

Our Lady of Lourdes, Saltburn

Milton Street, Saltburn



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *Yes*

1.3 Architect: *Not established*

1.4 Date(s): *1928*

1.5 Date of visit: *5 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Very Rev. Canon W. Madden*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery attached on south*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

Built in 1928, this church was designed with some care and is an attractive, if fairly modest, Lombard Romanesque-style essay in brick. The use of a semi-circular apse, narrow brickwork and use of tile for decorative effect give it a pleasing appearance, typical of restrained but elegant work between the wars.

2.2 Historical background

The church was built in 1928 (foundation stone laid 11 Feb) on the northwest edge of Saltburn to serve the local Catholic community.

2.3 Setting

Just north of the railway line, away from the main body of the town. It is adjacent to a large area of mobile homes. It forms an attractive group with the presbytery.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church, like the presbytery, is built of narrow (50cm deep) dark red bricks, laid in Flemish bond (hierarchically, simpler stretcher bond is used for the presbytery). It consists of an aisleless rectangular nave with south porch, a semi-circular apsed sanctuary with a vestry attached at the southeast and connected to the presbytery. On the northwest corner a rather discordant (because of the light colour of the brick) repository has been added: to the east of this has later been added a small, even more discordant (because of the cheap red brick) toilet. The style is a round-arched one with Lombardic-style arches below the eaves of the nave west gable. The exterior is enlivened by panels below the windows with tilework, a course of edge-on tiles laid soldier-wise, and tiled voussoirs over the windows. The windows are single, round-arched lights and have had UPVC window frames inserted in the nave. The roofs are slated.

The interior has white plastered walls and terminates beyond a round-headed arch in an apsed sanctuary with a hemispherical covering. The window embrasures lean inwards following the curve of the walls. White and light brown mottled marble lines the sanctuary walls to a height of approximately 1.5m. The roof of the nave is of the raised tie-beam type with a crown post and struts. There is a western organ gallery whose openings to the nave have been infilled with clear glass.

The altar is constructed of light-coloured breccia and has a late 20th-century brass-coloured, bas relief metal panel on the front depicting two stags drinking at a fountain. The benches are routine work and have round-topped ends. There are five single-light stained glass windows depicting saints and which were brought from St Mary, Wilton Street in Hull in 1982.