

The Consecration Sermon

Brief address by the Rev Thomas White (surrogate of the vicar general) on behalf of the patron of St Paul's Chapel and the Rector etc., manuscript 2 June 1779.

Right Reverend Father in God Thomas White Clerk Master of Arts Principal Surrogate of the Worshipful Richard Smalbroke Doctor of Law Your Lordship Vicar General, in the name and on the behalf of Charles Colmore, late of Taplow in the County of Berks, Esquire, and now of Birmingham in the County of Warwick, the patron of the newly erected Chapel of Saint Paul, in the parish of Birmingham in the County of Warwick, and in your Lordship's Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, and likewise The reverend William Hinton Doctor in Divinity, the present Rector of Saint Martin in Birmingham aforesaid, and the Churchwardens Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said parish, whose names are hereunto subscribed, and also of the Trustees under an act of Parliament passed in the twelfth year of his present Majesty intituled "An Act for building two new Chapels and providing burial places therein within the Town of Birmingham in the County of Warwick" whose names are hereunto and subscribed and also of all others the parishioners and Inhabitants of the said parish DO MOST HUMBLY REPRESENT UNTO YOUR LORDSHIP That the said Town of Birmingham is a place of great Trade and Commerce and is very much increased in the buildings and number of Inhabitants and that there are at present but two Churches and two small Chapels in the said town which together are not capable of containing one fourth part of the Inhabitants professing the Doctrine of the Church of England whereby the said Inhabitants are laid under great inconvenience in attending Divine Service, in burying their dead, baptizing their children, churching of women after child-birth and in performing other religious and Holy Offices with such fervency as they ought and are inclinable and willing to do IN CONSIDERATION whereof and to prevent the like inconveniences for the future the said Charles Colmore and several others out of a religious disposition and for the honour of Almighty God Have by voluntary subscription raised money to erect and build this Chapel wherein your Lordship now stands situate on part of certain lands called Harpur's Hills within the said parish of Saint Martin containing within the walls thereof from East to West about eighty feet in length and from North to South about sixty four feet in breadth and that the same is finished and distinguished with a recent communion Table and other utensils fit for the celebration of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with a pulpit and Reading Desk seats or pews of wainscot a Gallery, with a font for baptizing their children all things due requisite and necessary in every respect for the worship of Almighty God and pursuant to the directions and powers contained in the aforesaid act of Parliament and that the present seats or pews erected in the said Chapel are sufficient to raise a fund Stipend Endowment or maintenance for the minister or curate officiating within the Chapel and his successor for ever. The said curate and his successors to be nominated and appointed from time to time by the said Charles Colmore and his Heirs for ever in consideration of his being the principal contributor towards the building erecting and endowing this Chapel and all with this intent and purpose that the Chapel and all therein belonging may be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, and that God's holy and ever blessed name may be honoured and called upon by the present inhabitants of Birmingham and by their successors and posterity and that God may be glorified in the service and administration of the Curate and his successors from time to time in this Chapel (being first licenced and approved by your Lordship and your successor bishops of Lichfield and Coventry) in that maintenance and livelihood which in their Names I humbly desire to be established, and the said petitioners humbly beseech Almighty God graciously to accept this sincere intent and holy purpose. And they were and are altogether humble suitors to your Lordship as God's Minister that in God's stead will accept of this freewill offering, and decree that this Chapel may be served from all prophane and common uses And now in Deed to sever it, and by the word of god and prayers and by other religious duties and Spiritual Benediction to dedicate and consecrate it, and all thereto belonging to the sacred and ever blessed name of God and to his service and worship as a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church of Saint Martin in Birmingham aforesaid to and for parishioners of the said parish and also of the Inhabitants of the said town of Birmingham. TO WHICH purpose I do here in the name of the said Charles Colmore, the present Rector and of the said parishioners of Saint Martin and the Inhabitants of the said Town of Birmingham as well for themselves as for their successors in the presence and sight of Almighty God promise and vow respectively that for ever they will refuse and renounce to put this Chapel or any part thereof to any private secular prophane or common uses whatsoever but will endeavour in their several places and Rights that all may be wholly and only reserved and applied to religious uses and to the Glory of God and the salvation of their souls and that it shall for ever be held and esteemed as the Church of God by the publick use by the Parishioners of the said parish of Saint Martin and the said inhabitants of the said Town of Birmingham for the worship of God therein according to the rites of the Church of England and they will ever hold this place as God's house and demean themselves therein accordingly And that they will for ever hereafter as the least occasion or need shall require provide that this Chapel and all thereunto belonging shall be repaired upheld and decently furnished as a Chapel or church ought to be, and that they will for ever forbear and refuse by any pretences or colour of any law statute or provision whatsoever to burthen the Curate of this Chapel for the time being with any charges payments contribution or duties whatsoever. And they will pay as well to the Rector of saint Martin and his successors for the time being as also to the said Curate of this Chapel, and his successors, for the time being, for Churchings and Buryings as are and have been usually paid in the said Mother Church of saint Martin to the several Rectors thereof AND LASTLY in the name of the said Charles Colmore, The Reverend William Hinton the present Rector, the Churchwardens and the said parishioners and Inhabitants altogether and every one in particular and of all other persons interested therein I humbly beseech your Lordship that upon these conditions promises promises and provisoes (whereunto they have all in this Schedule subscribed their names, and which they humbly desire may be registred and remain upon record, in the registry of your Lordship's Diocese) your lordship will be pleased to proceed in your holy function.