



ST MARY'S
CATHEDRAL

SMCNEWS
St Mary's Cathedral Updates and News

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Handing over a piece of history

Director of Development and Fundraising, Michael Mendieta, presents generous supporter Paul Pinel with an original roof tile, placed circa 1871 on the roof of St Mary's Cathedral, in gratitude for his contributions to the St Mary's National Trust.

My full name is Paul Michael Pinel.

My parents lived through the depression in a room in Newtown. Dad was out of work, mum was out of work, and in 1935 I was born. The only food we had was from the Good Samaritan Nuns from around the corner with their big buckets of soup.



After some years, realising I was suffering from malnutrition, those same nuns took me into their convent. There were 50 boys at Richmond Convent, the school for poor boys, and 50 girls at Windsor Convent, the school for poor girls.

Archbishop Polding founded the Good Samaritan Nuns.

In 1945 on the Feast Day of St Michael at the Parish of St Michael, Dad rented this house. It was an old workman's cottage, with all brown walls. I slept on the floor and Mum and Dad had a mattress. Everyone was poor in those days. Most of our surroundings were paddocks, with cows and everything – it was a different time, and different era. Dad grew potatoes and vegetables everywhere. People down the street had a cow, so we'd go down the street and get a billy of milk and we'd take our vegetables to pay for it.

When I was about 8, mum and dad took me into the city one day, and we went into St Mary's Cathedral, and I was absolutely mind boggled. The altar was lit up, and

there was a fellow playing the organ. Ah, I used to think I was in heaven, and that was the start of a love affair with the Cathedral. Anytime I went to the city, I would always need to go in and light a candle, and I liked going behind the main altar, to just sit there and think, and just let God look at me, and I look at Him.

When any sadness came in the house, like when Nana died, Dad would say, "go into town and give 'em few bob and say prayers". Dad was not a Catholic. Mum was.

Dad, from his French background, opened a butcher shop in Redfern and started to sell horse meat. Horse meat was not generally accepted by the public. Dad sold it for dog's meat, and first weeks taking was thruppence. Our second week's taking, was 600 pounds. Mum and dad worked their butts off and I was down there too, wrapping the meat in newspaper. We all worked very hard, and were able to pay this house off which was 3,000 pounds.

A few years later, Mum and Dad's health gave out, so we moved to a little country town called Manildra. I went to a little bush school there, Black Joey Nuns. Three nuns – one taught music, that's when I started learning the piano. Music is certainly one of the things that has sustained me in my faith.

Then I had an aunt who passed away. She lived around the corner on one of my properties. On the Tuesday she was to be buried, our parish priest came here and complained that he already had a funeral for the same day and I said, "Father, I don't know your itinerary, can we bury her there or not?", and he just didn't answer me. Now I started to get upset and worked up, before he finally said yes to the funeral. When I asked to play the organ during the Mass, he again reluctantly agreed. This

was becoming both saddening and frustrating. During the funeral mass, Father had made a less than flattering remark about my aunt. I was completely taken aback – I knew she would prepare a lovely roast for Father every Monday. It was not long after this episode when I decided to stop attending mass and going to Church.

About a month and a half later, we had a lovely priest called Father Bush who came over and said, "I believe you had a bit of a fight with our Father John," he said.

"Let's resolve that, you come on back to Mass".

"Father, if I can't do it for God, I won't do it for you! I'm too angry!"

I didn't go to Mass for two years, and then one day the door bell goes, and who should be there, Fr John.

"I think I may have upset you" said Fr John.

"Big time John, you'll never know".

"For that I beg your forgiveness", I am so terribly sorry".

"Well, I hope you accept my apology for being such a big headed person. I was just so angry", I told him.

"Well let's try and see if we can give each other a hug and kiss of peace". Well, after that, I went back to mass again.

Fr John is retired now, he's 80, and he comes and brings me communion every Sunday morning. I'm very grateful and I'm very blessed.

Would you like to share your story?

If you would like to share your passion for the Cathedral, or personal story, for future newsletters, please contact Jessica on **02 9307 8442** or send an email to appeals@stmaryscathedral.org.au

An important upgrade to the roof tiles sheltering St Mary's Cathedral

150 years on, St Mary's Cathedral's roof is halfway through its roof upgrade project.

