

# OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

# FORGED WITH HOPE

## FORGING A FUTURE IN IRON AND STEEL

Surrounded by fertile farmland and blessed with beautiful green spaces full of flora and fauna, Scunthorpe is known as the *Industrial Garden Town*. The mighty presence on our town's skyline of huge fire-breathing blast furnaces; flanked by colossal funnel-shaped cooling towers crowned with plumes of white water vapour; and troops of tall chimneys which stand guard watchfully over gigantic mills where red-hot molten steel has been skilfully forged for over a hundred years; remind us of our rich industrial heritage and its key part in providing work for so many hard-working Catholic steelworkers spanning generations of families. It was these families, filled with faith and hope in God, who forged the thriving parish of St. Bernadette's and worked so hard to raise the money to build our school.

20TH SEPTEMBER 1955

## FORGING AHEAD WITH FAITH AND HOPE

As Christians, our faith is strengthened by our steadfast hope in God. Just as iron and steel are forged in a furnace, so the firm faith of those early pioneers of our parish was forged with renewed hope when construction of the new school was completed in the summer of 1955.



## OUR SCHOOL OPENS

St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School opened to children aged 5–11 years old on 20th September 1955. Staffed mostly by nuns from the Presentation Convent, the school had: seven classrooms; an assembly hall and dining area with adjoining kitchen; a staff room; a playground; and ample fields for play, physical exercise, and sports.

16TH APRIL 1956

## THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The Lord Bishop of Nottingham, the Right Reverend Edward Ellis, flanked on either side by Father Merrigan and Father McGillicuddy, enters the school gates to commence the Official Opening Ceremony.

The bishop is wearing a hat called a *mitre*, and carrying a staff called a *crozier* which is shaped like a shepherd's staff to show that the bishop is called by Our Lord Jesus Christ to care for the people of his diocese, as a shepherd cares for the sheep and lambs of his flock.



## A SOLEMN BLESSING

During the ceremony, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Bernadette's, the bishop walks around the whole school, sprinkles it with holy water, and says special prayers to invoke God's solemn blessing on our school.

## HONOURING OUR PATRON SAINT

At the close of the ceremony, a beautiful statue of Saint Bernadette, kneeling as she did before Our Lady during the apparitions in Lourdes, is blessed by the bishop and he prays for her special intercession for our school and all who will come to learn, work, and serve here.