

St Bernard of Clairvaux Church



Sherbourne Road,
Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire
CH65 5EW

Now Closed

<https://rcchep.co.uk/stbernards.php>

The parish newsletter of Our Lady's, Sunday 28th. July 1968 gives the first reference to a new parish. Father Andrew Campbell wrote:

"A new chapter will be added to the history of the Catholic Church in Ellesmere Port, when Father E.H. Birdwhistle arrives to take charge of the Catholic population of Wolverham and Stanney Grange... It is very appropriate that it should be dedicated to Saint Bernard as the site of the ancient monastery is within its boundaries."

On 4th August 1968, Father Birdwhistle celebrated the first Mass in the Parish at 10a.m. in the Boys Club in Coronation Road. Father wrote a letter to the parishioners that began:

"From small seeds great trees grow, from small beginnings the stuff of history is made."

In some old notes he describes those early days, "For three years my task was to trudge around in the slush as the houses went up, greeting people, finding out who they were, and discovering who, if any, 3 were Catholics. I had to try and accommodate them for Mass. I was greatly helped in this by the local people, Boys Club, Coronation Road and the T.A. Centre".

The first building in the Parish was the Presbytery in Repton Road, this meant there was a Priest living in the Parish, and as the first Priest, Father Birdwhistle moved into the Presbytery in 1968. What was next? A School building was completed and the first Mass celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 30th 1971. The School remained the centre of the Parish and Mass was celebrated there until the erection of the Church Centre in 1977.