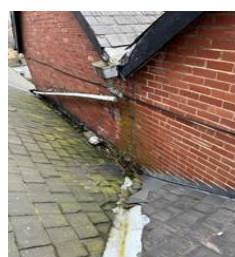
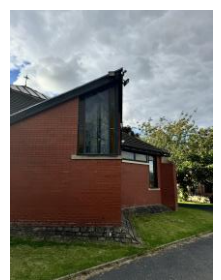


Parish Lenten Building Fund Appeal

Two glorious parish churches, two impressive presbyteries, one treasured hall; so comprises the fine and cherished parochial buildings of the Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Beeston, Leeds. Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church are the focal places of worship for the Catholic community of Beeston and these dear places of worship and their respective presbyteries, together with the Parish Hall at Saint Anthony's need regular care, maintenance and attention, all of which costs a great deal of money.

In the spirit of 'charity begins at home' and 'shy bairns get nowt' the Parish Priest and the Members of the Parish Finance and Fabric Committee (all being Parishioners) are launching a Lenten Appeal to raise much needed funds for the Parish Building Fund. Let's endeavour to raise £25,000 for our beautiful parish buildings. Imagine how many donations we'd have if we pooled the monies from the beers we've not ordered, the cakes we've not eaten, the sweets we've not bought, the films we've not streamed. Please read on to see how your Lenten discipline could be a huge benefit for our future. Thank you.



Indicative Weekly Giving

6.00pm Vigil Mass on 23.02.25 £122.50 (cash & GAD envelopes)

10.00am Sunday Mass on 23.02.25 £288.40 (cash & GAD envelopes)

12 noon Sunday Mass on 23.02.25 £269.66 (cash & GAD envelopes)

Dona donations on 23.02.25 £193.00 (portal & online)

Standing Orders on 23.02.25 £170.00 (average)

What a Worry “Being a member of the committee definitely brings worry to the forefront of my mind, worry about the longevity of the Church and its presence in our community for generations to come. There simply isn’t enough money being given to be able to ensure the Parish is sustainable and as a parent that worry grows even more. We meet, we plan and we discuss options as a group but we cannot action anything alone, we need YOU and YOUR support in this.

Having a parish, coming to church and praying together is a privilege which may not be here for long if we don’t also support its upkeep. Our churches are like our homes, we need to look after them. Churches are buildings which need maintenance, utilities to pay, commitments to keep and these have increased just as much as our own over the years. Giving to the Church fulfils the biblical command and expectation of collectively loving and supporting the Church that feeds us spiritually. Generosity maintains the cycle of God’s blessing and will also bring the sustenance we need for generation after generation.

It's vital we review our own personal contributions - the physical collections at the end of Mass or the commitment we make when we set up a Direct Debit / Standing Order, the payments made by card or sponsoring one of our repair projects. There are many ways to support our parish financially and I would encourage you to reach out to Fr Whitwell, who will provide the transparency for you to understand what is needed and why we have decided to bring this request to your kind attention. As we approach Lent, this is the ideal time to focus on our giving – which plays a vital role in our Lenten journey and challenges us to live out our faith with intentionality.

We hear people mention giving up something meaningful or making other sacrifices whilst they embark on their Lenten journey; why don’t we use the money spent on these sacrifices to give back to the Church making the journey even more expressive. For example: for someone who regularly buys a coffee from Starbucks for £4.50, if they are not going to be drinking coffee through Lent, then that £4.50 would add up very quickly to £100 or more. How wonderful to also encourage our children to embark on this journey with us, chocolate can be just as expensive these days or do it as a family collectively. Giving to Church doesn’t have to be boring – we can make it fun and incorporate it into our daily living.

2025 is a Jubilee Year, and we hear about being Pilgrims of Hope. Even though hope appears to be in short supply, for us it’s our virtue and conviction. I write this appeal with hope, and I sincerely hope this brings the positive change we need to see in our Parish concerning financial giving. Please do not underestimate the power of YOUR contribution – YOUR parish needs you, more than ever! Thank you reading this.”

Giving during Lent “Lent is a time of reflection, sacrifice, and giving. It is a season when we are called to renew our faith and express our devotion through acts of charity. As we embark on this sacred journey, we must also recognise the needs of our own community, particularly our beloved churches in Beeston. S Anthony’s and S Francis’s have been cornerstones of our community, places where generations have gathered for worship, solace, and fellowship. However, in recent years, the local Catholic Parish has faced increasing financial pressures, making it essential for us, as a community, to step forward in support. As Scripture reminds us, *“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”* (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Our churches are more than just buildings; they are spiritual homes for many. They stand as symbols of faith and unity, providing sacred spaces for prayer, worship, and communal activities. However, maintaining such historic structures comes with significant costs. The duty of preserving the church buildings does not fall solely on the clergy or a select few - it is the responsibility of the entire parish community. If we want to continue gathering in safe, welcoming, and well-maintained churches, we must all play our part in ensuring their upkeep. Over the past five years, the Parish of Saint Maximilian Kolbe has faced extensive expenditures to maintain the integrity of the buildings. Essential repairs have been undertaken, including roofing replacements, electrical upgrades, plumbing improvements, security lighting and vital structural work. These repairs and improvements are necessary to ensure the safety and longevity of the local church community. Without these investments, the very fabric of our cherished places of worship would be at risk.

