



Help us to build for  
our parish's future...

## **Saint Peter-in-Chains Roman Catholic Church**

Stroud Green, Haringey, London

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

**“I thank my God whenever I think of you; and every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the one who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes.” Philippians 3-6**

The passage of Scripture above has a very deep and special significance for me. I'm sure it has for many priests as it features in the ordination ceremony to the ministerial priesthood. It reminds me every day of my life to express gratitude in my heart for all that God has, is and will always be doing in my life.

As St Paul wrote it to the Christian community in Philippi I quote it now to the Christian community of St Peter-in-Chains, Stroud Green, as I commend to you our building works on which we have embarked. May we continue giving thanks and praise to God for all the blessings we receive and to grow as a community of faith & love in Christ Jesus. The development works will enable us to have an appropriate place and space to do it.

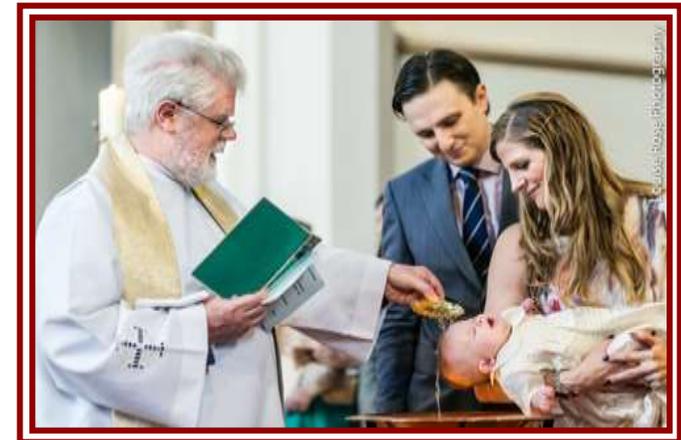
The Diocese has given us its blessing to go ahead with the work and is granting us a loan facility of £320,000. In order for us to pay back this loan, we are embarking on a capital fundraising project to raise the amount in five year pledges.

I therefore ask all parishioners to prayerfully and proportionately consider pledging to this capital appeal. Pledging financial support to this project will not be binding; if your circumstances change in the future you can cancel. But a pledge of support will allow us to plan ahead confidently for the future.

I ask you to listen, to pray, to consider, and to make a decision that is right for you, your family and for our parish.

May God bless you.

