



ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Priest: Fr Terence.P Nash (SPS)

Let's Fix the Lords House

18th July 2023

Ms Sandisiwe Matole
Amafa
Pietermaritzburg
3201

Dear Sandisiwe

History of St Anthony's Catholic Church

Anthony of Padua Parish began as an outstation of St Mary's in 1862. The name choice was in line with Saint Anthony of Padua.

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St Anthony's Catholic Church, a landmark in the east end of the city came into being in 1886 when churchgoers used a wood and iron structure on the present site for their worship.

Parishioners then started a fundraising campaign to upgrade and *build* the church to its present structure as was completed in 1901.

The church was briefly closed in 1976 because it was in a state of disrepair. The church *remained* closed before the parishioners, *the community and businesses didn't* want to see the building wasted. *Everyone* rallied together to get the building repaired and *ready for* re-use.

The church was officially dedicated and re-opened in May 1981 by Bishop Dominic Khumalo (OMI) and is a living *testimony* to the people who provided us with this important monument, reflective of *our* Catholic heritage in downtown Pietermaritzburg. It has been served faithfully by stalwarts, both men and women, whose dedicated labours were directed towards the spiritual, social and educational upliftment of not only the parishioners but of the community at large.

St Anthony's acknowledges primarily the sacrifice and dedication of Rev Father Terry Nash (SPS), his predecessor parish priests and the pioneering parishioners whose foresight and determination served to establish the type of foundation and tradition for which we the present generation are deeply grateful.

The church and the faith inspired community it symbolizes, was our forbearer's gift to us. Receiving that gift with genuine gratitude, presents us *with* a great challenge – our privilege and responsibility to preserve and pass it on to *our* new generations.

This year just on 160 years *later* after being established, an inspection revealed that the church rafters & roof trussers – as result of termites - is in a critically dangerous state, requiring urgent attention and

replacement. This has necessitated the parish *into* relocating to the Marian Centre, albeit temporary for safety reasons and for the necessary repairs to the structure and roof *to* be carried out as soon as possible.

The Parish Finance Committee therefore is embarking on an urgent fundraising effort and is appealing to our parish community of St Anthony's, as well as all church communities in Pietermaritzburg who call St Anthony's "Mother Parish", well-wishers and potential donors to consider making a contribution/*donation* towards this unexpected major expense. We appreciate that this unexpected repair represents a considerable amount of work and money, but we remain open to the future with the same confidence that God will be with us always, but never more so than when times are tough.

With your help (Amfa's office) and generous contributions from donors, we will be able to carry out the necessary repairs and continue to preserve the legacy left to us *as we* continue to provide a house for God's people here at St Anthony of Padua Church.

The future of the church and parish depends on the faithfulness of the people to the Lord and upon his will.

We wish to sincerely thank you in advance for your contribution and assistance.

Because of your generosity, we will be able to "Fix the Lords House." And return soon to that historical Landmark Monument – St Anthony's Church, built in harsh apartheid times and to celebrate its 160 years of Glory to God when reconciliation and forgiveness flows through our beloved South Africa.

May God Bless you all.

John Sebastian
PFC Chairman
St Anthony's Catholic