's Chaplain and representative of Warrington Borough Ministry.

It was a particular joy for us to welcome Fr John Emerson, FSSP, to St Mary's. Fr Emerson acted as deacon of honour to His Grace the Archbishop. He is the FSSP Superior in Scotland and founded our apostolate in Great Britain some sixteen years ago. We also address a special word of thanks to our confrère Fr Matthew Goddard, Bursar of FSSP England, Superior of our apostolate in Reading and Coordinator of our fledgling Irish apostolate. Fr Goddard has worked tirelessly on the administrative transition of St Mary's from Ampleforth to our Fraternity.

Our newly ordained priest from Birmingham, Fr Ian Verrier, FSSP, was subdeacon at our Solemn Inaugural Mass. He studied music in Manchester and, as a professional organist, takes great interest in the musical excellence of our community here in Warrington. Rumour has it that initial contacts have been made to examine a possible move of the splendid Cavaillé-Coll organ (allegedly the only remaining unaltered instrument of its kind in England) from Warrington's major auditorium, the Parr Hall, to St Mary's.

The Reverend James Mawdsley, FSSP, was deacon at the Inaugural Mass. Deacon Mawdsley is from Lancashire and will be on pastoral placement at St Mary's from Christmas 2015 to Easter 2016. He is due to be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood in July 2016.



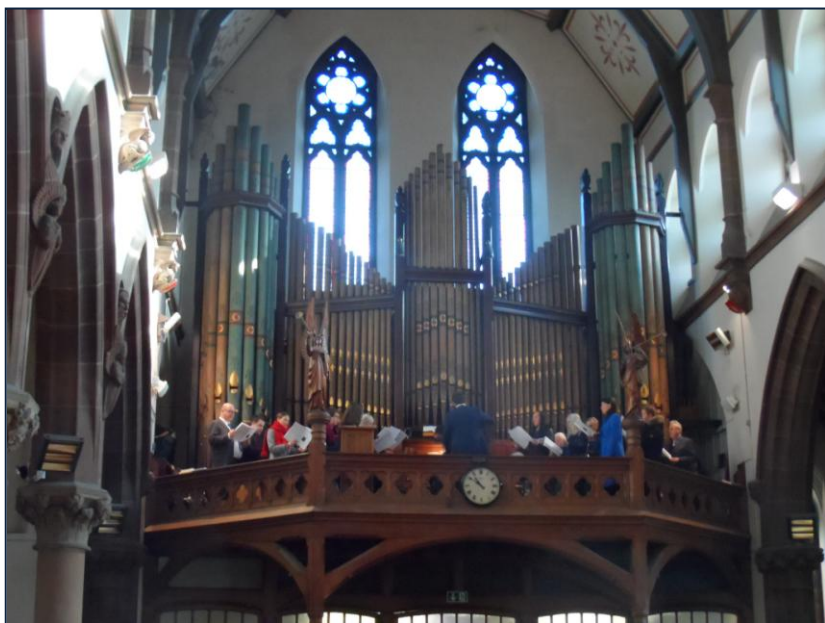
We should like to address our most cordial thanks to our firm friend and stalwart supporter Dr Joseph Shaw, Chairman of the Latin Mass Society. The LMS and our Fraternity are long time collaborators in the Lord's vineyard and we are grateful for their fruitful initiatives and for their constant support.

We also wish to thank all the faithful who came to pray with us on 21st November. Our faithful from Warrington were joined by many friends of the Fraternity from Reading, London, Edinburgh, Oxford, Glasgow... and from even further afield! We address our particular thanks to Mr Peter Sefton Williams, former Chairman of Aid to the Church in Need, Mr Nicolas Ollivant, Chairman of the Friends of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, Mr Fred Stone, President of Una Voce Scotland, Mr Martin Garner, our official photographer for the Inaugural Mass, and to the many other friends who travelled long distances to be with us and to support our new apostolate. We are particularly grateful to our MCs, Mr Michael Haynes, Mr Charles Bradshaw and Mr Alex Smith, who all travelled a long way to assist us. Thank you dear friends for your invaluable help!

Finally, we would like to thank all who put time and energy into this important occasion, often working very hard for months behind the scenes. A special word of thanks should be addressed to our secretary, Mrs Jane Wright, and to our sacristan Mr Michael Bold.

