

Our Lady of Lourdes, Hessle

*Swanland Road, Hessle, East Yorkshire*



**Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *Not Listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *Not established*

1.4 Date(s): *1950-51*

1.5 Date of visit: *11 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *James Delaney*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery, church hall*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

*Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007*

Carson, Robert: *The First 100 Years – A History of the Diocese of Middlesbrough 1878-1978*

## **Part 2: Analysis**

### **2.1 Statement of Importance**

***An undistinguished 1950s church of pre-war design. While not unattractive, the building is conventional in its planning, form and architectural expression.***

### **2.2 Historical background**

Hessle is an ancient town west of Hull but now joined to it by suburban development. In 1928 the Catholic priests from St Wilfrid in Hull began to say Mass in a room in Hessle Town Hall and then in an army hut in Oakland Drive. The site in Swanland Road was acquired before the Second World War and the church designed in 1939 but the war and the problems associated with obtaining a licence and building materials after the war meant that the foundation stone was not laid until 6 August 1950.

### **2.3 Setting**

The church stands at the corner of Swanland Road and Oaklands Drive, leafy middle-class suburban streets of Edwardian and later character. With its short corner tower the church offers some modest townscape presence. It is set back from the road with a car park on two sides, a grassed area to the third and the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century presbytery to the fourth. To Oaklands Drive the boundary is provided an established hedge while to Swanland Road there is a later wall with railings.

### **2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings**

The church faces north but here all references follow conventional liturgical orientation.

The church is built of orange multi-stock brick with concrete dressings and a plain tile roof. It comprises a broad nave with narrow lean-to aisles, a southwest tower with pyramidal roof and a small polygonal sanctuary. The nave is wide and the gabled west front has, apart from a giant round arch enclosing both round-arched doorway and window above (three lights), has two-light mullioned windows in two tiers, altogether giving a quasi domestic appearance. Statue of Our Lady in a niche under the gable. The tower has a round-arched entrance to the south and slit windows in three tiers and tripartite louvred bell-openings. Aisles and clerestory have two-light mullioned windows. Longer single-light windows to the sanctuary.

The exterior hints at a round-arched Romanesque style more evident in the interior which has round-arched brick arcades with transverse arches to the passage aisles. And a stepped round sanctuary arch. There are no mouldings or imposts. Panelled front to the west gallery over an internal porch or narthex. Arched roof trusses on corbels, open to the apex. Most of the fittings and furnishings appear contemporary with the church and are not of special note. Stained glass in the centre light of the west window to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the church, artist not identified.