

St Antony of Padua

Catholic Parish of Forest Gate



CASE FOR SUPPORT

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St Antony of Padua Roman Catholic Church
Parish of Forest Gate, Diocese of Brentwood



St Antony of Padua

56 St Antony's Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9QB

020 8472 0433 | stantonysforestgate.com | forestgate@dioceseofbrentwood.org



MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN JESUS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are asking our parish family to lend generous support to this Restoration Campaign. As our current parishioners, we now call upon you to carry on the generosity, spirit and sacrifice that filled the hearts of the men and women who have supported our parish and diocese throughout our history.

As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting the campaign to preserve the essence of what we and all of the faithful within the greater Church in Forest Gate are blessed to have and to ensure the Church's presence in the lives of our children and grandchildren. Your prayers, generosity, and sacrifice will ensure our success.

Governments come and go. Fashions change, in dress and architecture. The face of east London is constantly shifting – and many parts of it are unrecognisable now, compared with even 25 years ago. This makes for an exciting and dynamic area in which to live – but we need places of stability and wisdom in a changing world.

Many institutions in the modern world exist to make a profit. This is an invitation to invest for social return and public benefit. The church exists for the benefit of those who need it and it offers what it does freely. As a parishioner, you already know that when you are in crisis or have something to celebrate, we are here for you. Nobody is denied excellent pastoral care and support, access to priests, a wedding or a dignified funeral – whether they can afford to contribute or not. It is a place of care and resource for all, regardless of circumstance.

We look back over the last 147 years with profound gratitude for the legacy left to us by previous generations. We also look forward in confidence to the next 150 years. We are blessed to have a beautiful church and a very vibrant and active parish family of all ages and nationalities. St Antony of Padua is represented from all four corners of the earth and we are continually welcoming families and individuals into our church.

What is absolutely certain is that, however east London changes, St Antony's will be here in another 150 years, a fixed point for our children's children. So to invest in this church is to take a truly long-term view and is to invest in those who come after us. When you back our appeal, you will be making a truly lasting investment.

Fr John Jesus

Parish Priest





OUR HISTORY

The Catholic Church of St Antony of Padua has a rich and interesting history reaching back to 1873 when the Franciscans from Stratford opened a temporary chapel in Forest Gate to serve the growing needs of the Catholic community in east London.

A temporary church opened in 1874 but we do not know what this looked like as no photographs or depictions exist. On 8 October 1884 the first section of St Antony's was opened and the Mission (independent of Stratford) was established with resident Franciscans. The Catholic community flourished and local benefactors Jeremiah James Donovan, James Dore, Mrs Reynolds, the Mulrenans, the Tertiaries and the Syndics pledged money towards the completion of the church.

The architect of the church was Peter Paul Pugin (1851–1904), son of the famous Augustus Pugin (1812–1852) who was an English architect, designer, artist and critic who is principally remembered for his pioneering role in the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The builders were J. Mortimer of Stratford, and the Clerk of Works Brother Patrick Dalton. The cost of the building was £10,060.

Over the next fifty years additions were made to the church including the Lady Altar (also designed by P. P. Pugin), rood, altar rails and stations of the cross. The stained-glass windows were installed by Hardman & Co and others including the east rose window, five windows in the south aisle (1902-03) depicting the Passion of Christ and the south aisle west window (1933). The north aisle has nine quatrefoils of Franciscan saints flanked by angels, installed in 1922 as a memorial to the dead of the First World War. In 1909 the pipe organ was installed by H.S. Vincent & Co of Sunderland. A concert was given by Dr Taylor, a Fellow of the Royal College of Music, on 2 January 1910. There was some minor bomb damage in 1942 but the church was restored in 1950.

In 1965 a three-year *Planned Giving Campaign* was launched for raise the sum of £100,000 to renovate and develop the church building and programme. The campaign booklet contained budgetary information, designs for re-ordering and other information.

In 1967 works began with the most radical alterations made to the sanctuary of the church including the removal of the original canopied high altar and reredos.

Other structural changes in the east and west end of the church involved lesser modifications, including the removal of the pulpit and relocation of the side altars. The parquet floor in the nave of the church was replaced with Torignol with the intention to imitate marble. The overall cost of these renovations was in the region of £30,000.

The parish was served by the Franciscan Friars Minor until 2001 when they were replaced by diocesan clergy. In October 2012, the Brentwood diocesan clergy relinquished pastoral care of the parish to the Community of St John.



