

**A Guide to  
St Patrick's R. C. Church  
High Street Felling**

**(Words taken from Bishop Whiteside's sermon)**

The first sod for the new church was cut in 1872. The Church partially built was destroyed by fire in the early hours of 11 January 1877. It wasn't until fifteen years later that work was resumed under the guidance of Father John Murphy.

The church was originally opened by Bishop Wilkinson on St Patrick's Day 17 March 1895.

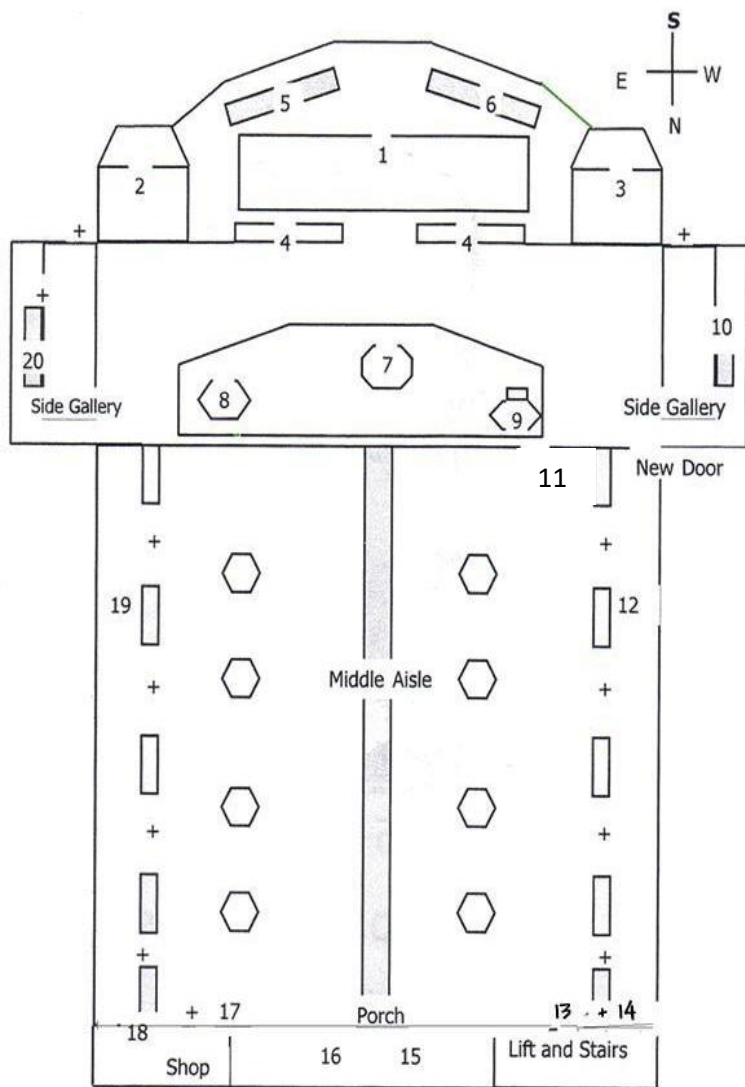
As it cost five shillings to be present; many people boycotted the opening. So, a second opening was arranged the following Thursday and the church was opened by Dr Whiteside; Bishop of Liverpool.

The original estimate of the church was £11,000 0s. 0d but the final cost was £13,000 0s 0d. Today that would be over £1,000,000.

Mr Charles Walker of Newcastle designed the church and the church was built by Messrs Howe of West Hartlepool.

In 1950 the Church was consecrated by Bishop Joseph McCormack and a crucifix was erected in the Churchyard.

Hopefully the guide will help you to appreciate the beauty and that you will remember in your prayers those who have served God so faithfully in any way.



- 1 The High Altar made of Caen stone and alabaster designed by Charles Walker of Newcastle was built by Milburn of York and cost £680.

In 1912 six statues costing £30 each were placed in the niches. The areas in between were covered in marble. From left to right they represent:

- † St. Andrew presented by Dr D Mc F Millar
- † St. Agatha presented by Patrick Bennett Esq
- † St Cuthbert presented by Rev. D Leeming
- † St. Monica the mother of St. Augustine
- † St. Walburga presented by Patrick Bennett Esq
- † St. Joseph presented by Joseph Byers

The overall cost of the High Altar totalled £305.15s.

