



Let's Fix the Lords House

18th July 2023

Ms Sandisive Matole

Amafa

Pietermaritzburg

3201

Dear Sandisive

History of St Anthony's Catholic Church / *signature*

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