THE PLAN

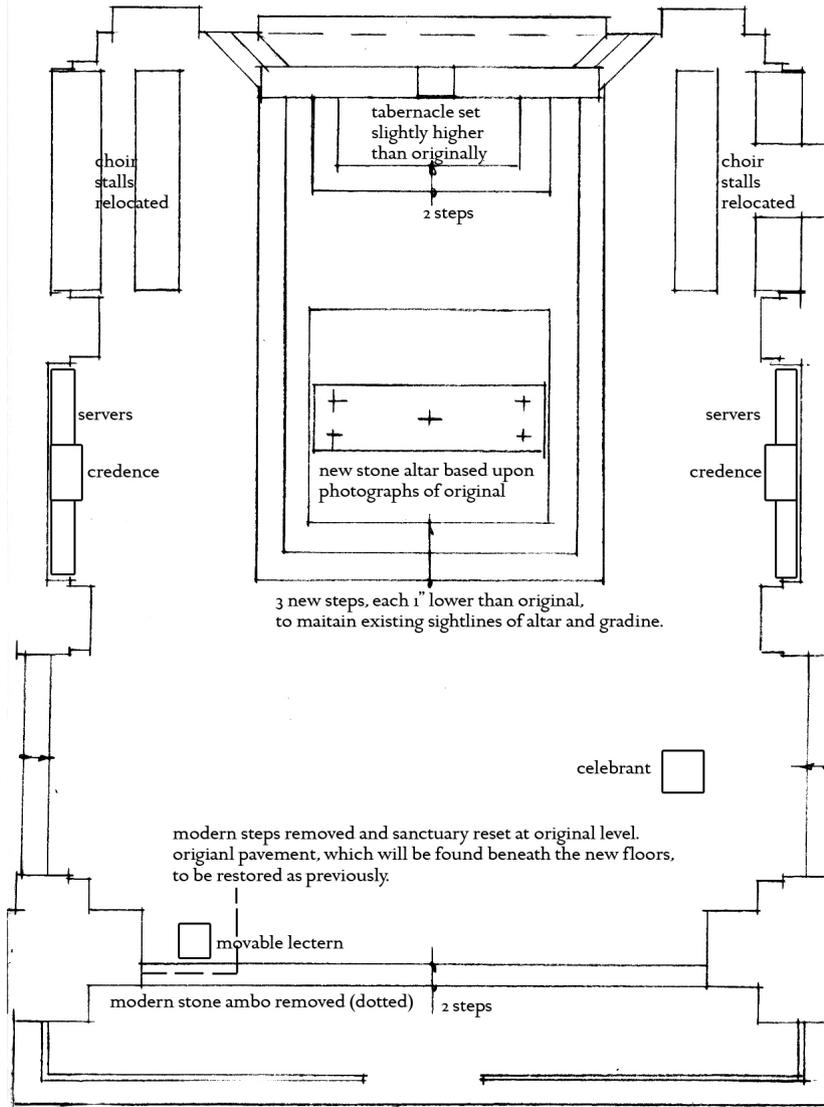
After much consultation in recent years, the Diocese of Brentwood and English Heritage have given St Antony's permission to proceed with the restoration of the sanctuary. This will allow the cleaning and repairing of the stonework behind the altar including the reredos (the original decorative screen). This work began in March 2020 at a cost of approximately £0.5M.

In addition to the sanctuary restoration, the time has come to undertake important renovations to the remainder of the church if we are to continue to enjoy this outstanding iconic Catholic building in east London. These include but are not limited to decoration, flooring, pews & kneelers, lighting, fire alarm system, PA system and toilets.



Left: Perspective sketch showing the detail which will be included in the restoration of the reredos. Right (overleaf): A sketched plan.

- a) modern concrete block wall removed to allow full investigation.
- b) stone reredos repaired to original condition.
with new stone carving to replace missing sections.
- c) gradine rebuilt in stone from photographs to original form.
- d) tabernacle restored from photographs.
- e) steps set to original widths and arrangement, but extended forward for new altar.



ST ANTONY FOREST GATE - RESTORATION AND REORDERING OF SANCTUARY



THE COST

Following an extensive consultation period, a technical team of construction professionals and our appointed architects, Anthony Delarue, worked together to look at what the building requires to meet our current and future needs.

Our cost plan indicates the total amount we need to restore the sanctuary and make good the rest of the church is £1.5 million.