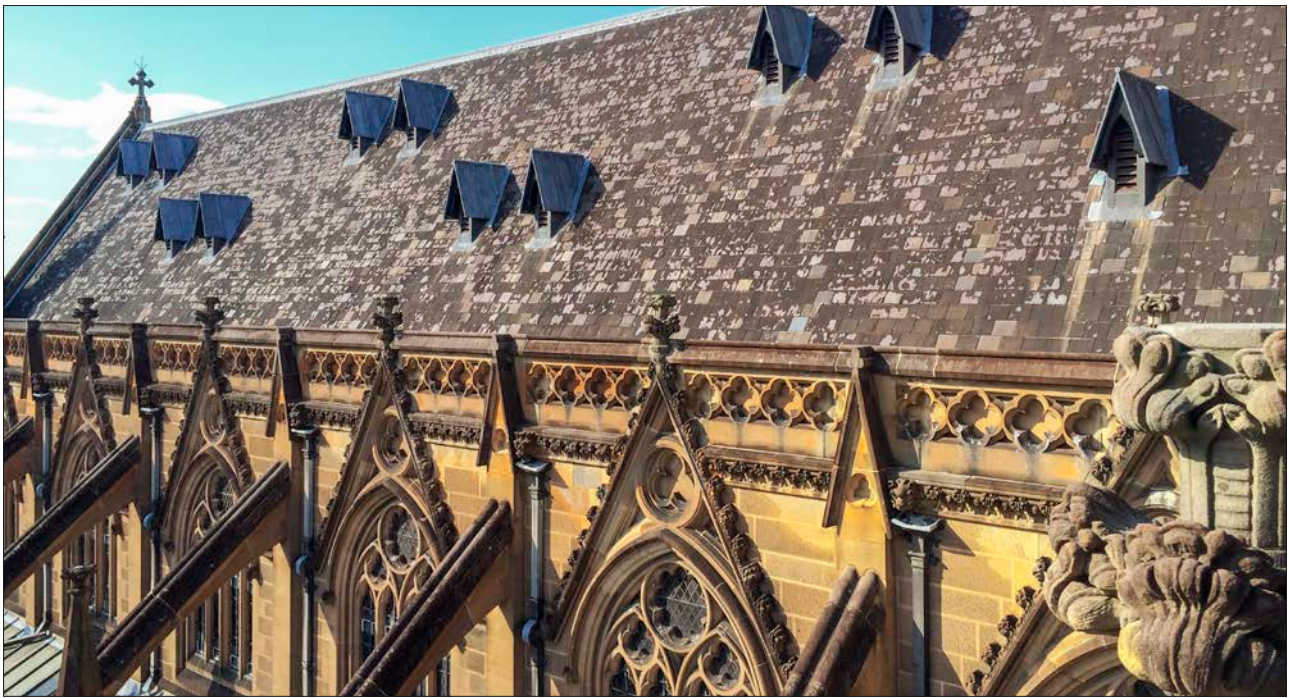
Shielding Sydney's quiet, calm refuge for Catholics, non-religious and tourists alike, St Mary's roof tiling has weathered sunshine and storms for over a century. As the oldest place in Australia to maintain its use as a place of worship for the Catholic community, no wonder its roof needs re-tiling.

Essential repairs to the Cathedral's roof have moved on to the South west and South east tiles, marking a mid-way point for the entire project.

Starting in 2015, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney began much-needed conservation measures to keep one of Sydney's magnificent buildings intact.



● See the northern side of the Cathedral roof which has been replaced.



Rome Pilgrimage with St Mary's Cathedral



To celebrate the 150 years of St Mary's Cathedral, Fr Don Richardson will accompany a group of SMC supporters to Rome in May 2019.

This unique 7-night tour of Rome will visit the most sacred relics of The Catholic Church, must-see landmarks in the eternal city and an extraordinary stay at Domus Australia, our boutique pilgrim guesthouse.

Contact Rome Pilgrimages for further details on **1800 753 959** or **pilgrimage@sydneycatholic.org** to find out more about how you can join St Mary's Cathedral's special celebration pilgrimage.

Optional two nights in Florence which includes seeing Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper.

150 Years at St Mary's Cathedral

A special Mass will be celebrated on 8 December to mark the sesquicentenary of St Mary's Cathedral – 150 years since its foundation stone was laid.

Celebrations marking the 150th birthday of Australia's Mother Church will not be major but they should demonstrate that this beautiful building continues to hold a special place in Catholic life and Sydney's history.

Building work now concentrates on necessary maintenance to ensure that the structure remains in good condition for its important role as both a sacred place of worship, a place of refuge, and a popular tourist attraction.

