



**5** *St. Austin's*  
**Wentworth Terrace,**  
**Wakefield,**  
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St. Austin's church is dedicated to Saint Augustine who brought Christianity back to England in 597 and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the following year.

**History**

Designed by Joseph Ireland in 1824, the church was completed in 1828 and is a fine example of his classical Grecian style, with Corinthian capitals in the sanctuary and decorated plasterwork in the ceiling, some of the original of which still remains. The church was opened prior to the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 and is one of few Roman Catholic churches from the Georgian era which are still in regular use for worship. It originally extended from the arch in front of the altar to the inner edge of the present balcony. The priest's house (presbytery), was built in the space now occupied by the altar area (sanctuary), beyond the two large Corinthian pillars.

There was considerable extension work later in the 19th century, especially in the 1870s under Joseph Hanson (of Hanson cab fame), which produced the structural outline of the present church. The presbytery was transferred from the eastern end of the church to the western when the pre-existing houses (about 1790), were purchased. The church hall or theatre was built in the 1930s at a time when both the religious and the social life of the local Catholic community centred on the church. A stone calvary at street level and a plaque within the church are memorials to parishioners who died in the two World Wars.

**Interior Features**

Over the holy water stoop within the exterior porch, is a memorial to the church's Rectors and Parish Priests. Beyond the porch is the general notice area (narthex). Here is a statue to St Therese of Lisieux, a popular French 19th century saint. Within the congregational area itself there are the fourteen Stations of the Cross around the wall depicting various episodes from the crucifixion of Jesus, and the dedication candle-holders from the re-opening and dedication of 1990 after the re-ordering and restoration of the church.



The two statues in the niches high up on either side of the sanctuary arch are of St Joseph and St Patrick. The wooden statue in the south-eastern corner of the church by the sacristy door is of St Anne, who is holding in her arms her daughter Mary, who in her turn is holding her son, Jesus. The threefold form of the statue was popular in Germany and the Netherlands in the 15th and 16th century, and large numbers of the statues (known as Anna-te-Drieen), were imported into Britain around 1500. The statue is believed to have been hidden during the years of the Reformation, when religious images were often being destroyed.

Within the Lady Chapel in the north-eastern corner of the church is an altar picture of Mary and the infant Jesus, painted in 1922 by Mr A. Jarvis of Ipswich. High up in the west wall of the chapel is a memorial to Mgr Henry Thompson, parish priest from 1944-86, and there is also a memorial to Blessed John Anne, a Roman Catholic martyr from Reformation times who lived and worked in Wakefield.

Date	Event / Activity	Times
Sat 29 May	Open Church Mass Refreshments	9am–2pm 9.30am 10am–12noon
Sun 30 May	Open Church Mass  Refreshments	7.45am–2pm 8.15am: 11am: 6pm 9.15–10am: 12noon–1pm
Mon 31 May	Open Church Mass	9am–2pm 10am
Tue 1 June	Open Church Mass	7.30am–2pm 7.45am
Wed 2 June	Open Church Mass	7.30am to 2pm 7.45am
Thu 3 June	Open Church Mass	10.am–2pm 12am
Fri 4 June	Open Church Mass	10am–2pm 12am
Sat 5 June	Open Church Mass Refreshments	9am–2pm 9.30am 10am–12am
Sun 6 June	Open Church Mass  Refreshments	7.45 to 2pm 8.15am: 11am; 6pm 9.15–10am: 12noon–1pm

