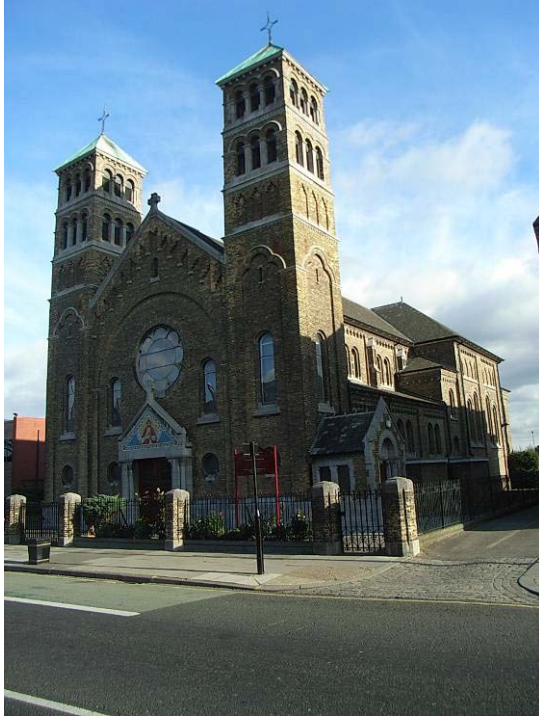


Sacred Heart Church & St Patrick, Middlesbrough

Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *II*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *J. Coomans (Ypres) and Kitching & Co. (Middlesbrough)*

1.4 Date(s): *1930-2*

1.5 Date of visit: *7 November 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

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

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery (attached) and hall*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007
<http://www.sacredheartandstpatrick.com/index.html>

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

The massive bulk of this church has a very un-English appearance. This is because it was modelled on the Romanesque abbey church of the Benedictine monastery of St André at Kopen near Bruges in Belgium. The interior is especially notable for its mosaic decoration and ornamental stone and marble. The mosaic-lined baptistery and the Harry Clarke stained glass are also notable features. All this adds up to a building with a striking external presence and an interior of unusually lavish decoration.

2.2 Historical background

The foundation stone (behind the font) is dated 1930 and the church was opened in 1932. It was originally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Philomena but in the 1960s became simply the Sacred Heart Church.

2.3 Setting

The church is placed at right angles to the road with the west end parallel to it. To the east are the wide open spaces of Albert Park. Immediately to the north is the red brick and terracotta Dorman Museum of 1903-4. Opposite the church is a row of shops. Most of the buildings in the vicinity are late Victorian or Edwardian.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

See list description, below. This provides the essential information about the building. It might be added, however, that the sanctuary terminates in a polygonal apse.

2.5 List description:

Building Name: CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

Parish: MIDDLESBROUGH

District: MIDDLESBROUGH

County: NORTH YORKSHIRE

Postcode: TS1 4AW

LBS Number: 59746

Grade: II

Date Listed: 28/07/1988

Date of Last Amendment: 28/07/1988

NGR: NZ4916119007

MIDDLESBROUGH LINTHORPE ROAD,

NZ 41 NE (4918 & 4919)

east side.

3/47 Church of The Sacred Heart.

G.V. II.

Roman Catholic Church, 1931-32 by J. Coomans (Ypres) and Kitching & Co. (Middlesbrough). Mottled buff brick, with Portland stone dressings. Lakeland slate roofs; tower roofs re-clad in copper 1966. North-west and south-west towers flank west end of clerestoried nave with aisles; south-west porch, chapels, baptistry, confessionals and lower chancel. Romanesque style. 6-stage towers have continuous deep chamfered plinths. Tall trefoil-headed recess holding oculus, round-headed window and slit light, in lower 3 stages; blind 3-bay triangular-headed arcade in 4th stage; and 3-bay round-arcaded bell openings with louvres and hoodmoulds in 2 uppermost stages. Shallow pyramidal roofs with cross finials and weather vanes. West end of nave has central carved panelled and part-glazed double doors in slightly-projecting gabled doorcase; nook shafts with waterleaf capitals and bases. Mosaic depicting Christ in tympanum; and cross finial. Flanking oculi and round-headed windows, and central rose window with cusped plate tracery, all within round-headed recess. Round-headed, louvred vent in gable. Shaped-corbelled verge with moulded copings and cross finial. Gabled porch adjoins south-west tower. Panelled door in similar surround with mosaic roundel in tympanum. 3-bay nave and aisles, bays defined by pilaster strips in aisles, and gabled buttresses in clerestorey. Paired round-headed windows. Projecting octagonal baptistry, with oculi and pyramidal roof, adjoins west end bay of north aisle. Low, flat-roofed confessionals project from middle bay and from extruded one-bay hip-roofed chapels, with oculi and round-headed windows, flanking transepts. 4 stepped round-headed windows in 2-bay transepts, with pilaster strips flanking bays and blind triangular-headed clerestorey arcades. Half duodecagonal, pyramidal-roofed chancel with similar windows, blind clerestorey arcade, and bronze cross finial. Eaves generally have stepped brick corbelling and plain soffit. Hipped and gabled roofs. One-storey offices adjoin north side of chancel.

INTERIOR plastered with 3-bay round arcades; similar transverse arches in lateral vaulted aisles and nave. Similar transept and chancel arches. Saucer-domed ceiling in crossing and half-domed chancel. West organ gallery with arcaded balustraded front, over glazed wood screen

of 1965. Mosaics, 1961-67 by Ludwig Oppenheimer Ltd. (Manchester) on walls throughout and in chancel dome, depict saints, scenes from life of Christ, stations of the cross, Resurrection and Transfiguration. Marble dado panelling in chancel. Good stained glass by Henry Clarke (Dublin). Elaborate marble altar table of 1954 and 7-bay marble reredos.

Listing NGR: NZ4916119007