At the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee of the Year of Mercy, opened by the Holy Father on 8th December, we entrust St Mary's Shrine Church to the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Over the coming year, may we all draw closer to Our Most Merciful Saviour!

Thank you all for your support and prayers and please be assured of our faithful prayers for you all. □



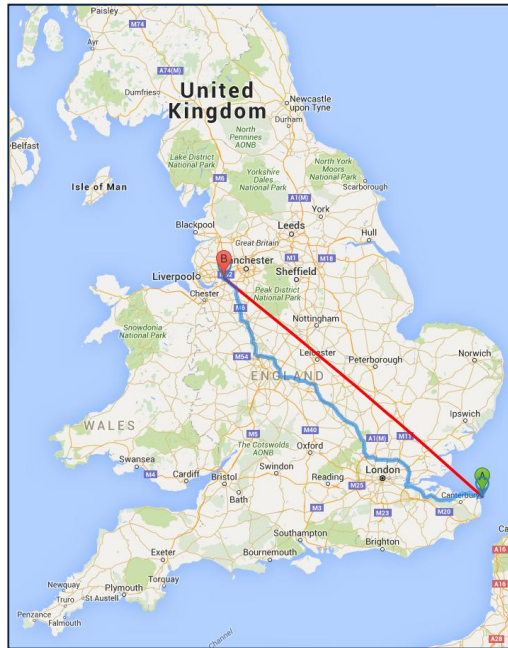


The South Eastern Benedictine Pugin Shrine

As we write, *St Mary's Warrington*, in the North West, has become the most recent Shrine Church established in England, albeit a very modest one. It is a town centre church dedicated to the Most Pure Heart of the Mother of God. At the opposite end of the country, another shrine is brought to prominence by its dynamic Rector. The striking historic similarities may provide inspiration to us, north of the River Mersey.

Both churches were indeed designed by Pugin architects. They were commissioned and run by Benedictine monks from the 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century. They were lately facing closure and deconsecration. They have now been established as shrines by the local archbishops, making them places of worship and cultural interest open to all. Lastly, both promote beautiful liturgy and sacred music.

The rich Catholic history of Warrington and its hinterland cannot boast of such a spectacular figure as *St Augustine of Ramsgate*. Rather than the early evangelisation of England started in Kent, local history evokes *Penal Times* and the "Second Spring" of the 19th century. A mere eight miles from *St Mary's*, *Blessed Dominic Barberi (1792-1849)* lies buried, with the *Venerable Ignatius Spencer (1799-1864)*. At *St Mary's*, a shrine to the Passionist priest who received Newman into the church has attracted the devotion of the faithful for a long time. We also have a stained glass window depicting our



local martyred priest, *Blessed James Bell (1524-1584)*, born in Warrington; while the *Five Wounds Windows in the Sacred Heart Chapel* echo the *Pilgrimage of Grace* (Warrington is historically part of Lancashire, rather than Cheshire).

The many religious, clerics and lay folk who laboured in this North-western corner *Our Lady's Dowry* deserve to be better known and honoured. They will prove powerful intercessors for all those who visit here in the future and pray for the re-conversion on England. The rebirth of *St Augustine's* in Ramsgate demonstrates how our spiritual patrimony can be revived when enshrined in beautiful sacred architecture and

with the involvement of all.

To conclude this introduction to the article by our friend *Fr Holden*, it may be of interest to our readers to know that the Fraternity of *St Peter* had seriously considered buying *Ramsgate Abbey* from the Benedictine Monks in 2011 and that some initial contacts were made.

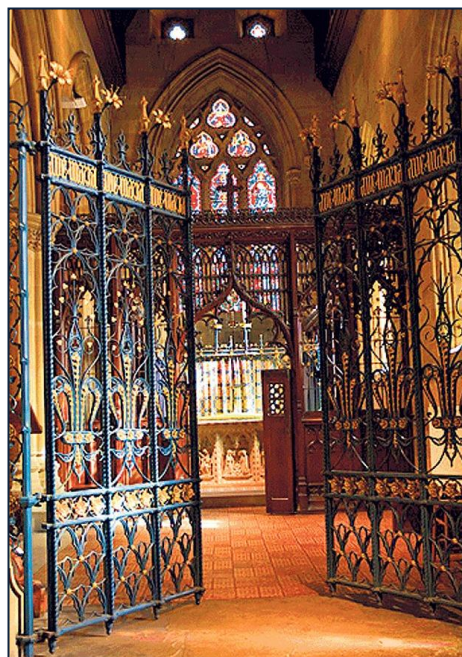
The entrusting of *St Mary's Warrington* to our Fraternity three years later could be seen as a hint from *Divine Providence*, reminding us all that *God writes straight with crooked lines* indeed.



