



Laying of the foundation stone 9th September 1961—Looking towards Fern Hill Road.
In the foreground are Fr McKenna, Fr O'Connor and Fr Columba Walsh.



Laying of the foundation stone by Bishop Bright on 9th September 1961

Blessing and Laying of
The Foundation Stone
of the Church of
Our Lady Help of Christians

Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford

at 3 p.m. on 9th September, 1961



The congregation assembled on the site, the Ceremony begins with the entrance of the Procession of the Clergy and the singing of the Anthem "Vexilla Regis."

1. While the antiphon "Signum salutis pone" and Psalm 83 "Quam dilecta tabernacula" are being chanted, the Prelate sprinkles with holy water the place where the cross is set up. When the Psalm is completed he recites the prayer of invocation.
2. The Foundation Stone is now blessed and the Litany of the Saints chanted.
3. When the mortar is ready and the mason at his side, the Prelate intones the antiphon "Mane surgens Jacob", which the clergy complete and follow with Psalm 126 "Nisi Dominus aedificaverit domum."
After the Psalm the Prelate sets the Foundation Stone in the foundation, saying the invocation "In fide Jesu Christi collocamus lapidem istum primarium in hoc fundamento . . .". Meanwhile the mason points the Foundation Stone with mortar and afterwards the Prelate sprinkles holy water on the stone and Psalm 50 "Miserere mei Deus" is then chanted.
4. The Prelate intones the antiphon "O quam metuendus est locus iste" which the clergy complete and then follow with Psalm 86 "Fundamenta ejus in montibus sanctis."
While the Prelate is circling the foundations sprinkling them with holy water, the clergy chant the antiphon "Bene fundata est domus Domini supra firmam petram" and Psalm 121 "Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi, in domum Domini ibimus."
5. The congregation sing the "Veni Creator Spiritus." The Prelate recites the concluding prayers and imparts the solemn blessing. The indulgence is then proclaimed.

No collection will be made, but those who wish to contribute to the erection of the Church are asked to place their offerings in the plate in front of the cross.



Consecration of the high altar by Bishop Bright 14th June 1962



Procession from Salesian House to the new church with Bishop Bright and Fr McKenna



Fr McConville and Fr McKenna



Fr Butters and Fr Dooley



Mary Help of Christians Street Procession—Looking down Hollow Way



Procession of First Holy Communion Children along Salegate Lane
showing the site of the new church in top left.