

Tridentine Community News

January 22, 2023 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Restored Beauty at the Rosary Shrine

On January 13, this writer paid another visit to London, England's Rosary Shrine, the massive church being restored under the leadership of Dominican priest/photographer Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP. This church is noteworthy for having 15 side chapels devoted to the Mysteries of the Rosary, in addition to several other Side Altars. Mass, sometimes in the Dominican Rite, is regularly celebrated on every Side Altar of the church. Much progress has been made in the three years since our last visit.



The Lady Chapel, the center altar pictured above where weekday Masses are offered, has been regilded. Adoring angel statues above the altar and on the side pillars have been made and installed to replicate the look the altar had before the original statues were discarded in a modernization decades ago.



Long altar cloths and candlesticks have been obtained for each of the 15 Side Altar chapels dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary. The Carrying of the Cross chapel is pictured above.

Fr. Lawrence was especially proud of the restoration of the High Altar. Two of their Sunday Masses, the 12:00 Noon Solemn Novus Ordo and the 6:00 PM Traditional Dominican Rite High

Mass, are now held at this altar. He pointed out some noteworthy features:



Mounted on the wall to the left of the altar mensa (table) is an *ambry*, a tabernacle-like box which stores the Holy Oils (Oil of Catechumens, Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism).

To the right of the mensa is a *Sanctus Candle*, permanently mounted on the wall. It is lit from the Sanctus through the end of Holy Communion, to represent the Light of Christ present on the altar during that part of the Holy Mass.

A stone staircase surrounds the altar, allowing the celebrant to carry up a monstrance and place it on the stone throne above the altar. Eucharistic Adoration is offered daily at this altar.



The visit concluded with a Dominican Rite Low Mass at the St. Dominic altar, celebrated by Fr. Lawrence and served by this writer. Note the wall-mounted credence table on the right.

Fr. Lawrence encourages readers of this column to make a pilgrimage to the Rosary Shrine should you find yourself in London. More information on this remarkable church is at:

<https://rosaryshrine.co.uk/>

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