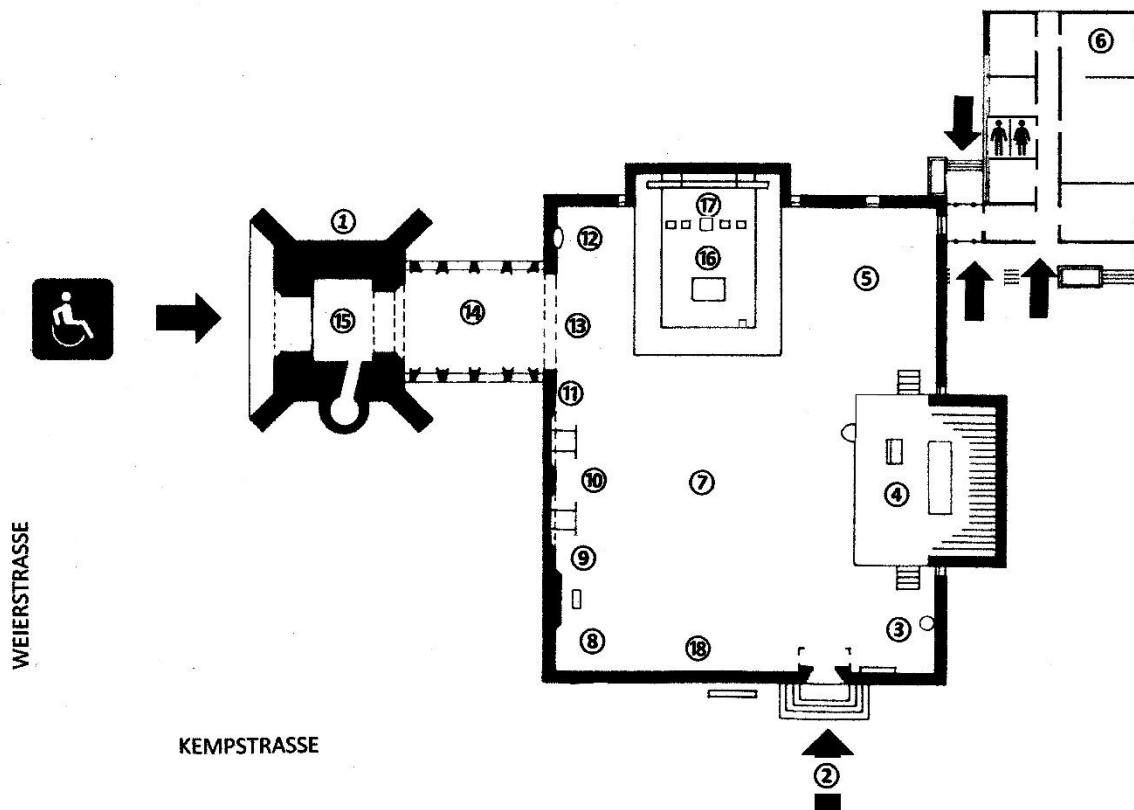


Walking through St Anno's Church, Siegburg



Natural stone vs. exposed concrete

While natural stone was used for the original building of 1909, exposed concrete is the most important feature of the new church building of 1972.

The original steeple ① and bell tower

In the 1960s the church nave was found to be in a state of disrepair and, as a consequence, it was torn down in 1970. The now free-standing bell tower and an accompanying stair tower, conspicuous at a great distance, were preserved and then connected to the new nave by the light-flooded Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. The architect changed the alignment of the nave: while the altar of the old church stood in the north, the architect now placed it in the west, facing the new main entrance Kempstraße in the east.



The entrances and the barrier-free access to the church

The original main entrance through the church tower is the only barrier-free access to the church. Above the door, to the right and to the left, two monkeys can be seen having fun – a good sense of humour has always been characteristic of this church. The doors and frames of the original building, made of natural stone, have been integrated into the new entrances.

On entering St Anno's through today's main entrance ② visitors are welcomed by an enormous light-flooded room over warm terracotta floor tiles. In contrast to the strict objectivity of the concrete architecture and the humble character of the altar, the magnificent neo-Gothic altar screen at the west wall from the original church immediately captivates the visitors' eyes.

The windows

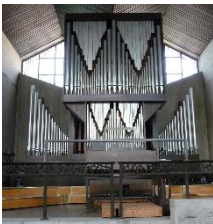
Five vertical rows of windows behind altar and organ cut through the massive concrete walls. Blue panes are exclusively used behind the altar. From below the roof light floods through thirty-five lozenge-shaped windows and two half-lozenges, all of them designed by Paul Weigmann. Piled up in several tiers the windows lighten the interior of the whole church. And although the window panes seem to be predominantly clear, nearly white, they refract the sunlight into numerous colours on the concrete walls. At night the lighted church shines like a lantern.

