



TYBURN TALK

CHRISTMAS 2024

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Dear Friends of Tyburn,

The following Advent Reflection is from our Chaplain, Rev. Father Barry Braum:

Bethlehem and The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

As Advent unfolds, our hearts turn toward the miraculous event of Christ's Incarnation—the Eternal Word made flesh, born in a humble stable in Bethlehem. Yet, Advent is not merely a season of remembering; it is also a time of anticipation and recognition. The same Christ who came into the world on that holy night in Bethlehem is truly present with us today in the Eucharist. The mystery of the manger and the mystery of the altar are profoundly interconnected, drawing us deeper into the reality of Emmanuel—God with us.



Bethlehem: The "House of Bread"

The name Bethlehem, which means "house of bread," is no coincidence. It points us to the profound truth of who Jesus is and what He came to give. In John's Gospel, Jesus declares, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:51). Just as Mary placed the Christ Child in a manger—a feeding trough for animals—the Eucharist is placed before us as the true Bread of Life, sustaining us in our spiritual journey. In the town aptly named the "house of bread," the Bread of Heaven made His dwelling among us, a sign of God's providential plan to nourish His people for all time.

The Lamb of God

Bethlehem, however, held another significance that points us to Christ's mission as the Redeemer. It was one of the towns where lambs

were raised for sacrifice in the Temple at Jerusalem. These lambs, carefully nurtured and kept without blemish, were destined to be offered as sacrifices for the sins of God's people. How fitting, then, that Jesus, the true and unblemished Lamb of God, was born in this very town! As John the Baptist proclaimed upon seeing Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

The lambs of Bethlehem foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, where He would offer Himself for the salvation of humanity. In the Eucharist, this same sacrifice is made present to us. Each time we participate in the Mass, we encounter the Lamb of God, who gives Himself to us wholly under the appearance of bread and wine, nourishing us with His own life and drawing us into the mystery of His redemptive love.

Bethlehem and the Eucharist: Reflections from Fr. Frederick Faber

Fr. Frederick Faber, in his meditative work *Bethlehem*, reflects deeply on the connection between the scene of Bethlehem and the Eucharist. He invites us to ponder the humility of Christ's birth, where the infinite God chose to become a helpless infant, accessible to all who sought Him. In the same way, Christ's presence in the Eucharist is marked by profound humility and accessibility. Under the simple appearances of bread and wine, the King of Kings comes to dwell with us, veiled yet fully present.

Faber writes of the manger as a "tabernacle" of sorts, where Mary and Joseph adored the living God in the flesh. This imagery mirrors the Eucharistic tabernacle in every Catholic church, where Christ continues to dwell, waiting for His people to come and adore Him. Faber's reflections remind us that the glory of Bethlehem shines forth in the Eucharist, where we encounter the same Christ who lay in the manger.

Living the Mystery

Advent calls us to prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew, both at Christmas and in the Eucharist. The connection between Bethlehem and the altar urges us to approach the Eucharist with the same wonder and reverence as the shepherds who knelt before the manger. It challenges us to recognize in the simple, outward forms of bread and wine the profound mystery of God's love made manifest.

As we reflect on Bethlehem, let us remember that the story of Christ's birth does not remain in the past. It continues today in the Eucharist, where the Bread of Life and the Lamb of God comes to us in humility and love. This Advent, may our hearts echo the words of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest," as we encounter the real presence of Christ, who comes to dwell with us and nourish us for eternity.

