



**Souvenir
Booklet on
the Occasion
of Renewal
of the
Dedication
of Our War
Memorial
at
The Parish
of The Most
Holy Trinity,
St Mary's
Catholic
Church,
Lyme Road,
Axminster**

**Monday
15th July 2024**

A review of historical records shows that the first memorial after the ending of the 1st World War was installed here at St Mary's RC Church, Lyme Road, Axminster

Report from Exeter & Plymouth Gazette dated 30th May 1919

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, LYME ROAD, AXMINSTER EX13 5BE

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF THE CALVARY WAR MEMORIAL ON 29TH MAY 1919

"FALLEN HEROES

MEMORIAL CALVARY. DEDICATED AT AXMINSTER

Yesterday afternoon a solemn service was held at Axminster of blessing and dedicating the Memorial Calvary which has been erected outside the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, Lyme Road. The inscription in parallel columns is as follows:-

"In memory of the soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the Great War fighting for King country and home." "Eternal rest grant them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."

The service was impressively conducted by the Rector the Very Reverend Monsignor Canon Gandy who was assisted by the Rev. Fathers Barney, (Exeter) Van Heede, (Lyme Regis) and Cyril Smith (Okehampton), the latter carrying the processional cross accompanied by four acolytes.

After a hymn had been devotionally rendered by the schoolchildren, an address was delivered by the Rev. Father Barney who spoke of all that the Cross should mean to Christians and appealed for a fuller realisation of the great sacrifice of Calvary. What we did not really agree about was the memorialising of Christ's death and sacrifice. Did we, however, take offence and charge our fellow countrymen who erected memorials to the sacrifice and death of those who had laid down their lives in the war with being idolaters? We had not the slightest fear of being called idolaters or memorialising or having resource to statuary carving and poetry and prose and pictures and in every way showing forth what had been done in order to make it a standing memorial that future generations might be able to realise it in a way that they would not otherwise do. The sacrifice of Calvary had given the cue and the genius to every kind of sacrifice offered before had in mind the Redeemer to come. We must, emphasised the preacher, go back to memorialise it for the inspiration of every sacrifice; we must never forget it, or be ashamed of it and memorialise it.

Canon Gandy, after another hymn by the children, performed the ceremony of blessing and dedicating the memorial after which the psalm "Out of the Depths" was recited. A solemn Benediction followed in the church which was crowded to overflowing. Sister Gabriel was at the organ and the service was of the most impressive character.

After the ceremony, many of those present partook of tea in the Presbytery grounds at the invitation of Canon Gandy"

... So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at
last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and
exchange it some day for a crown. ...

George Bennard (1913)

We will remember them ...

<i>Bankes, Eddie *</i>	Harris, Archibald J	Pomeroy, Ralph
Bartlett, Jeffries R C	Harris, John	Richards, John H
Bowles, Bertram P	Haysom, William	Rosewell, Kenneth H
Bruce, Henry A	Hoskins, Ben	Rouch, Colin T
Carter, Cyril H	Hoskins, Reginald	Russell, William J
Channing, John S	Lambert, Percy	Silk, William R
Chant, Charles F	Lethaby, Leonard W	Sloman, Albert J
Chick, Francis F	Long, Gilbert J	Snell, Edwin J W
Chick, William C	Loud, Thomas	Snell, Tom S
Claybyn, Edward C	Luff, Archibald N	Spiller, John
Claybyn, Thomas P	Lumbard, Francis C	Spiller, William J
Claybyn, William A	Maidment, Albert C	Sprague, Charles F
Coleman, Wilfred C	Mcneil, James R	Sprague, Leslie W
Coote, Alfred A	Mence, William C	Sprague, Reginald C
Coote, Frederick W	Moulding, Ernest J	Spurway, Harold G
Diment, Brian P	Moulding, Frederick W	Stentiford, Frederick J
Dimon, William	Nicholls, William W	Strawbridge, Harry
Ellis, Nelson H	Page, Ralph	Strawbridge, Robert
Elson, Gerald C	Parker, Albert H	Sweetland, Charles E
Enticott, Arthur	Pascoe, Vincent G	Tucker, Sidney J
Enticott, Charles	Pavey, Thomas F	White, Frederick C
Enticott, Samuel B	Peach, Ernest W	Willey, Charles F J
Farmer, Joseph	Percy-hardman, Cecil C	Willey, Frederick C
Fish, Alfred W	Percy-hardman, William H	Woodland, William H
Foster, Sidney R	Perham, Frederick C	Young, Charles
Froom, John	Perham, John	Young, Charles
Fry, John J	Perryman, Frank	Young, Philip
Goddard, Frederick W	Phippen, Thomas L	
Gribble, Percy H	Pomeroy, James	

... and all who have served in our forces and died serving since

** Donation made to memorial restoration in memory, not of Axminster Parish.*

Eternal Rest grant to them O Lord and may Perpetual
Light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace.



We are happy that we have been able to restore this very important Memorial.

This has only been possible due to the support of our Parish Community; grants and financial support from War Memorial Trust, Benefact Trust and sources which have requested anonymity. We are also grateful for the professional contributions of Andrzej Michalik (Architect), Daniel Stewart (Restoration), NDM Commercial Ltd. (Groundworks). The whole project was coordinated by Richard Salt who ensured that every detail was attended to and completed.

The 2024 ceremony was presided over by Fr Jacek Kostuch, with address by Richard Salt. Wreaths were laid in memory by the Town Mayor, Cllr. Jill Farrow, Mr Peter Slimon, Chairman of the Royal British Legion (Axminster Branch) and pupils representing each class of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

The pupils also joined in singing hymns, to reflect the involvement of the primary school children who sang at the dedication of the memorial over 105 years ago.

'When I think about the cross' written by Mark and Helen Johnson

'Lord, I come to you (the power of your love)' written by Geoff Bullock