Fr. Sean  
Parish Priest



# Our History

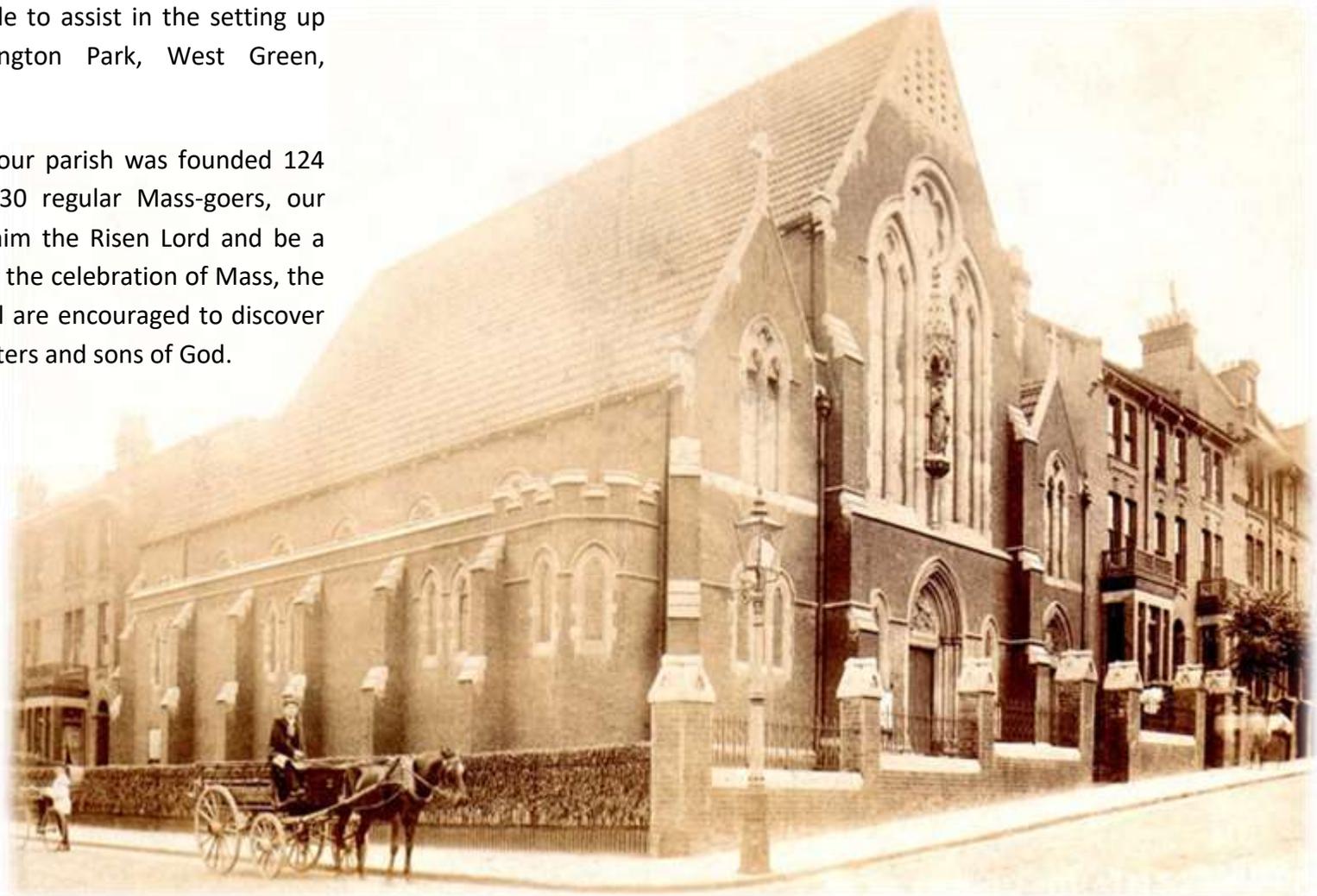
In July 1892, the Catholics of Stroud Green, Crouch Hill and Finsbury Park – about 200 – were “in need of a church”. At that time Stroud Green was largely a rural suburb, with cornfields on the slopes of the hills. A group of lay people formed the Stroud Green Catholic Association and petitioned the Archbishop of Westminster to give them their own parish, church and priest. Meanwhile, a community of male religious, the Canons Regular of the Lateran, were anxious to establish a foundation in London. The superior at the time petitioned the Archbishop, who gave permission in 1894 for the order to undertake pastoral responsibilities in this part of the Diocese.

Once St. Peter-in-Chains was firmly established, this parish community was able to assist in the setting up of other parishes at Tollington Park, West Green, Harringay and Eltham.

Much has changed since our parish was founded 124 years ago. Today, with 530 regular Mass-goers, our parish continues to proclaim the Risen Lord and be a place where, nourished by the celebration of Mass, the Sacraments and prayer, all are encouraged to discover their true dignity as daughters and sons of God.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our parish was founded in 1894 by the Canons Regular of the Lateran.



## Our Parish Today



Today, our parish reflects the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural nature of the area, with 89 nationalities represented at the last count. In recent years we have been blessed with the numbers of children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion – in 2018 we had 61 children in preparation, the largest number in many years! However, as we continue to grow in our mission, it has become apparent our current buildings do not enhance our ability to serve this Catholic community and our vision.

Our vision, as a Catholic community, is to deepen our loving relationship with God, be comforted and supported in the struggles of life, live our faith in all we do, and continue the mission of the Church by handing on the precious gift of faith to future generations. We aim to be open and welcoming to all, celebrating the liturgy of the Church with dignity in a church which is a place of prayer and peace.

While the life of a parish is not really about its buildings, they do play a major role in enhancing or limiting what can be achieved. The current state of our buildings make it more difficult for us to achieve our vision for the future. We want to make improvements that will allow us to continue to grow and be a strong community of faith in years to come.

Over the last six years we have consulted with architects, the parish, the local council and the Diocese. We now have planning permission and Diocesan approval for our plans. Work, scheduled to last 26, weeks began in August 2018.



# Our Future

## NEW PORCH

With a step-free entrance and wider doors, the modern design will make the Church more accessible to the elderly, the disabled, and parents with young children in buggies. Being enclosed will make it warmer as well as helping keep heat in the church. An accessible toilet will be installed in the inner porch.