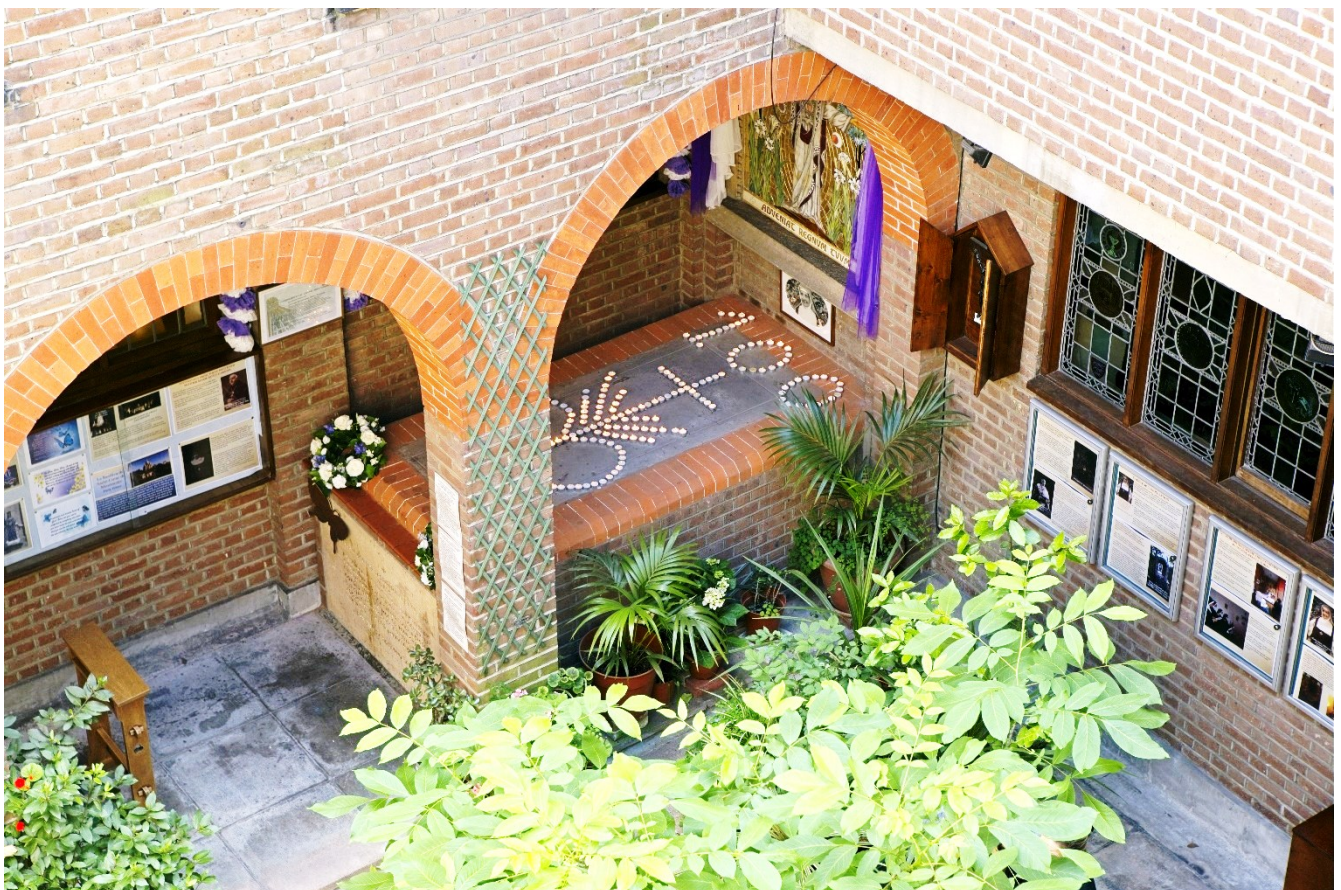
Centenary Celebrations of our Mother Foundress - Servant of God Mother Marie Adele Garnier- Passover to eternal life

1924 - 17th June - 2024:



Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and belief in the true presence is the perpetual grace which formed the interior priesthood within the soul of our Mother Foundress as the Sun of her life – The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The celebration on 17th June 2024 of the centenary of our saintly Mother Foundress' Passover to eternal life here at Tyburn 100 years earlier on 17th June 1924 was a most memorable occasion of great joy and thanksgiving. Here at the Motherhouse in London and throughout the entire world, our Congregation, bore witness in union with the martyrs, to the spiritual fruit borne through Mother Foundress' FIAT to God's adorable will in her life, which has culminated in numerous spiritual children following in her footsteps as "Eucharistic Evangelists". The celebration of the centenary was a most memorable occasion of great joy and thanksgiving. As it was



a major event for our Congregation, we were blessed to have in our midst several of our Mothers and Sisters from our other Houses.



