

This building is a sign of the grace that comes from God and reaches out to gather all people into His love. It is a building we can be proud of because it is a home to the living stones of God's Holy Church: the People of God. As we thank God for these last 40 years, we pray also that this church will continue to tell the story of our salvation in Jesus Christ with grace and truth to the people of our own generation and the next.

In the Gospel, we heard the Father say from the cloud which overshadowed the mountain, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" May we, and the next generation of Catholics who worship in this sacred place, be always ready to listen to the voice of Our Lord Jesus Christ and follow His way.

So, again, our cry of prayer and praise today is: "Master, [Lord Jesus] it is good that we are here." In giving thanks for the past 40 years of this church, we ask God's blessing on all that the future holds. And, finally, let us implore the intercession of Mary the Mother of God, whose life tells us why church buildings exist: they exist so that room may be made within us for the Word of God; so that within us and through us the Word may also be made flesh today.

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our holy patron St Francis of Assisi, St Anthony, and St Maximillian Kolbe, may the Lord continue to shower His graces upon this church and all who worship here now, and in the years to come. Amen.

✠ Marcus
Bishop of Leeds