We are working with an artist on a design to be etched into the front window of the porch that will depict six recent Saints whose lives are testament to their work for justice and peace. They are Oscar Romero, Dorothy Day, Cardinal Van Thuan, Mother Teresa, Maximillian Kolbe and Josephine Bakhita.

The porch has served us well for over 50 years but needed to be replaced before it became dangerous. We want the replacement to enhance our ability to be a welcoming community, to be a place for us to gather together before and after Mass to chat, to be community and to shelter before heading home.





## PARISH ROOMS

We are currently stretched to capacity to accommodate the number of young people preparing for the sacraments, alongside the other groups that regularly use the facilities. As a result, new pastoral initiatives in our parish have to be kept on hold because there is often nowhere to host them.

We will install a lift to the basement area along with new doors to improve access for the less able and parents with children in buggies. We will refurbish and redecorate the meeting rooms, toilets and kitchen facilities, renew the heating and rearrange things to squeeze in a bit more space and make it a more attractive place to meet.

## FUTURE PLANS

We want to create a safe environment that is fully accessible for children, vulnerable adults, and those with disabilities.

If we are successful with our fundraising, we would also like to extend the parish rooms, to increase our meeting space by opening up and extending the basement, provide accessible toilet facilities and give our groups modern technologies that many would expect to be available. This will provide the right setting to allow the faith life of our parishioners to be deepened.

## DID YOU KNOW?

All these groups use our parish rooms:

- Our First Holy Communion and Confirmation groups
- Life Ascending
- Legion of Mary
- Our Soup Run, which provides tea, coffee and sandwiches for the homeless
- Holy hour during the winter
- Our cash counters
- Our Confirmation Group serving teas & coffees after Sunday morning Masses to raise funds for their chosen charity
- Parish committees



## DECORATING OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

Our church has not been redecorated since 2003 and is in need of refurbishment.

- We will redecorate and paint the church.
- We have a lovely stone baptismal font tucked away, now unused. We would like to move it in front of the sanctuary where it will be used to celebrate the first Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic Church.
- To heighten the dignity of our liturgical celebrations, we want to install a new lectern and renew the Sanctuary flooring.
- As we recall the end of the First World War, we have lit our war memorial window depicting the warrior saints, a memorial to all those who lost their lives defending freedom – and have commissioned a new Peace window for the glass frontage of the porch.
- If funds allow we will refurbish the church floor, the pews and kneelers and renew the sound system.



## RAISING THE FUNDS

**Total cost of project: £670,000** - Thanks to the generosity of parishioners over recent years, the parish has built up a financial reserve of £350,000, which we will draw on for this capital project. To help us fund the total cost of this project, the Diocese of Westminster has loaned us £320,000, to be paid back over a ten year period.

### **We need your support to raise £250,000 in 5 year pledges**

To help us plan ahead with confidence, we have established a fundraising target of £250,000, to be raised in 5 year parishioner pledges. We believe that, with the addition of Gift Aid, it is possible to pay back the loan in the first five years, but we need your support. **The sooner we repay the loan, the stronger and more financially secure our parish will be, freeing up our general income for parish use.** If we are very successful, and go over this target, all monies will be ring-fenced for our upcoming second phase to the building project: to extend the basement rooms, providing more space for our parish groups, and improving our meeting facilities. This is estimated to cost £500,000.

We hope all parishioners will prayerfully and proportionately *consider* pledging to this appeal, above and beyond their normal, regular offertory donations. We must ensure our offertory, for the general running of the parish, continues and is not reduced or diverted. Pledging financial support to this project will not be binding; if your circumstances change in the future you can cancel. But a pledge of support will allow us to plan ahead confidently for the future.

Without a parish hall where we can hold fundraising activities, we hope that parishioners will use their imaginations to find ways to raise money. We will also be applying for funding from charitable trusts, with the help of the Diocese, for grants. However, we believe that we will have to raise the bulk of the funds ourselves.

I ask you to listen over the coming months, to pray, to consider, and to make a decision that is right for you, your family and for our parish. Please dig deep and be as generous as you can – and if you are in contact with parishioners who have moved away why not ask them to support us!

Finally, I wish to extend a huge thanks to all those who have been very generous over the last few years to this project, and I am thankful for all future generosity and support you will show.