Mother Marie Adele Garnier was born in 1838 in Burgundy, France – an age in which devotion to the Sacred Heart was to become the last act of the French revolution, pious souls were invited to develop hearts of reparation for crimes committed against God during the French

revolution.

Formed within this crucible of love Mother Marie Adele experienced great spiritual favours through her sacrifice, prayer, penance and self – abnegation becoming a spiritual mother to the world.

After many years of living her life of love for God in a hidden way her fruits were eventually to be borne as a hermit, making reparation on Montmartre at the inception of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Paris, eventually developing into the formation of a small community joined to her spiritual work.

Three years after the founding our Order, Mother Foundress and the little Community were exiled to England due to anti-clerical laws in France to continue this work for the entire world and express the contemplative charism of conversion for each nation with the Martyrs through perpetual adoration and for the sanctification of the priesthood.

This spiritual work has borne many Eucharistic souls united in love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In 2005 – the Year of the Eucharist saw the opening of the cause of canonisation for Mother Marie Adele also known as Mother Mary of St Peter, which bestowed upon her the title of Servant of God.

England's Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, opened the celebrations of the life of Tyburn's holy Mother Foundress by offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, recognising her life's work upon this holy spot of England's Jerusalem, in which 105 known Martyrs gave their life for the Faith over a 150 year period from 1535 at the Tyburn Tree during England's reformation. A number of priests concelebrated and the chapel was packed. Everybody had come to celebrate and pay their

respects to someone who was not only a saintly nun, but someone who had founded a Congregation of nuns herself, The Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre, Order of Saint Benedict, also known as the "Tyburn Nuns". This is her legacy to all of us, the Church and the world. After Holy Mass we had a procession down to Mother's tomb, through the Crypt and back up to the Chapel where we concluded with Benediction. After Benediction everybody made their way to the chapter room and refectory where lunch was laid on for all the guests and visitors. And what a splendid feast it was. The food was varied and plentiful, complemented by tea, coffee and wine! This was a real celebration and we just about avoided having a Wedding Feast of Cana moment. Due to the special nature of this event we were given special permission to sit down and eat with everyone. So we had Prelates, clergy, nuns and laity all mingling together in a very festive mood, which was worthy of the occasion. Mother General gave a speech outlining the life and achievements of Mother Marie Adele Garnier, before we had the cutting of, not one, but 5 centennial cakes!



To celebrate the life and the passover of Marie Adele Garnier, our good friends had worked hard in helping us to set up the many and beautiful decorations, to clean, cook and some also provided food including cakes and desserts. The whole celebration attended by so many people was a

testimony of a growing devotion to our saintly Mother Foundress and the wonderful family spirit in our Congregation.

We recall the last words uttered 100 years ago by our saintly Mother Foundress in reply to Mother Agnes who asked her: "Are you happy?" Our Mother Foundress replied at once: "Oh, yes, I am so happy with God! ... and with my children." We thank our dear and beloved Mother Foundress for the wonderful and magnificent heritage she has given us to serve the Lord all the days of our lives.

General Chapter



We held our General Chapter in September here at the Mother House. There was a total of 40 of us Tyburn Nuns here during September from all over the world so we were sleeping in every nook and cranny we could find! Important decisions were peacefully made with a great sense of unity and purpose.

Very Reverend Mother Marilla, Aw (pictured right) was re-elected as our Superior General.

The weather was not sure what it was doing here in London, it was quite hot some days before the General Chapter but during the General Chapter it turned cool, cold, and freezing for some Mothers depending on which country they came from.



Martyrs' Crypt News



Every visitor to Tyburn Crypt is a very dear and most welcome guest. Among some extraordinary visitors this season were Bishop of Vijayawada Diocese in India Joseph Raja Rao Thelegathoti accompanied by his friend Fr. Dominic Chukka serving in UK and Steve Saunders who has bought people to Tyburn previously. His Excellency was very moved by the visit to the shrine and sent us heartfelt thanks for the grace received to celebrate

Mass in honour of the English Martyrs in the crypt.

Photos: His Excellency Bishop Joseph Raja Rao and his friends at the Mass in the Shrine of the Martyrs.



Nativity scene and lights

Thank you to our kind sponsors for our beautiful Christmas scene and lights which we are still putting up at the time of writing!

