

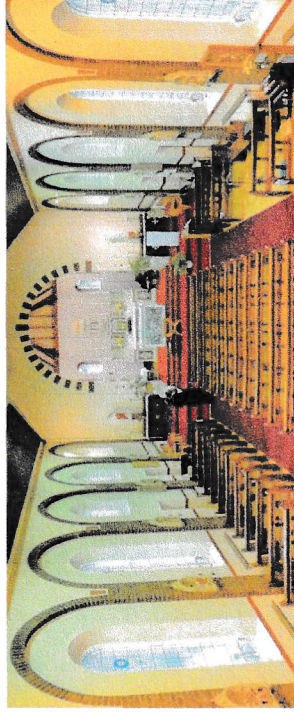
**An Eighth Supplement to  
The Artifice of Eternity  
The Byzantine-Romanesque Revival  
in Catholic Lancashire**

**LITTLEBOROUGH**

**St Mary's of the Annunciation, Featherstall Rd,  
Attributed to Fr Arthur Brosnan, 1930**



Surrounded by lawns and trees, this church sits atop a slope, and is approached by steps. There is alternative access via the school. It is built of red brick with bands of white stone. A white stone statue of the Virgin and Child stands at the apex of the gabled west front with its corbel table, which is supported by two brick buttresses. Between the buttresses is a large round-headed window; its blind arch encloses a mosaic cross, a pelican in its piety, and an agnus dei, with below it three round-headed lights. Below are four small round-headed windows. Beside the main door on the liturgical north side is a relief carving of the Annunciation.



The interior is unusual in so far as consists of a large nave without any aisles. The side walls, covered with the usual cream plaster, are pierced by four large round-headed windows on either side to the west, and three to the east, with brick arches; their stained glass is symbolic. The sanctuary is lit by two round-headed windows to each side. An apse below the choir-loft at the west end was evidently the baptistery, which now holds a statue of Our Lady, the font having been moved to the east. The original altar, tabernacle, and baldacchino remain in situ, but another altar stands forward to facilitate the liturgy of Pope Paul VI. Two side altars with statues of the Sacred Heart and the Virgin also remain in place. Remnants of the mosaic altar rails stand to the side of the apse. This east end looks rather untidy, but the total effect of the interior is one of brightness.

**Bibliography**

Charles A. Bolton, *Salford Diocese and its Catholic Past* (Diocese of Salford, Salford, 1950)  
'St Mary's, Littleborough, Facebook'  
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