On the Making of England's New Catholic Shrine – *St Augustine's*, Ramsgate, by Rector *Fr Marcus Holden*.

On 1st March, 2012, Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark instituted *St Augustine's Church*, built by Augustus Pugin, as a shrine to the Apostle of the English. The day coincided fittingly with the exact day of Pugin's 200th birthday. Now, three and a half years later, *St Augustine's* has grown into a very popular place of pilgrimage (with more than 12,000 visitors a year), a centre for musical and liturgical renewal and recipient of several grants totalling almost two million pounds for purposes of restoration and development.

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1 March 1812 – 14 September 1852) was Britain's foremost architect and designer of the nineteenth century. A family man whose faith, ideas and designs, changed the face of Victorian Britain and influenced the world.



His Gothic revival work culminated in the interior design of the Palace of Westminster and its clock tower, 'Big Ben'. Pugin designed many churches in England, and some in Ireland and Australia and his influence is international.

St Augustine's church is the 'ideal church' of Pugin who constructed it between 1845-1852 next to his home 'the Grange' according to his 'true principles of Christian architecture'. He described it as 'my own child' and it was to be 'a revival of the old Kentish churches stone & flint', with a chantry chapel 'that may be the burial place of my family'.



The church stands as symbol of the Catholic revival of the 19th century epitomised by Pugin's own life and conversion of 1835. St Augustine's is also an integral part of Pugin's own medieval Gothic revival which inspired the nation at large. It was being constructed at the same time that Pugin (picture right) was designing the new Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.



Pugin moved to St Augustine's in 1843 specifically 'close to the spot where blessed Austin landed'. He saw the place as, 'the cradle of Catholicism in England'. His building of the church therefore stands as a monument to the arrival of Christianity to Anglo-Saxon England recalling the landing of St Augustine in 597AD. Pugin was keen to show that Catholicism and Gothic were part of the DNA of English identity and the church would emphasise and celebrate the English saints in a particular way.

Pugin wrote to the Earl of Shrewsbury, 'My whole soul is devoted to building this church here'. He poured his heart into St Augustine's, he spared nothing in building this church and he would only use the finest material and workmen. He wrote to his son Edward, 'I am giving you the best architectural lessons I can; watch the church, there shall not be a single true principle broken'. Even before a parish was formed in Ramsgate the church provided mass for local Catholics, visitors and foreign sailors. In 1848 it was the venue for the first High Mass on Thanet since the Reformation. Ramsgate's first post-reformation Catholic school was run from the site. At his death he gifted the Church to the Catholic community, for he always intended it to be 'for the benefit of the faithful residing in Ramsgate'.

The church's exterior is stone covered with traditional local hardy flint to withstand the weather. Its interior is lined with Whitby stone forging a link with the great seaside church of St Hilda in the north. There is exquisite decoration with stone and wood carvings throughout, highly original statues, stained glass and ornate tiles. Pugin's team for the church included other well known associates, George Myers for construction, John Hardman and John Hardman Powell for the metalwork and especially stained glass and Herbert Minton for the tiles. John Gregory Crace, who supervised the decoration of the medieval court at the Great Exhibition of 1851, also had a hand in the church decoration. In fact the church's baptistery, and many other features in the church, were used as a centrepiece in the exhibition. Pugin

died in 1852 before completing the project but the work was continued until 1893 and involved his sons Edward Pugin (1834-75) and Peter Paul Pugin (1851-1904) and many of the original associates and their families. Fittingly above Pugin's tomb there is a stained glass window relating the story of St Augustine's mission and especially the moment of setting foot on a land explicitly demarcated as 'Thanet'.