We are happy to be able to witness with this public display of the nativity in a neighbourhood devoid of this!

It is very effective and we are told by some people coming from Hyde Park direction that they can see it from the park as there are no leaves on the trees to block the view.

On the 17th December, the "Great Os" we will turn the lights on!

Sanctuary update



Our beautiful statue of St Joseph near
Mother Foundress' tomb

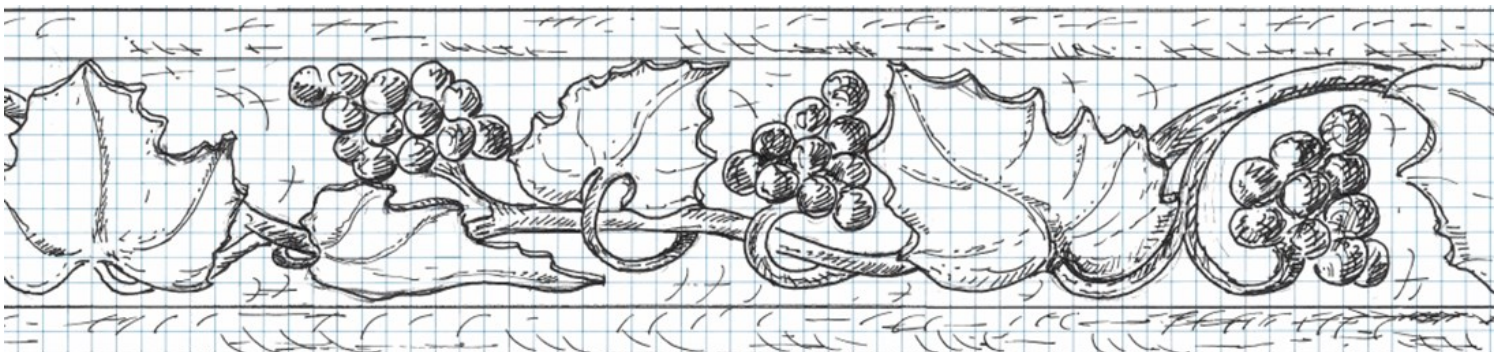
We have some updated designs to share with you that Michael, the stonemason, who has been employed on this job, has been working on. He is at present finishing off the design phase and producing working drawings with 3D computer images which will go to tender. Any stone mason will then be able to work from them.

