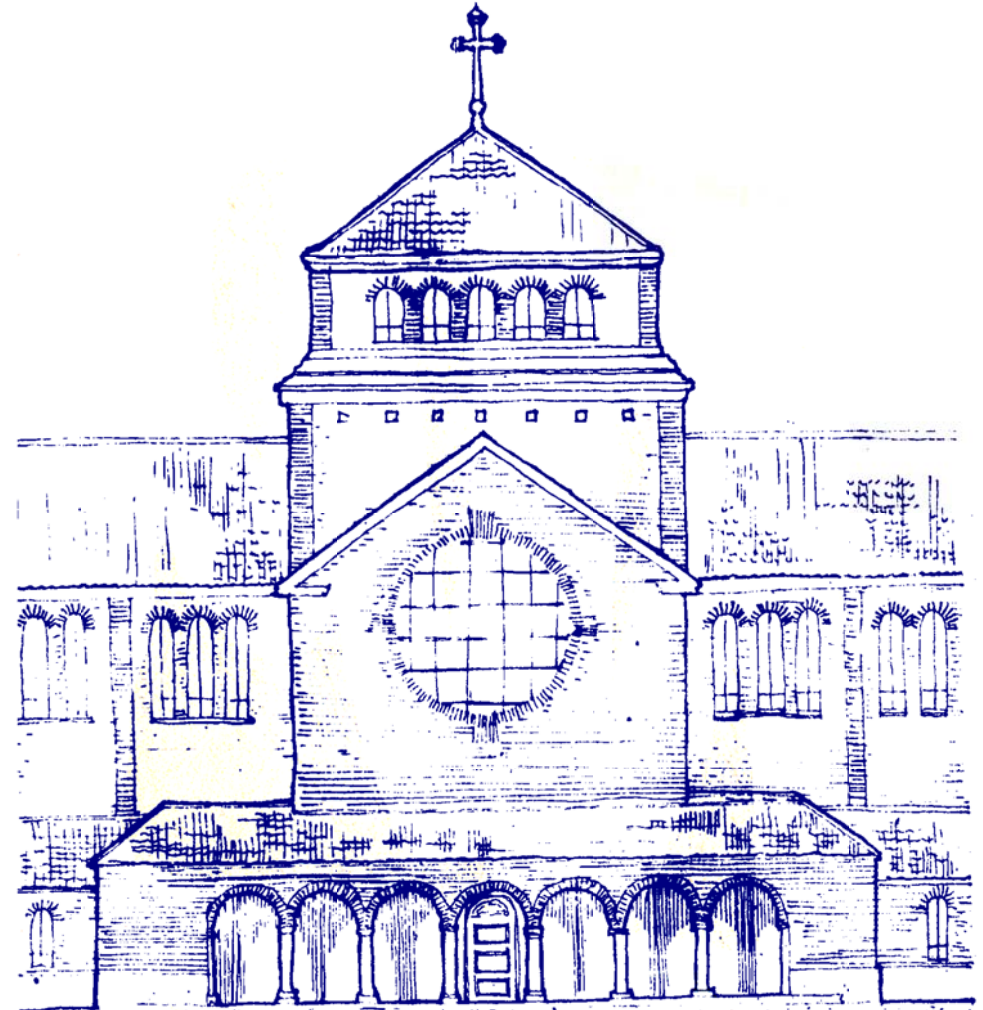


NEW CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY,
FARNHAM ROYAL, SLOUGH

*A Souvenir of the
BLESSING AND LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE*



SATURDAY, 8th

OCTOBER, 1960

by
The Lord Bishop of Northampton
(The Right Rev. T. Leo Parker M.A.)

VENI CREATOR.

Veni, Creator Spiritus,
Mentes tuorum visita,
Imple superna gratia
Quae tu creasti pectora.

Cui diceris Paracletus,
Altissimi domum Dei,
Fons vivus, ignis, caritas,
Et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere,
Digitus paternae dexteræ,
Tu rite promissum Patris,
Sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus,
Infunde amorem cordibus,
Infirma nostri corporis,
Virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,
Pacemque dones protinus,
Ductore sic te praevio,
Vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem,
Noscamus atque Filium,
Teque utriusque Spiritum
Credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,
Et Filio qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito
In saeculorum saecula. Amen.

