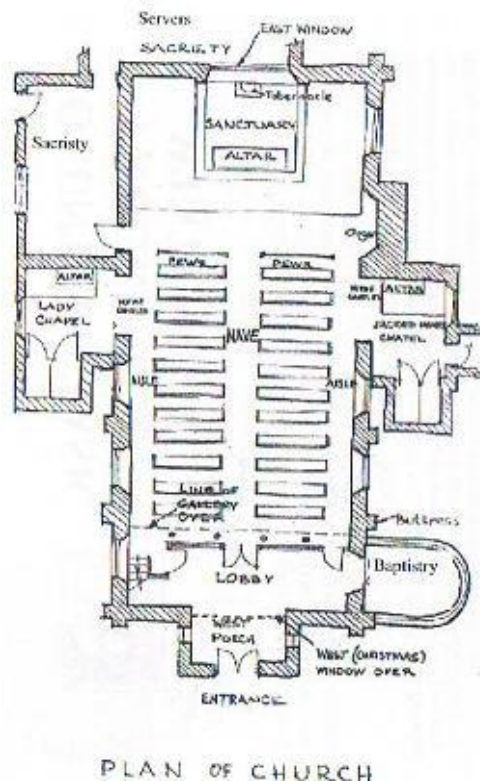


## The Holy Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Peter, Leatherhead



The main structure of the present church in Garlands Road was completed by June 1923 and the first mass held on 24<sup>th</sup> June by Father Pitts. Prior to the church being built Catholics had to travel Epsom, Dorking or Effingham for Mass.

The exterior of the church is mainly Bargate stone from Godalming and the interior is Bath stone. The most striking feature of the church is the windows and the best of these being the East window. This is in three sections; the Annunciation ;the Incarnation ; and the Pieta showing Christ being laid in the arms of his mother. The window is the work of Paul Woodroffe and was commissioned by Sir Edward Hulton as a memorial to his parents and sister. Paul Woodroffe also designed the west(Christmas) window.

The fourteen stations of the cross, around the walls, are by Eric Gill who is renowned for his large stations of the cross in Westminster Cathedral. The millennium window at the back of the church comes from the studio of Caroline and Tony Benyon and is in two parts. The left hand one depicting the Blessed Trinity with the right hand one represents the holy Catholic Church.

As well as the windows there are a number of Icons in the church by Dr. Stephane Rene in the Neo-Coptic style. The font of Saxon Stone is carved with scenes of the life of

John the Baptist by John Skelton, nephew of Eric Gill. The Lectern is of Portland stone to the design of Christian Marshall.

In 1926 the Presbytery was built adjoin the church and a link formed between the two. The entrance to the presbytery being in this link. It forms an attractive addition and is completely in keeping with the church.

The Organ is of late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was adapted for the church in the 1920's by Bishop & Starr Organ Builders. The exposed roof shows a very fine example of a King Post truss and fully arched under the bracing. A balcony above the entrance lobby gives a fine view of the interior as well as affording extra space for the many members who attend the daily services.

Our thanks go to Father Michael who took the time to show us around the church and also for the information gathered from the church guide book.

D J Wall

27.06.2014