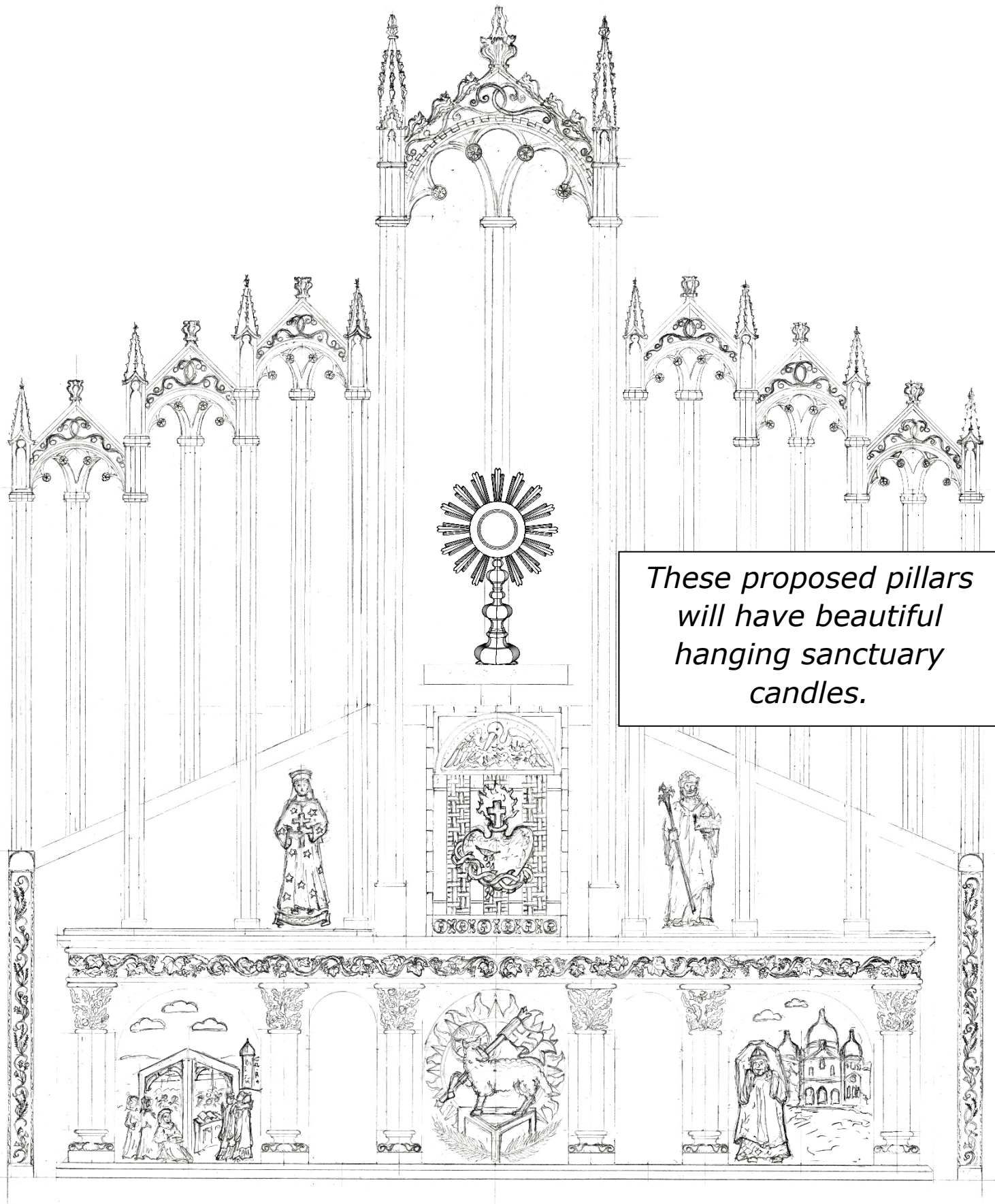
These pictures hardly do justice to the absolute grandeur, beauty and large scale of the proposed new sanctuary!

We have had all sorts of necessary professionals involved, including of course architects and structural engineers. A very kind and generous benefactor is paying for the expertise of a knowledgeable Project Manager, a chartered engineer with over 40 years experience in the building construction industry, to oversee and help with the sanctuary renovation project.

We obviously have a huge amount of fundraising to complete and we are most grateful for every donation and prayer! We thank all of you have have been donating.

