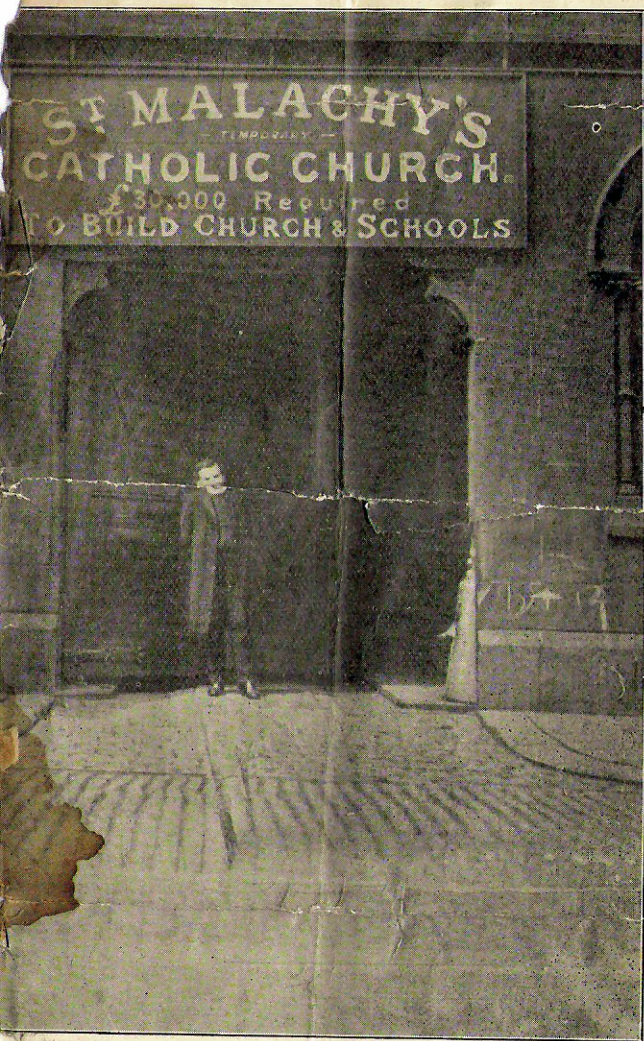


"THE HOVEL"

BERRY'S BLACKING WORKS

Rochdale Road.



ENTRANCE TO THE OLD CHURCH

which was

Opened October 8th, 1922.

Father MARSHALL.



on his

Ordination Day, June 24th, 1908

ST. MALACHY'S, COL

Souvenir of t

FIRST PARISH PRIEST'S C

Silver Jubilee



June 24th, 1933

The history of the parish was not destined to run smoothly. On Ash-Wednesday, February 21st, 1923, when about eight hundred people were at evening service, an incendiary set fire to the room underneath the church. Fortunately the building was equipped with automatic fire-extinguishers which checked the fire until the church was emptied and the fire brigade arrived. Next morning Mass was said as usual in the church. A few days later the incendiary was at his diabolical work again; this time when the children were assembled in the evening for catechism. The children became panic-stricken, but fortunately an adult was near the exit in time to throw the door open. The children ran pell-mell into the street, and not one suffered the slightest injury. A few days afterwards, at the close of the Sunday Evening's Benediction fire once more broke out, but the congregation went out calmly. That was the last of the fire outrages. A post card from Dr. Casartelli, written to Father Marshall from Rome, and dated 3rd March, 1923 may be of interest. It reads:—

"Deeply regret to read in papers of alarming fire outbreaks at St. Malachy's. Please accept my sincere sympathy in your alarm and worry and convey same to your parishioners. Your parish is literally receiving its "baptism of fire." I hope you will not be troubled further. Blessings to all, + L.C."

Towards the end of this year St. Malachy's first curate, Father M. Walsh, was appointed to assist Father Marshall.

The perseverance and courage of the priests and parishioners of St. Malachy's were not daunted by the many obstacles which were presenting themselves. They now set themselves to grapple with far greater problems than had yet appeared. They had no school for the hundreds of children in the parish. Many of these children were accommodated in Catholic schools. Very large numbers were compelled to attend Non-catholic schools. A school was therefore an immediate necessity, the temporary church was dangerous; in case of fire or panic it might be a death trap. The priests' house was, as we have said, scheduled as unfit for habitation. As the purchase of houses would be useless because of the house shortage, negotiations were entered into with the owners of the only vacant plot of ground in the parish and in 1926 part of this land was purchased. It was a disused quarry which had been filled up with tipped material, and it was situated at the back of Eggington Street. There the parishioners proposed to erect a school for a thousand children with a semi-basement which could be fitted up as a church. Near by they also proposed to erect a house for their priests. This house was to be planned so as to be easily altered into two cottages when the future development of St. Malachy's parish would require a more ambitious church and presbytery elsewhere.