St Augustine's was consecrated in 1884 and Grade-1 listed in 1988. From 1856 until 2010, the church was run by the Benedictine monks of St Augustine's Abbey (constructed opposite by Edward Pugin). In 2010 the Benedictine Monks withdrew from the Church and it came under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

There had been serious worries about it being closed, lost or turned into a museum. The Friends of St Augustine were set up in January 2011 to secure the future of the church. In February 2011 after a sizeable grant from English Heritage, and local fundraising, the church was saved from dereliction. Thankfully it began to serve as a functioning local church of the Ramsgate and Minster Catholic parish. On 1st March 2012 St Augustine's took a major step forward by being made an official shrine of St Augustine by Archbishop Peter Smith.

There had been a medieval shrine to St Augustine in Canterbury from 604 until 1538. The establishment of this new pilgrimage site filled a gap of 474 years (since the last shrine of Augustine had been destroyed by Henry VIII). St Augustine's landing on the Isle of Thanet had always been remembered and the land around Ramsgate was owned by the medieval Monastery of St Augustine in pre-Reformation times and the whole area called 'the lathe of St Augustine'. This new place



of pilgrimage recovers that ancient tradition.

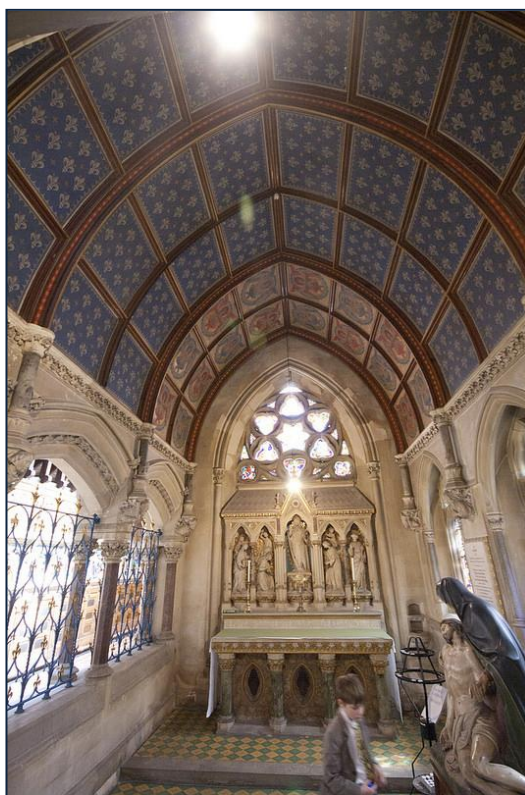
There already existed a strong local interest and devotion to the saint. His feast day each year is celebrated in Ramsgate with great festivities. St Augustine's had already functioned as a quasi-shrine and pilgrims have always asked the intercession of 'the Apostle of the English'. In 1897, the 1300th anniversary of Augustine's arrival, the entire English hierarchy and thousands of faithful descended on Ramsgate. Even a letter was sent by Pope Leo XIII to celebrate the occasion. In 1997 again thousands descended upon the St Augustine's site to celebrate 1400th anniversary. Hundreds of Monks joined Cardinal Hume and Archbishop Bowen in the pilgrimage. In the year 2000 St Augustine's was a 'Jubilee Shrine' and had special indulgences attached. This continued a long pilgrimage tradition surrounding St Augustine in Ramsgate and Thanet which has now been made permanent and official. For the 2015-2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy St Augustine's will function again as a place of indulgence and will open a Holy Door.

Since becoming a shrine St Augustine's has already attracted thousands of pilgrims and visitors. Pilgrims are welcome every day (10am-4pm) and especially at the 12noon daily Mass. The midday Mass on Sundays is a sung Latin Mass (Missa Cantata) and is accompanied musically by the Victoria Consort. St Augustine's is a centre for musical excellence and particularly focuses on the revival of Gregorian Chant which was first heard in Ramsgate in 597AD from the lips of the first missionary monks fresh from the monastery of Gregory the Great. Official pilgrimages come through the warmer months and groups from all over the country. On an average day pilgrimage groups would have a votive mass of St Augustine, have a guided tour of the site with its various chapels, have a reflection or talk on the life of St Augustine, have the opportunity to venerate St Augustine's relic and join in devotions to the saint. The church is beautifully poised at the cliff edge and there is a café and a long stretch of lawn for breaks and relaxation. Sometimes groups have benediction and confession, and some more ambitiously go for the trek or procession to St Augustine's cross near Pegwell Bay where the saint first landed and met with the King Ethelbert. The shrine has a designated pilgrimage director and so any group can make arrangements for a visit.