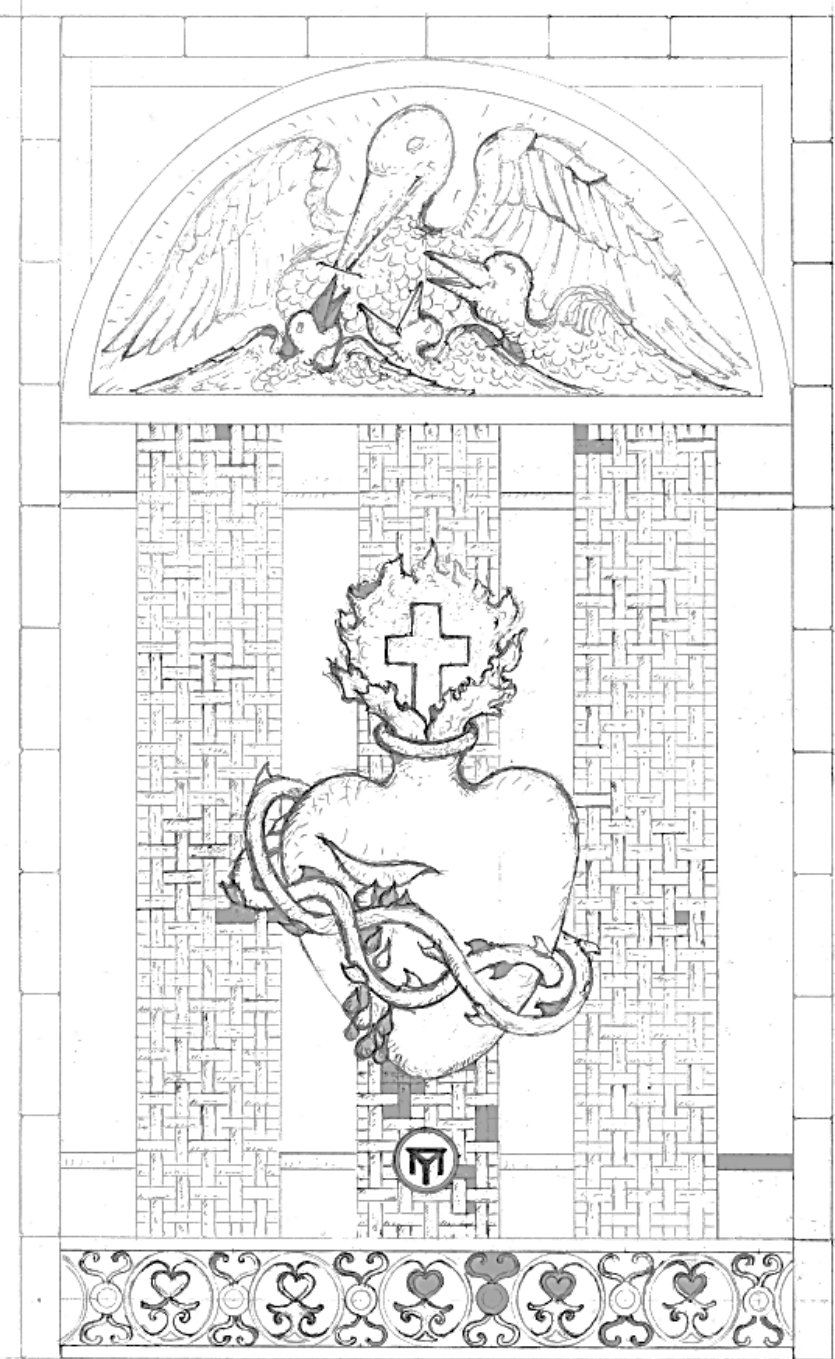
We are very much relying on the help of Good St Joseph and his bottomless pockets for this project so that in all things God may be glorified!





These proposed pillars will have beautiful hanging sanctuary candles.

A very much shrunk down scale of the beautiful proposed main stone altar and reredos

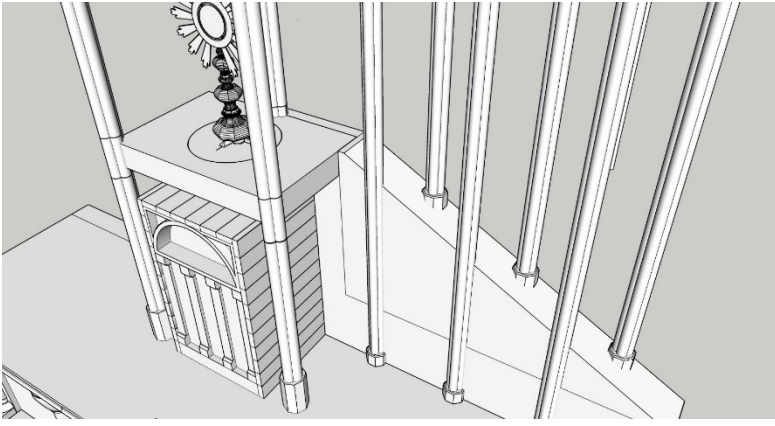


Detail of the top of the tabernacle and the tabernacle door.