THE NEW CHURCH,
ST. MALACHY'S,
Erasmus Street,

Collyhurst,

Opened July 13th, 1931.

THE NEW SCHOOL,
Opened August 23rd, 1931

THE
NEW PRESBYTERY,
Occupied July 6th, 1931

These proposals were greeted with much opposition from various sources; some objected to a Catholic school from sheer bigotry; some, for reasons one can only suspect, objected to the association of church school and presbytery; some, fearing for the adjacent schools, wished to cut down the accommodation contemplated in the proposed school. Objections were laid before the Board of Education. The consequence was that the Board ordered a public enquiry. This was held in the Manchester Town Hall on May 24th, 1927. The result was a decision in favour of the scheme proposed by the people of St. Malachy's. In 1929 the foundations of the present magnificent buildings were laid. Piles were driven in some places sixty feet, through the tipped material into the rock. Gradually the handsome brick walls of our present church school and presbytery began to arise, and their growth suggested a moral victory and augured a happy future for the parish.

The milestones of progress in the service of God are also very obvious crosses; the greater the achievement, the greater are the reverses sustained in its endeavour. At a moment when everything seemed to be going on well, when the new buildings were springing up, Father Marshall caught a chill while superintending the work. Lung trouble followed, and for twelve months he hovered between life and death. During that time two curates, Father Walsh and Father Sheehan looked after the parish. An almost miraculous recovery, however, restored Father Marshall to the joy and welcome of his people. He had the great pleasure of superintending the completion of the work which had cost him so much.

On July 6th, 1931 Holy Mass was celebrated for the last time in the church in Berry's Mill. On that day the Blessed Sacrament was solemnly removed from the old to the new church. As the Blessed Sacrament was taken along Rochdale Road, the people knelt and thanked the Hidden Lord for His goodness to them. On Sunday, July 13th, 1931, Fr. Henshaw sang High Mass in the new church and preached to a congregation of over a thousand people. As a mark of his appreciation to the people of St. Malachy's he presented to them the beautiful and valuable monstrance which they now possess. On August 23rd of this same year, in the presence of a large number of people—parishioners and their friends—the bishop blessed and declared open St. Malachy's new schools. At present the semi-basement church seats a thousand people. There is a comfortable home for the clergy. The school accommodates one thousand and ten children; there are 873 children in attendance under the care of twenty-three teachers. The whole building scheme, including purchase of land, paving charges, furnishing, etc., has cost the parish over forty thousand pounds. Naturally the parish is in debt, but it is gradually paying it off. To-day it owes twelve thousand, five hundred pounds. There are three priests now looking after the spiritual interests of the parish, they are Father Marshall, Father Sheils and Father Walsh.

The future? Well it is in the hands of Providence! May it see the fulfilment of those ideals which St. Malachy's stands for! May it bring blessings to the people of the parish and their friends, all those blessings they stand in need of! Some day it may see a magnificent church of St. Malachy in the vicinity of Rochdale Road, and near it a suitable presbytery for its clergy. But whatever the future may bring the people are grateful to God for all He has done for them up to the present. Especially to-day, June 24th, 1933, they thank God for the shepherd He has given them, and their united prayer is that Father Marshall, who to-day celebrates the Silver Jubilee of his ordination, may be spared to work for many years in the vineyard of the Lord.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us; but to Thy name give glory."—Psalm, 113.

Father MARSHALL.



on his

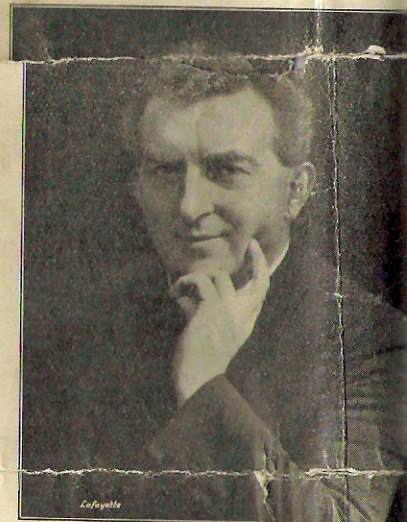
Ordination Day, June 24th, 1908

ST. MALACHI

Souvenir

FIRST PARISH F

Silver Jubilee



June 24th, 1933



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