In order for you to understand the amount of work that the parish has undertaken, we are including some of the running costs and repair costs which have come into the parish recently. These include the cost of roofing repairs, upgraded electrical systems, ongoing plumbing maintenance, and crucial structural reinforcements. Additionally, the rising cost of gas and electricity—charged at business rates—adds further financial strain on the local Catholic Church's budget. With energy costs continuing to rise, it is crucial for us to find ways to support the parish in covering these essential expenses, especially as there is no financial support from the wider Diocese.

Lent is a season of sacrifice and giving. It is a time to reflect on our blessings and extend generosity to those in need. As we prepare for Easter, let us remember that giving to our parish is an act of faith and devotion. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference. Whether it is a one-time donation, a regular pledge, or volunteering time to assist with church activities, every effort counts towards sustaining both of our churches for future generations. There are several ways to contribute to the parish during Lent:

- Consider making regular donations during Mass.
- Use our online Dona portal machine for a one-time generous gift (details are on the final page.)
- Remember to leave a gift in your will to ensure the parish continues to thrive in the future.

As we journey through Lent, let us embrace the true spirit of giving. Saint Anthony's and S Francis's have been there for us for many years - now, it is our turn to be there for our churches. Together, we can ensure that they remain places of worship, community, and faith for generations to come."

Will you offer your support? "We would like to ask you to seriously consider how you currently support your Parish and your Parish Priest financially and what you can do to help in the future. Our Parish consists of two thriving churches with an ever-growing congregation. S Anthony's is nearly 125 years old and S Francis's which will soon celebrate its 40th anniversary. We have an average weekly attendance of 400. I think you will agree, that when you enter each church, you can marvel at the beauty within and feel the presence of God. They have been the mainstay for many families both in times of happiness and sadness, as we celebrate Holy Mass, as we welcome people into the Church through Baptisms or as we say goodbye to our loved ones at their Funerals. The maintenance of the churches and both Presbyteries comes at a cost, and it is incumbent on us, the Parishioners, to play our part in preserving these wonderful places of worship for future generations.

The primary source of our income is through the Sunday Offertory and associated donations. If you do not give already, we ask that you start making your Sunday Offertory. It is through regular giving that we can cover our day-to-day expenses, meet the cost of any unexpected repairs and plan for the future. Perhaps you could think about donating to our Building Fund. If you don't carry cash, don't worry, as we will accept cheques, Standing Orders, bank transfers and card payments via our Dona machine. All the details are on the bulletin, please take one home to read. At no extra cost to yourselves we can also claim Gift Aid. So, for every £1.00 you give we can claim an extra 25p. If you are a taxpayer, please think about doing this.

Examples of some of our recent expenses include: internal decoration of S Francis's £8952.00, new Sanctuary carpet at S Francis's £3800.00, mandatory electrical testing at S Francis's £2136.00, new windows in S Anthony's Presbytery £7900.00, roofing repairs to S Anthony's Presbytery £4320.00, new gutter and repairs to downpipes at S Anthony's Church £2016.00, mandatory electrical testing at S Anthony's (three buildings) £5844.00. The day-to-day costs that the Parish must meet are many and include liturgical supplies (candles, vestments, altar linens, altar breads, palm crosses etc), utility bills, administration, employment and routine maintenance. Our Parish Priest also needs our continued financial support through Mass offerings, the collections at Easter and Christmas and to reverse the trend for direct cremations by having Funerals in our churches. Father spoke to us recently about this and how it has impacted on the Parish's income and his. The Committee realise that we are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, and things are difficult for people, but we thank you for taking the time to read this, for your generosity in the past and we welcome any support you can give."

Your Parish “We had a Finance & Fabric Committee meeting recently and we were concerned about how much work has been done and what still needs doing, where the money is coming from, and how we could increase this. A lot of work has been carried out in both churches recently. S Francis’s has been partly painted internally, the roof repaired, the organ has been replaced, and a new Sanctuary carpet is to be fitted; all these works cost money. S Anthony’s has had a new gutter installed and necessary roof repairs have been undertaken to hopefully remove the dampness in the church and presbytery.

A great deal of money has been spent, and we could do with some help with people contributing to the Building Fund. There are a few generous people in the congregations at both churches, but we cannot rely on a few. Both Parish Churches belong to every parishioner, and it is our duty and joy to help maintain our buildings now and for future generations. A rule of thumb I offer is please give an hour to God every week by keeping the Sabbath holy by attending Mass and contribute one hour of our wages each week, if possible. Some people will be able to contribute more than this and some people may not be able to contribute at all and that is fine. Thank you.”

Please kindly make your donation (preferably GIFT AIDED) via **BACS** transfer:

Sort code: 40-27-15, account number: 210 178 96,

account name (exactly as the bank refer to the Parish):

Diocese of Leeds Saint Maximilian Kolbe – and specify ‘BUILDING FUND’ - thank you very much!

To make a **card donation** please click the link and donate to ‘BUILDING FUND’:

<https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=393>



or scan this QR code with your mobile ‘phone:

Any cheques for the parish should be kindly made payable to ‘**Diocese of Leeds Saint Maximilian Kolbe**’ and posted to: ‘BUILDING FUND’, 19 Old Lane, Leeds. LS11 7AA. Thank you very much!

*Thank you for your kindness and may God Bless you,
from the Members of the Parish Finance & Fabric Committee.*

