

Welcome to Mother of God Church
260 Abbeydale Road S7 1DX, Sheffield
tel: 0114 2550827 email: pp.mog@hallam-diocese.com
website: <https://motherofgod.hallam-diocese.com>
Parish Priest: Mgr William Kilgannon



Porch or Narthex

The porch is the place where the faithful greet one another before and after Mass. It is the area between the outside doors of the church and the inner doors leading into the main body of the building. This is where we are welcomed each Sunday, where baptisms, funerals and weddings begin and where we receive palms. It is a place for religious literature and for parish notices or displays.

Body or Nave

The part of a Catholic Church where the laity prays and worships is traditionally called the nave. The word “nave” comes from the Latin “navis,” meaning ship. The people of God are regarded as passengers on a ship destined for heaven. The nave is a place of worship; the congregation is not an audience but participants.

Baptismal Font



The baptismal font is part of every Catholic Church and located so that the congregation can participate in the baptismal ceremony. The early converts to Christianity were baptized in rivers, streams, public baths, some even in the catacombs. In the fourth century with the construction of churches, baptisms were brought indoors.

Easter Candle

The Easter (or Paschal) candle is a large individual candle located near the baptismal font. Originating around the fourth century, this candle represents the light of Christ, and a new Paschal candle is blessed during each Easter Vigil. It is lit for every baptism, and the flame is transferred to a candle given to the baptized individual or to an adult family member when an infant is baptized.

Sanctuary

The sanctuary is the area, often raised, in the front of the church where the altar stands; it is where the word of God is proclaimed, and where the priest, the deacon and other ministers exercise their offices. It is reminiscent of the Holy of the Holies, the inner sanctuary of the temple, described in the Old Testament.

Altar

The name ‘altar’ is derived from a Hebrew word meaning “a place of sacrifice.” The top of the altar is called the *mensa* (a Latin word for table), traditionally made of stone. The altar is consecrated by a bishop and becomes the symbol of Christ: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”; the altar is therefore the focal point of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the altar: “On the altar, which is the centre of the church, the sacrifice of the cross is made present under sacramental signs. The altar is also the table of the Lord, to which the People of God are invited” (No. 1182). Here for us is Mount Calvary; here too, the bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ.

Ambo /Lectern

The name ambo and lectern are often used interchangeably to refer to the place where the readings, psalm responses, and general intercessions are proclaimed. Because the Mass is in two parts, the Liturgy of the Word and of the Eucharist, the ambo is the place where the first part happens, and the altar the place for the second.

Tabernacle



The place where the consecrated elements, the real presence of Christ, are reserved. Called 'tabernacle' because this was the area in the 'tent of meeting' which contained the 'holy place' the area where the tablets of stone containing the Ten Commandments were reserved.

Sanctuary Lamp

In every Catholic Church there is a readily visible lamp or candle burning continuously before the tabernacle. This light beckons each of us as soon as we enter the church. The flame signifies God's presence and is a sign that our love for the Lord is eternal, never to be extinguished. Our attitude and demeanour change as we recognize that we are in the house of the living God.

Confessional(s)

The first Christians confessed their sins face to face to a bishop in his church and in some instances to the congregation. Face-to-face confession, typically kneeling before a priest or sitting in a chair at his side, was the norm until the Middle Ages when a screen was placed between the confessor and female penitents. This eventually led to the introduction of the confessional booth in the 16th century, which included the screen separation, and from that time until the Second Vatican Council, confessions were normally anonymous. In 1974, the Church introduced a new formula for confession, which promoted a reconciliation room instead of a confessional booth. Penitents could now go to confession face to face or behind a screen.

Statues – Our Lady and Sacred Heart



Statues and pictures of Jesus, the Blessed Mother and the saints adorn nearly every Catholic Church. Catholics don't pray to or worship statues; rather we venerate, admire, respect and seek to imitate the particular individual.

The statues, pictures, even the stained-glass windows, tell about Jesus and the Scriptures. These images have long been an important educational tool, especially in the first 1,500 years of Christianity when few people were literate.

Organ



Originally built by Albert Keats in 1892 for another building, it was purchased and installed in Mother of God by Fr. Falvey RIP in the late 1950's.

The actual sound is produced by pressurised air or 'wind' being forced through the base of the pipe. The mechanical action works the keys and the draw stops whilst the pneumatic action activates the mechanism that allows pressurised wind into the base of the pipes.

Stations of the Cross

Fourteen Stations of the Cross ring the walls of the nave. We walk along with Jesus as he makes the agonizing journey from Pilate's house to his crucifixion on Calvary that first Good Friday. We halt at each station meditating on the actual or traditional events that took place at that particular spot. While many Catholics participate in this devotion every Friday of Lent, the stations are available for us to "walk" any time.

Churches Together in Abbeydale Banner



The banner was made by a parishioner, Mary Canty RIP, and is carried in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, which starts at Holy Trinity Millhouses and finishes at Mother of God Church.