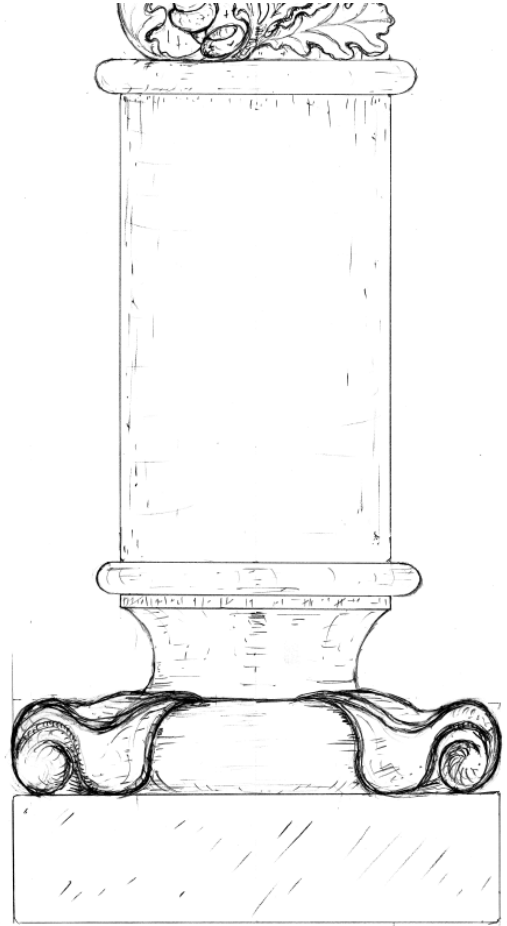
Detail above of Front Altar below





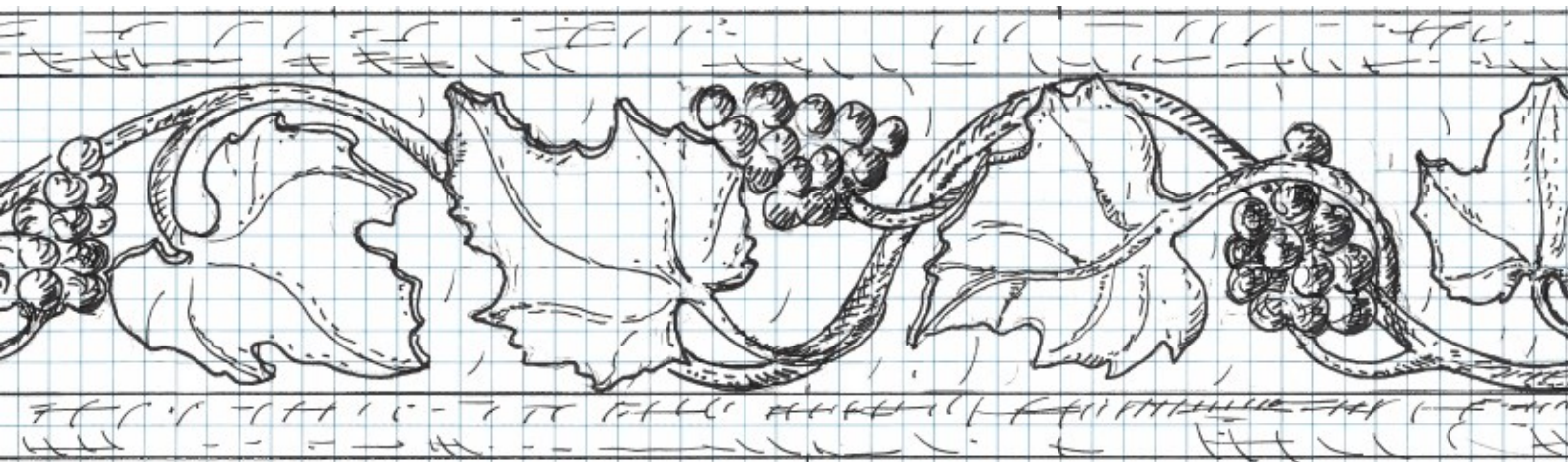
An example of a portion of the 3D modelling of the proposed sanctuary

Detail of altar column capitol



Column base

Detail from some of the planned tracery.





Thank You!

We are very grateful to all our friends and benefactors for all the support you have given to our Community and Congregation during 2024. Thank you for your prayers, sacrifices, volunteering time to help out in various ways, and for your donations. We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered as usual on Christmas Day for all our friends and benefactors living and deceased. May the peace of the Christ Child enter your hearts and your homes and remain with you throughout 2025!

The Tyburn Nuns

Please pass Tyburn Talk on to a friend!

Donations for Tyburn Convent can be made by cash,
cheque (made payable to Tyburn Convent)
or through our website:

<https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/conventdonations>