The statue of the Virgin Mary / the Nativity Scene



Turning right at the main entrance to a first wide recess ③ that extends down to the gallery you will find a statue of the Virgin Mary. In the Advent and Christmas seasons, however, this is where the manger is erected. The nativity scene is periodically altered by members of the congregation. The backdrop of the scene, designed by the late Hans Hümmler from our congregation, shows a number of illustrations, especially of the local Christian churches. The textile encasement of the pedestal was decorated by his late wife Sigrid with Biblical and Christmas appliqué.

The gallery



The gallery for organ and choir ④ is dominated by a seemingly new organ, which is only partly correct. In 1938 organ builder Johannes Klais from Bonn designed this organ for the original church. In 1976 it was renovated and installed in the new church by the same organ builders. It possesses 32 registers and 2941 organ-pipes. The gallery is enclosed by the stone relief "Jesus's entry into Jerusalem" from the altar of the original church, as well as by artistically remarkable bronze works created by artist Manfred Saul. In new arrangement you can see the pulpit and altar rails of the 1958 renovation of the church with strong figurative motifs. Today this pulpit is chiefly



used by cantors or conductors on solemn occasions.



The baptismal font in the right hand nave



In the middle of the right hand nave you can see the baptismal font ⑤ from the original church building and except for Eastertide you will also find the Easter candle there.



The central nave

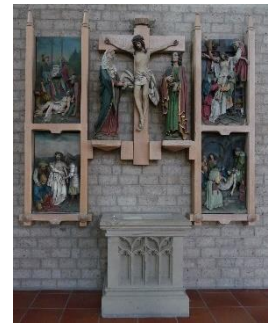


On walking back to the main entrance you will cross the nave with 30 rows of benches ⑦, and you can see additional benches in the side naves, recesses and the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. The church seats about 400 people and offers plenty of additional space for standing. St Anno's offers the largest seating capacity of all the churches of Siegburg.

The Stations of the Cross ⑧



To the left of the main entrance you can see the Stations of the Cross made by the sculptors Heinrich Laumen and Peter Tillmanns as well as the painter Franz M. Jansen who also created the altar screen. There is a shell splinter from World War II in Christ's cross of the third station. The fourth station was lost and replaced by Hein Gernot's sandstone relief that deliberately clashes with the style of the old station. The artist regrouped stations 1 to 9 under the heading "along the way" and stations 10 to 14 as "on the Mount". Below the last-mentioned group there is the memorial book and the book of intercessions. In this way the historical elements have gained quite a new quality.



The foundation stone



Not far from the Stations of the Cross there is the original foundation stone from 1909 ⑨. In the same place, outside the church, you will find the foundation stone from 1972 that makes new use of a rose window from the old church.



The confessionals



Next, in front of a sand coloured concrete wall, you can see two confessionals ⑩ that are not as old as they look. They were partly destroyed in a fire attack and then exquisitely restored by the cabinetmakers Esser. In addition a barrier-free room next to the sacristy can be used for confessional conversations. ⑥

The Nepomuk statue



The original statue of Saint Nepomuk ⑪ from the chapel on the old cemetery was placed on the wall to the right of the confessionals – a good place for this saint who paid with his life for keeping the confessional secret.

The Anno-reliquary and the keystone ⑫



Beyond the Sacrament house, in the left wall of the nave, there is a niche protected by a bronze grate that contains the silver Anno-reliquary made by Hanns Reindorf. And right above it you can see the keystone of the old church showing God the Father blessing the congregation.



The Sacrament house and Tabernacle ⑬



Between the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament and the altar area you can see a Sacrament house (“God’s tent”) made of bronze created by Hein Gernot. There is a star on top, under it the sanctuary lamp, at the corners four columns, four angels and four candle holders. There are red velvet curtains along the sides. Just like the silver tabernacle inside, the sacrament house may be opened and closed in the direction of the altar or of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. Originally the tabernacle was placed on a simple stone column and was only half as big as the present version. In the 1980s this tabernacle-stele was enlarged by the bronze tent with its own stone pedestal.

Because of this innovation the nearly unimpeded line of sight from the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar is now partly obstructed.

The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament (left side nave)

The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament ⑭ connects the tower of the original church building with the new nave. Incorporated into the walls of the chapel are four tracery windows from the old church with modern glazing by Paul Weigmann who also created the windows in the nave. The glazing in the Chapel, however, is radically different. The warm colours enhance the meditative mood of the Chapel.

Twice two angels



The two kneeling angels carrying candles above the passage to the Chapel in the church tower originate from the old church. In the adjoining passage there are two brownstone pedestals with two angels playing music.



The chapels in the church tower ⑮



On the ground floor of the church tower, the barrier-free access to St Anno's, there is a chapel that is used for different purposes. It is both is the permanent place of the statues of the Fatima Madonna and Saint Anthony and the venue for the congregation after family service for informal meetings. So this is an important location for a vital congregation.



