



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS

“ NEVER SEE A NEED WITHOUT
DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

BUILD ON 2,000 YEARS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARCHBISHOP'S WELCOME	4
PART 1 2,000 YEARS OF BUILDING FAITH, SOCIETY AND CULTURE THE CHURCH CONTINUES THIS MINISTRY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN: • ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL NATIONAL TRUST • THE SEMINARY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD • THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE	7
PART 2 WITNESS TO CHRIST AND ILLUMINATE THE CHURCH FOR A NEW GENERATION A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE THE WINDOWS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL • SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SEMINARIANS • PALESTRINA FOUNDATION	9
PART 3 2,000 YEARS OF BUILDING CHARITIES AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE IN COMMUNITIES THE CHURCH CONTINUES THIS MINISTRY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN: • CATHOLICCARE • ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY • CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY SERVICES	17
PART 4 2,000 YEARS OF LOVING THE POOR, SICK AND OUR ELDERLY JOIN US IN FURTHER BUILDING: • EPHPHETA CENTRE • PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION	21
CONTACT US	24

“

ARCHBISHOP'S WELCOME



Dear Friends,

At a time when the Church is routinely portrayed as being irrelevant and unwelcoming, Christianity has in fact been the glue for what we call modern Australia and has always been open to sharing its treasures with everyone.

Older members may recall a scene from Monty Python's 'Life of Brian', in which John Cleese plays Reg, a member of the People's Liberation Front of Judea. He asks, "What have the Romans ever done for us?"

To his frustration, his fellows respond to his rhetorical question, and they respond with example after example of the benefits of Roman civilisation.

"Alright, alright." Reg concedes, "But apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, a freshwater system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?"

Something similar might be said about the indebtedness Australian civilisation might have to another type of Roman, the Roman Catholic.

"Alright, alright. But apart from the sanity that sanctity brings to a world of sin; or the invention and maintenance of hospitals, hospices, and leprosaria; or the invention of the university and provision of the most comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary school system in the world; or the endowment and staffing of orphanages, aged care facilities, feeding for the indigent and other welfare services; or the many supports for marriage, family and local neighbourhood; or the ending of human sacrifice, cannibalism, slavery, infanticide, and a chattel conception of women and children; or the explication of a sublime moral code and vision of the virtuous person that still inspires so many; or the promotion of literacy, libraries and printing; or the advent of the scientific method, and much subsequent science, medicine, and technology; or the heritage of Christian art, music, literature, and architecture including our great Cathedral; or the corpus of Western theological and philosophical thoughts that provided the metaphysical grounding for our politics and so much else, what has the Roman Catholic done for us?"

Catholics have made a great contribution to society, and we have a good story to share.

For 2,000 years, Catholics have pioneered in faith, society and culture; instilled charity and self-giving love into communities; and have led in caring for the poor, sick and elderly. Today we continue this work through the many charitable works of the Church, including the Charitable Works Fund, the Priests' Retirement Foundation and the St Mary's Cathedral National Trust.

I hope you enjoy reading this prospectus and come to learn more about our story, our faith and our works, and might be further moved to continuing our ministry in Sydney today.

Thank you in advance for your support.