The cost of restoring the sanctuary is approximately one third (£0.5M). We need to make the following improvements which we believe will total approximately £1M:

- Repair and refurbish all toilets in the church (including disabled toilets)
- Repair the flooring throughout the church
- Repair the pews & kneelers
- General decoration
- Lighting and electrical
- Fire alarm system
- PA system

We know this is a huge amount of money but these works are now critical to the future of the church. To neglect these works at this time would see the demise of the church.

A Restoration Campaign has been launched to raise the balance and add to what has already been collected. We know that many of our faithful parishoners have given devotedly and we thank you very much for these contributions. What has been donated so far has been in small amounts - so every little helps - thank you.



JustGiving™

The St Antony of Padua Restoration
Campaign is now live on JustGiving:

justgiving.com/fundraising/stantonyfg

WHY SHOULD I HELP?

Help us do more for the church and our Catholic community

The restoration will

- support and expand our current church activities
- enabling them to grow and become more vibrant
- ensure a sustainable future for St Antony's Church

Leave behind something better

You can be part of the future by continuing the strong history of legacy, which began with the courageous and ambitious project to establish St Antony's as a beacon of Catholicism in east London in 1873.

Create a mission-enabling place to do God's will

Your generosity and support is an expression of

- your grateful response to God's love in your life
- your faith in our vision to be a church at the heart of its community
- your place in a church family that is vibrant and valued
- your desire to live out God's teachings, and enable us to support those in need in our local community.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Securing the funds needed to restore St Antony's is a considerable challenge, and we have explored a range of W avenues. Our success will depend on encouraging support from the congregation and local community.

Tax-efficient giving

As Brentwood Diocese has charitable status, the campaign will be able to recover the income tax that you have paid on your gift through the Gift Aid scheme, provided you are making a gift out of taxed income. At the basic income tax rate of 20%, your gift will increase by a quarter, at no extra cost to you.

If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can also claim tax relief at the difference between basic rate and higher rate income tax on the total value of your donation. This applies to both the amount you have donated and the tax that we have reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme. Once you have reclaimed this tax relief your gift will have cost you only approximately 60% of its value to us.



WAYS TO GIVE

Planned giving

Giving by Standing Order under the Gift Aid scheme is usually the most efficient way of contributing, as it spreads your contribution. This helps to make a larger gift affordable and enables us to predict future income with a higher degree of certainty.

One-off single donation

If a pledged planned gift is not possible, or preferred, then single gift payments are also most welcome. If accompanied by a Gift Aid declaration these can be worth considerably more to the campaign than the actual cost to the donor.

A company donation

Although we cannot reclaim tax on company donations, a company can set the value of its donation, whether by Standing Order covenant or lump sum, against its corporation tax liability. This makes corporate giving a tax efficient way in which profitable local companies can support the project and their local community.

A legacy pledge

Leaving a donation to St Antony's in your will is another valuable way to continue to support our mission and ministry, and meet the needs of future generations. Please contact us to discuss this approach.

Donations of shares, land and buildings

Donations of shares, land or buildings, whether by an individual or a company, are not only exempt from capital gains tax, but allow the donor to claim income tax or corporation tax relief on the current market value of the gift. Please contact us to discuss this approach.



SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT

St Antony of Padua would like to acknowledge the support from our corporate sponsor and supporter

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St Antony of Padua

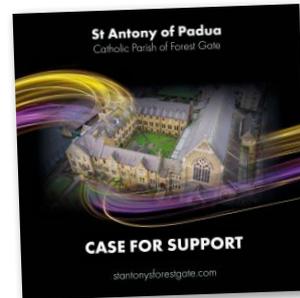
HOW YOU CAN HELP - IN THREE STEPS

St Antony of Padua is embarking on the biggest and most ambitious restoration project in its 147-year history. The total amount we need to restore the sanctuary and make good the rest of the church is £1.5 million.



1. WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY

Visit our YouTube channel:
StAntonysFG UK



2. READ THE CASE FOR SUPPORT

Pick up a copy at the church
or visit our website



Restoration Campaign

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25%
£382,742
raised of £1,500,000 target

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 St Antony of Padua Forest Gate
St Antony of Padua Restoration Campaign
Fundraising for Brentwood Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

 Brentwood Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust
We enable groups and individuals to fundraise for local good causes
Charity Registration No. 234092

3. DONATE

Visit the official Restoration Campaign page:
justgiving.com/fundraising/stantonyfg



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
stantonyforestgate.com

FOLLOW US