- 2 At each side of the altar a niche was erected. The left niche containing a statue of the Sacred Heart was dedicated to Captain H White who was killed in action in the First World War. Presented by Mrs White and family the niche cost £300 and the statue presented by Mrs Heenan and family cost £125.

The right niche is part of the War Memorial costing £337 and contains an alabaster statue of Our Lady. This cost £125 and was donated by Thomas Gilroy Esq. These were erected on 28 October 1923.

- 3 The Chapel on the right contains an alabaster altar to the Sacred Heart. It was presented by the Bennett family on Easter Sunday 1898. It is also by Emley and Son and the cost of £320 included the overgrazing and decorating of the chapel.
- 4 The altar rails in the transept erected on 28 October 1923 are of Caen stone with marble mountings. The brass gates cost £184 and were part of the War memorial. They originally stood at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- 5 This window shows St Patrick receiving his mission to the Irish people from Pope St Celestine. In memory of Fr. John Kelly, the two windows cost £180.

- 6 The other window shows the fulfilment of St Patrick's Mission to Ireland.
- 7 The base of the original pulpit has been used for the Altar table. It is made of Frosterley Marble, a hard lime stone with many fossils. This material can also be seen in Durham Cathedral. The pulpit was a gift from James McGuinness Esq. in memory of his parents.
- 8 The octagonal top of the old pulpit is now the lectern. It is made of Alabaster and is decorated with grapes and vine leaves. It was made by Emley and Son at a cost of £155 and was dedicated on 16 January 1898 by Canon Dunn.
- 9 The Baptismal font costing £180 was presented to St Patrick's old church at Felling Shore by William Crooks Esq. and was transferred to the present church. It contains an image of the Baptism of Christ by John the Baptist
- 10 The stained-glass windows were originally presented by the parishioners of The Felling to old St Patrick's and after its sale to Messrs Bowes and Partners; they were offered to Fr. Costello by C.B. Palmer Esq.
- 11 A large crucifix fixed to the pillar was presented by the children of St John the Baptist's Infant School as a memorial to those who died in the 1914-1918 War.
- 12 A window depicting St Bernadette at Lourdes was donated privately by a family of the parish. C 1980
- 13 The larger than life statue of St Patrick was donated by the Felling members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Unveiled on Sunday 19 November. It cost £25.0s, 0d. (Year Unknown)
- 14 A brass tablet with the names of 157 members of the parish who gave their lives in the First World War was erected by parishioners and was unveiled by Captain Garvey; with military honours and solemnly blessed by Fr. Costello on 28 October 1922.

- 15 The northern gallery houses the organ which had been removed from St Patrick's, Felling Shore and rebuilt at a cost of £180 when new in 1895 and was restored in 1992. There is a Rose Window above the porch.
- 16 The marble water stoups at each side of the Centre Aisle were gifts from Patrick Bennett Esq. and cost £22.
- 17 Beneath the organ is a brass tablet in memory of Patrick Quigley who was organist for 50 years.
- 18 The Statue of St Theresa was presented by the Parmley Family.
- 19 The window is dedicated to James McGuinness who died 18 June 1907 and his son James Stewart who fell in action in France on 8 September 1918 aged 30.

**The Stations of the Cross** executed by Meyer of Munich were a gift of Edward Gilmore Esq. They were erected and solemnly blessed by Rev, Dr Murphy on (9th March 1900. They cost £155.

Other windows in the porch depict the Baptism in the River Jordan and a window of St Patrick which was presented by Fr Bernard Stronge.

At Christmas time the crib was installed on the Altar. The figures of Our Lady, St Joseph and the Bambino are of carved wood from Italy. They were presented by the Third Order of St Francis in December 1921 and cost £84. 10s. 0d.



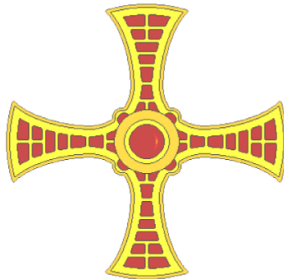
## Prayer to St Patrick

I arise today

Through a mighty strength,  
The invocation of the Trinity,

Through a belief in the  
Threeness,

Through confession of the  
Oneness of the Creator of  
creation



There is no charge for entering St Patrick's, everyone is welcome.

We hope that you find this guide helpful and it helps you pause and appreciate the beauty of the interior. Please remember in your prayers those who have served God here so faithfully in any way and those who continue to do so.