From there we also had access to a chapel on the first floor, to the belfry and to the balustrade. The first floor chapel, exactly above the chapel on the ground floor, was formerly used for the divine services of groups. A window the size of a church door, probably also

created by Paul Weigmann, dominates the beautifully vaulted room. There is an altar, seating, an old electronic organ and, above the altar, a beautiful old rose window in colours not found anywhere else in St Anno's church. For fire safety reasons this room can no longer be used.

During the Christmas season a bright star greets the town from the balustrade. Many a Christmas night a brass band has sent its Christmas greetings from the tower over Siegburg.

The chancel ⑯

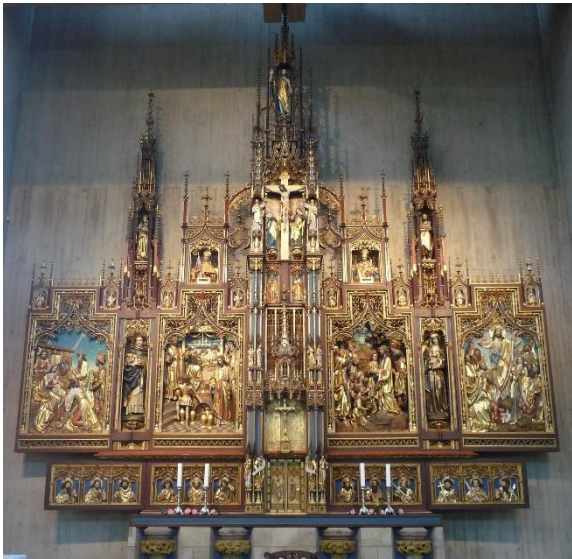


Let us finally turn to the altar, the spiritual centre of the church. The plain altar mensa made by Manfred Saul in 1958 was already used in the original church, the lectern was created by Hein Gernot. It was raised one step in comparison with its original position to make clear: the “table of bread” and the “table of words” are on the same level. During the divine service the altar is surrounded by the



congregation on three sides. The service is not celebrated on a distant and elevated level, separated by a choir screen. “God wants to be with us” is the message of this humane house of prayer with its hardly noticeable difference in elevation.

The altar screen ⑰



The plain seats of the liturgists are surmounted by the most outstanding piece of equipment of our church – the twice four-winged altar screen from the old church which was created by the sculptors Heinrich Laumen and Peter Tillmanns and the painter Franz M. Jansen.

In its central axis there is the fully functional tabernacle, above it usually a golden crucifix, during the Marian months an icon of the Mother of God or, on rare occasions, the silver Anno reliquary.

On the next level there are two more statues of saints, on a further level another crucifixion group and, at the top, the statue of the Risen Christ.

Throughout most of the ecclesiastical year the altar wings are open and framed by the paintings “The Adoration of the Magi”, “The Wedding at Cana”, “The Feeding of the 5,000” and “The Ascension of Jesus” as well as by the

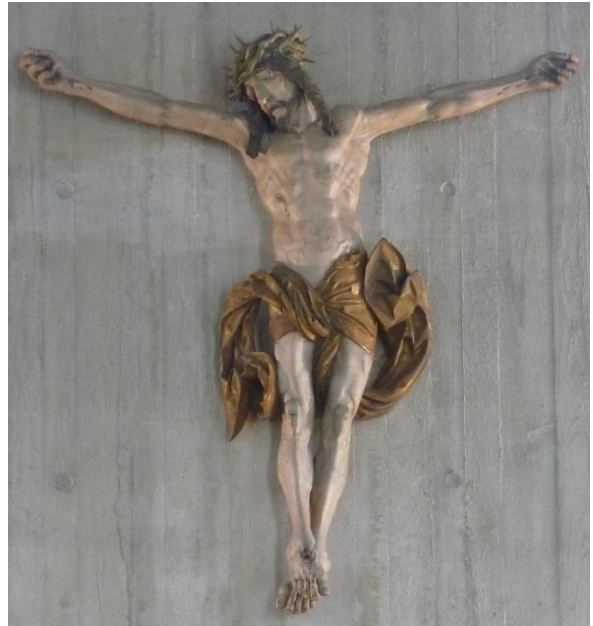
statues of Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Clare. Below them you can see the Twelve Apostles.

When the altar wings are closed during the Advent and Lenten Seasons, the reverse sides of the paintings show “The Binding of Isaac” and “Jesus carrying the Cross”, the lower lids show some Prophets from the Old Testament.

Moreover you can see some angels, Saint Anno and Saint Servatius, the patron saints of the parish, and the name patrons of the sponsors, Scholastica and John (Fusshöller).

The exit

On walking towards the windscreen of the exit Kempstraße, you can see above the exit the corpus of a crucifix ⑱ on the concrete wall. Jesus has his arms wide open to bless the service of the congregation as well as our everyday lives.



Updated version February 2023, Walter Boscheinen
Translated in February 2023, Heinz Peter Lob