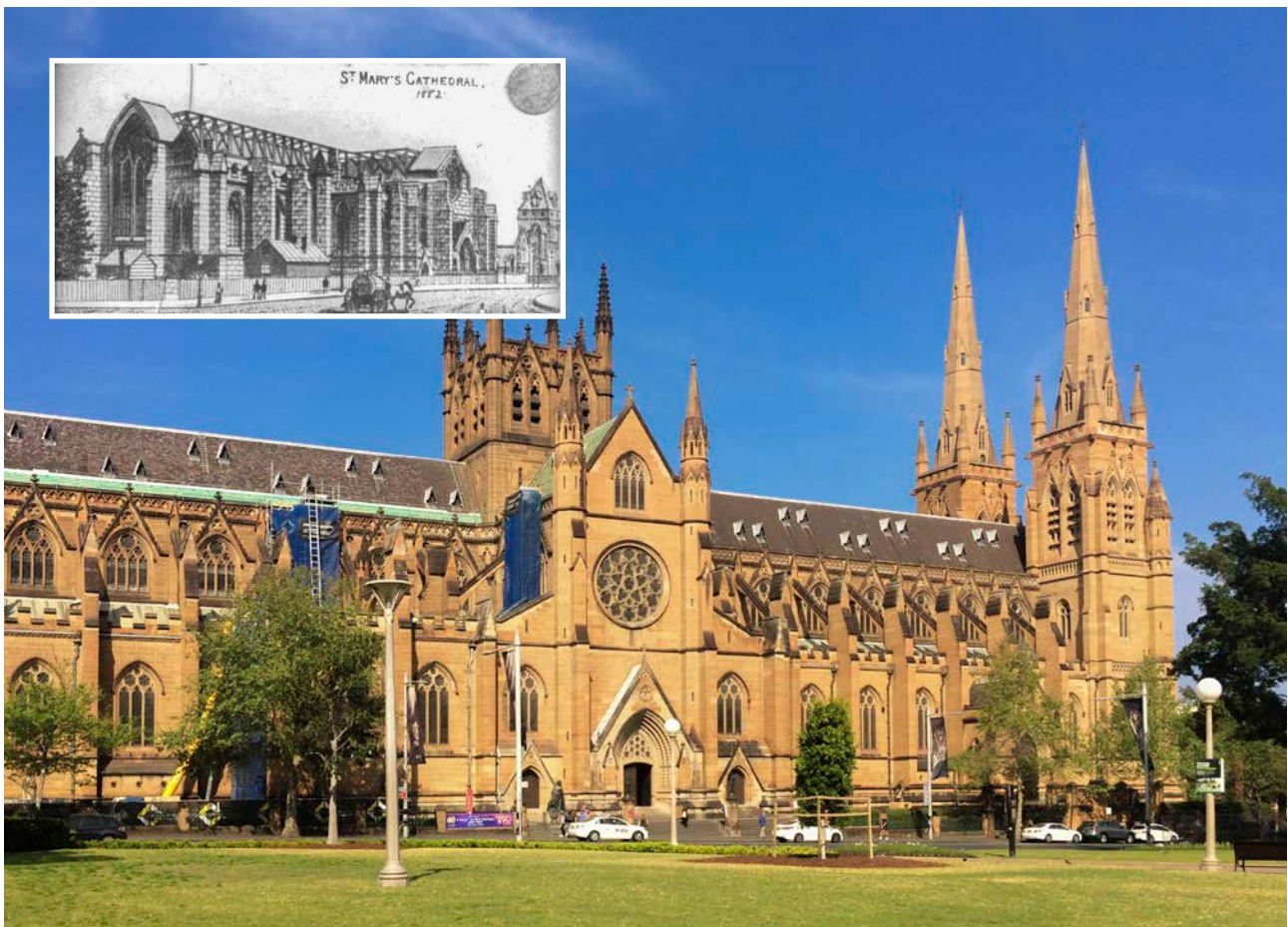
A special appeal ran last year seeking donations to assist the roof upgrade of St Mary's. That project began at the northern end of the Cathedral but a quick look across from Hyde Park to the western side currently reveals the

scaffolding and ladders that are part of the continued project to renew the roof.

“ St Mary's Cathedral was built through generous donations from Sydney's Catholics, and the support of the faithful remains necessary to ensure that this heritage-listed building is given the assistance it requires. ”

Thank you to all who have kindly donated to keep this centre of the faith alive for the past 150 years – and please be generous with your tax-deductible gift during the Cathedral's special anniversary.

The Cathedral's 150 year Mass will be celebrated at 12PM on Saturday, 8 December 2018.



● Pictures of St Mary's Cathedral then and now, 1882 and today.

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