Every year leading up to the feast day of St Augustine (27th May) there is a week of devotions, talks, rambles, sacred music events and Masses. Many pilgrims come at this time and accommodation can be found nearby hotels or at Minster Abbey. On the feast day of St Augustine itself there is a procession along the cliff near the church with the relic of saint. Last year several hundred people took part in this impressive procession. During the week also there is an outdoor St Augustine Sermon at the place where the saint first preached.

St Augustine's attracts a huge number of Christians from other churches and communities who are interested in learning about common roots in the faith of Christ. Being by the sea St Augustine's attracts many day-trippers and those with mixed interests. Many secular visitors come to enjoy the architecture, the art and the atmosphere of the place and thereby enhance their relations with the Catholic Church. Local schools have a visiting programme and come to learn about the saints and about Pugin. The building is highly catechetical and new resources help to make a visit to St Augustine's an opportunity to deepen one's faith. A DVD explaining the life of St Augustine and the significance of the shrine has been produced (available from *St Anthony Communications*).

It is hoped that support now given by the Heritage Lottery Fund will enable this gem of Pugin to become a site of great architectural, artistic and culture significance for future generations. The Friends of St Augustine are working towards creating better facilities for pilgrims and cultural visitors. Through 2016 there are plans to create areas for exhibits on the lives of St Augustine and Pugin, new opportunities for education and research, as well as general toilets, a small shop and a place for refreshments.



As part of the on-going restoration of St Augustine's plans are being made to bring the church back as close as possible to the unique arrangement and vision of Pugin. Alongside essential exterior restoration the interiors of the church will also be brought back to their original splendour, including the reinstatement of Pugin's original rood screen (with its medieval crucifix).

St Augustine's becoming a shrine fulfils many of Pugin's own dreams in honouring the English saints and St Augustine in particular. The shrine will highlight the close bond between Rome and England as St Augustine was sent on his mission directly by Pope Gregory the Great.

In renewing devotion to England's apostle, the new Shrine is responding directly to the Holy Father's call for a new evangelisation and a deepening of faith. By establishing a Shrine to St Augustine near to the place where he landed and close to where A.W.N. Pugin lived and died, it is hoped that new inspiration and grace for the conversion of England may be gained. By learning about the Catholic history of yesterday, the founding narratives of the Church in this land, contemporary Christians may be encouraged in their own mission to bring the light of Christ to the people who dwell on this island today. □

The *Friends of St Augustine* has been set up to work towards the restoration of the site and to promote awareness of its historical, cultural and spiritual message. Please support our work. Pilgrimages, tours and visits can be arranged. See the web-site www.augustinefriends.co.uk



Forthcoming Events

Vocation Weekend 29-31 January 2016:

Matrimon
Celibac
Monaster
Seminar
Fraternit



Is God calling me? For single Catholic men aged 18+

Come and discern with us at St Mary's Priory & Church.

Shrine Rector Fr de Malleray, FSSP will lead the Weekend, assisted by Deacon James Mawdsley, FSSP and Seminarian Marcus Williams, FSSP.

There will be talks, prayers (Divine Office in the beautiful choir), Holy Mass and informal chatting with fellow guests and with our seminarians. Possibility of private meetings with Fr de Malleray, and of confession.

Ten young men from England & Wales are in formation at our two international seminaries. Please pray for them, as we assure you of our prayers.

[No sign up sheet for the FSSP at the end of the Weekend!]

Feel welcome confidentially to call, email or write for any questions.

Residential, at St Mary's Priory: 2 nights and 2 days. FREE for unwaged and students. Others: £60 per person in total.



Please share the information with your friends!

Contact: malleray@fssp.org (read by Fr de Malleray only); 01925 635664 (Priory's Landline).

Year of Mercy retreat for the laity:

Douai Abbey, Berkshire 4th to 6th March 2016

Year of Mercy retreat for clergy:

Wigratzbad, Bavaria 2nd to 6th May 2016

Yearly Pilgrimage of Christendom: from 14 to 16 May 2016, walk 70 miles from Paris to Chartres in France with 10,000 young adult and dozens of priests, religious, seminarians and nuns. Extraordinary Form Liturgy. Contact Francis Carey: latinmassuk@madasafish.com.

