

taf (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED

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Monday

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The News Editor,
Pathe News,
133-5 Oxford St.,
W.1.

15 785' long
WEIGHTS $1\frac{3}{4}$ tons. 40

13th March, 1959

Dear Sir,

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of this afternoon.

The spire of The Church of Our Lady Fatima will now be erected on Monday (March 16) at 12 o'clock precisely. The operation is expected to take not more than half an hour and the work is expected to be finished by not later than 1 p.m.

The site address of the Church is:-

Corner of Howard Way and First Avenue,
Harlow, Essex.

Incidentally, the company responsible for the construction of the spire, Rainham Timber Engineering Company Ltd., of Rainham, Essex, also built the three spires for the Crystalline Hall which attracted so many visitors to the British Pavilion at the Brussels Exhibition.

Unfortunately I find I will not be able to get out to the site on Monday, but any queries will be answered by my colleague Mr. David Evans on CHAncery 3529.

Yours faithfully,
TAF (International) Ltd.

Geoffrey Berridge
Geoffrey Berridge

*timber
Copper & lead*

x-778301

CATHOLIC CHURCH AT HARLOW NEW TOWN

Architects: Gerard Goalen.

The Church of Our Lady of Fatima is the first of a number of Catholic churches to be designed for the New Town of Harlow.

A parish hall, presbytery and school had already been designed when the church architect was appointed, but it was possible to revise their siting before building started.

The client required a church to seat 500, with provision for allowing much larger congregations, partly accommodated outside the building, to take part in services on special occasions. He asked for the seating to be so arranged that every member of the congregation would be close to the high altar.

Circular and polygonal plans were investigated, but finally a cruciform shape was adopted with the high altar at the crossing. The congregation are divided between the nave and two transepts - all of equal dimensions - so that they assemble round the altar. The back rows of benches are separated from the sanctuary by only six intermediate rows.

The high altar is double-sided so that it is possible, though not essential, for the priest to say Mass facing the people. It has been possible to place the pulpit - which is also the gospel ambo - in a position which will give satisfactory conditions for preaching.

On special occasions seating for 500 more people can be arranged on the paved spaces outside the three narthexes, with views of the high altar through the open doors of the church. Canvas awnings might be erected over the paving.

The building will be framed in reinforced concrete, and the walls will be of Surrey Stock brickwork. The main windows will have reconstructed stone mullions and transoms and will be filled with coloured glass. The nave and transept roofs and the timber spire will be covered with copper.

The planning has made it possible for the spire to be placed so that it marks the position of the high altar immediately below.

Building started in October, 1958. The Main Contractors are Messrs. Allen Fairhead & Sons Ltd. and the spire was made by the Rainham Timber Engineering Company.