.....
WE PRAY THEE, LORD OUR GOD, LET THY HOLY SPIRIT
DESCEND UPON THIS HOUSE THAT IS TO BE BUILT: MAY
HE SANCTIFY OUR GIFTS THERE, AND THOSE OF THY
PEOPLE, AND GRACIOUSLY CLEANSE THEIR HEARTS.
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.
.....

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE STONE

† AD DEI GLORIAM †
ET IN HONOREM
STI. ANTONII DE PADUA
HUNC LAPIDEM PRIMARIUM
DICAVIT POSUITQUE
LEO EPUS. NORTHANTONIENSIS
† DIE VIII OCT. A. D. MCMLX †
* * *
BENE FUNDATA EST DOMUS DOMINI
SUPRA FIRMAM PETRAM. †

*To the Glory of God
and in honour of
St. Anthony of Padua
this foundation stone
(was) blessed and laid (by)
LEO BISHOP OF NORTHAMPTON*

*on 8th October 1960
John XXIII being Supreme Pontiff.*

* * *
*Well founded is the house of the Lord
on a firm rock.*

The Ceremony

The Bishop first proceeds with his attendant Clergy to stand before a tall wooden cross already erected on the site of the future high altar of the new church. He blesses this spot with Holy Water.

Next he goes to the stone which he marks back and front with crosses. The prayer of blessing reminds us that Christ Our Lord is the true corner stone - 'The Rock that was Christ'.

At this point the Litany of the Saints is recited and when this is concluded the Bishop places the stone in position 'in the Faith of Jesus Christ'. It is then cemented, fixed and sprinkled with holy water.

We now sing the 'Miserere', seeking God's pardon and mercy, and then the Bishop walks round the foundations of the church, blessing them with holy water and praying as he goes, asking God to bless, sanctify and consecrate this place to be built in His name.

Finally, he returns once more to the stone to pray that God will bring the work of building to a happy conclusion. The hymn to the Holy Ghost (Veni Creator - see p. 4) is then sung, and the ceremony ends with two last prayers for the people and the Bishop's solemn blessing.

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Note: Inside a special cavity cut in the Stone. The Bishop places a small cylinder containing -

- a) a latinscroll recording the event,
- b) pages from newspapers of the day,
- c) contemporary coins and medals.

These will remain sealed within the wall as long as the church stands.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

At last the great day has dawned when we see the foundation stone of our new church blessed and laid by the Bishop. Since 1943 when St. Anthony's first began independant parish life, this is a long awaited moment. For eleven years it was a long, hard struggle to pay off the remaining debt on the school. When this task was accomplished in 1955, other matters were urgent. The school was already too small for our numbers and a new Presbytery had to be found, as 'Wyvis Lodge' which had served so well and so long was threatened with demolition by the L.C.C. It has since vanished in the dust.

Thus, two extra classrooms were built and the house 'Shepherd's Hey', with six acres of land adjoining, was bought for the parish. All this means that since 1955 £11000 has had to be spent and church still had to wait. The money went as follows - £1000 to complete the old school debt; £3000 on school extension; £7000 to acquire house and land.

However, since 1955, we have managed to collect in all £18000, so that at last this very year 1960 we were able to start building a church, with just £7000 in hand. This will not take us far!

Looking to the future of a large and growing parish, we have planned a large (and handsome) church. The first stage alone (the nave only) now building will cost £32000 exclusive of furnishing. The second stage (Sanctuary and Tower) will add £18000. And finally, the large transepts will mean almost another £30,000.

Obviously, such a project cannot be realised all at once. We shall need much earnest prayer and we face several years of hard work, sacrifice and debt. Progress made will prove all too clearly the true depth of our zeal for the House of God. We are working with God and for God. We shall leave for future generaticns a great monument of our living Faith and Love. God will not fail us - we must not and dare not fail God.