World Youth Day 2016 (20/25-31 July 2016) in Kraków, Poland, with *Juventutem*, the international

network for the sanctification of youth through the Roman traditions of the Church (cf *juventutem.org*). *Juventutem* has been allocated the Minor Basilica of Sts Peter and Paul, a beautiful baroque church in the historic centre of Krakow. Bishop Athanasius Schneider has agreed to accompany us, and more prelates will attend, as well as many clergy. Groups from Europe, Asia and America are currently liaising to attend with *Juventutem*. Fr de Malleray, FSSP Ecclesiastical Assistant to the *Juventutem* Federation, will be present for the whole duration, with other priests and seminarians.

We hope that the British contingent will be very numerous. We were one thousand pilgrims from all over the world registered with *Juventutem* in Cologne in 2005.

Contact: secretary@juventutem.org

(Picture below: *Juventutem* Reading Group with Fr Ian Verrier, FSSP)



Summer Camps 2016

We hope to organise *two* Summer Camps next year, including our first Camp for girls in the United Kingdom. The latter option would require **adult women volunteering as team leaders**. Any young woman of approximately 18 to 35 years of age, interested in helping us next Summer, is cordially invited to contact us. The tentative dates for the camps are:

St Peter's Summer Camp for Boys
29th July to 3rd August 2016

St Petronilla's Summer Camp for Girls
9th to 13th August 2016

In order to keep the cost as low as possible for the families concerned, our Fraternity has heavily subsidised the last two camps. Owing, however, to a large increase in numbers, we need dedicated sponsors for next Summer. Please contact Fr Goddard, our Bursar, if you can donate funds for our Summer Camps in 2016. Please also pray for the preparatory work we will undertake over the coming year. Thank you for your supporting Catholic families and family life. □



Support our apostolate

Help us run St Mary's Warrington Shrine and fund our ministry. A new bank account was opened for our new venture in Warrington.

If you want to support FSSP Warrington, you may either use these new details or simply write a cheque made payable to "Priestly Fraternity of St Peter" and send it to us in Warrington.

If you have a standing order to our general FSSP England bank account, you don't need to change anything, as we will also be able to make use of that money for Warrington if needed.

FSSP LTD - Warrington Current

Account number: 30993368

Sort code 30-80-27

Lloyds Bank, Palmerston Road Branch

FSSP ENGLAND is a registered charity:
number **1129964**.

Please ask us for a Gift-Aid form
if you are a UK tax payer.

Any cheques to FSSP England to be sent to our new address below in Warrington.

Administration and Gift Aid enquiry:

Please write to our Shrine Secretary Mrs Jane Wright at St Mary's Priory (same Warrington address as below) or email her: warrington@fssp.org.

Thank you for your great support!

We assure you of our prayers and those of our ten seminarians from England and Wales for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year for you and your family,

Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP, Fr Matthew Goddard, FSSP, Fr Ian Verrier, FSSP, Deacon James Mawdsley, FSSP & Marcus Williams, FSSP

New MAIN ADDRESS for FSSP ENGLAND:

**Priestly Fraternity of St Peter,
St Mary's Priory, Smith Street,
Warrington WA1 2NS
Cheshire, England**

Tel.: 01925 635 664

Email Fr de Malleray: malleray@fssp.org

Deacon Mawdsley: james.mawdsley@fssp.org

Marcus Williams: marcuswilliams.net@gmail.com

READING apostolate ONLY:

Priestly Fraternity of St Peter, St John Fisher House,
17 Eastern Avenue, Reading, RG1 5RU, Berks.
Tel.: 0118 966 5284

Email Fr Goddard: goddard@fssp.org

Fr Verrier: iverrier@fssp.org

The acquisition of St Mary's Church and Presbytery cost the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter in the region of £10,000, mostly in legal expenses.

Not surprisingly this has made a major impact on our charity's finances. In this penitential season of Advent would you be prepared to contribute towards this cost? Your donations would be gratefully received.

May God reward your generosity!



*Christmas present for
your FSSP clergy?
Please help us cover
the legal cost of the
acquisition of
St Mary's Church...
£8,844.40*

(Picture above: Statue of Our Lady of Warrington)

The best way to keep updated on all our events and news, with pictures, videos and links is through our Facebook page (until our new website becomes operational). You *don't* need a Facebook account: it works just like any website! Just type the address on your browser and our page will open automatically:

www.facebook.com/fssp.england

Tel.: 01925 635 664