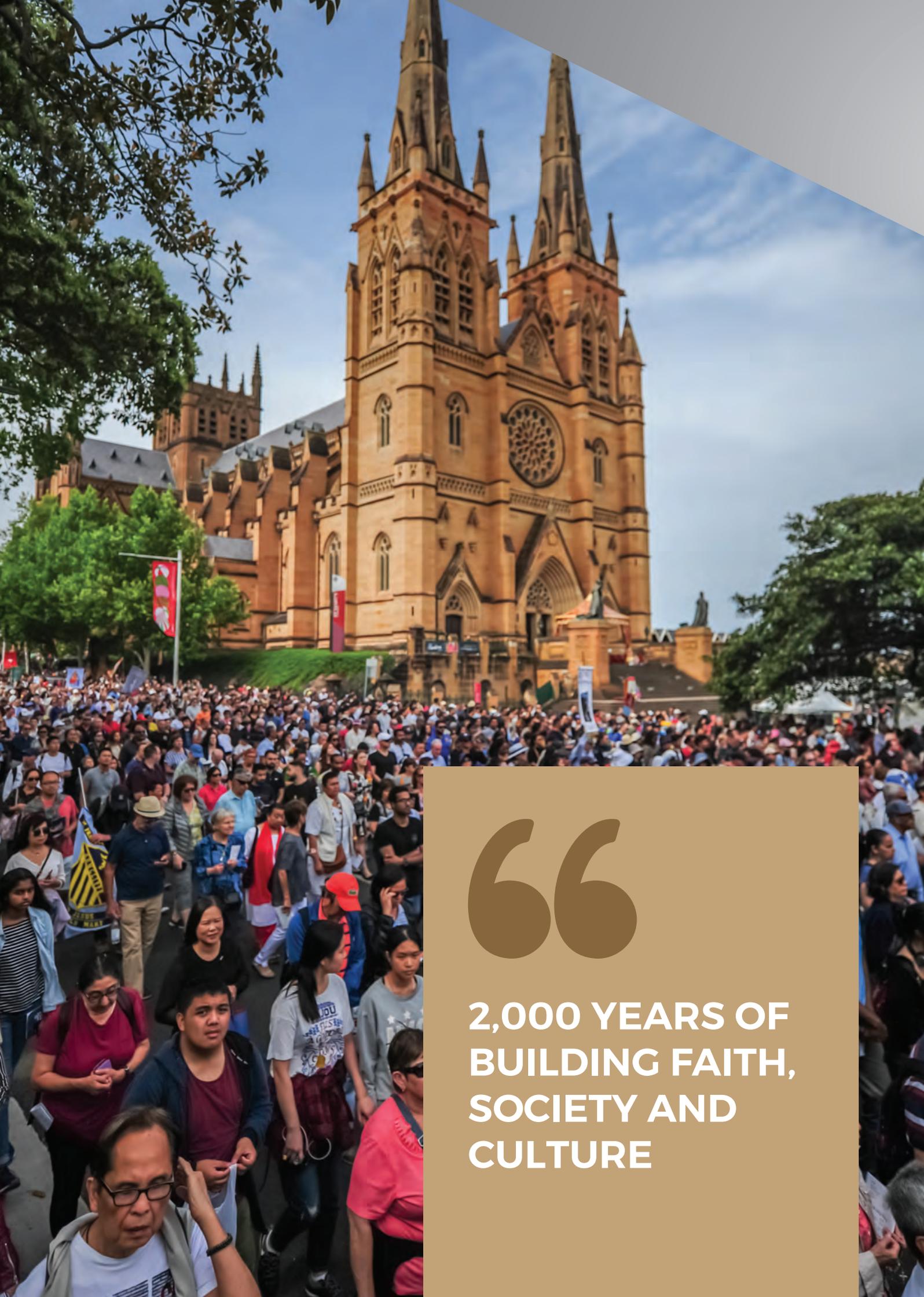
A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "+ Anthony Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a small cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LLB BTheol DPhil
Archbishop of Sydney



“

For 2,000 years, Catholics have pioneered in faith, society and culture; instilling charity and self-giving love into communities



“

**2,000 YEARS OF
BUILDING FAITH,
SOCIETY AND
CULTURE**

2,000 YEARS OF BUILDING FAITH, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

FOR OVER 2,000 YEARS... Catholics have pioneered in faith, society and culture.

“You Are The Salt Of The Earth... You Are The Light Of The World... Let Your Light So Shine Before Men, That They May See Your Good Works And Give Glory To Your Father Who Is In Heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

For over 2,000 years, the Catholic Church has had a profound impact on faith—and consequently on the laws and culture of our society.

In the first centuries, Christianity introduced to Roman society the notion of God’s forgiveness, truth and love and the unique individual dignity of the human person.

Since that time the Catholic Church - the vehicle of God’s Gospel - has spread the faith across the world, bringing people back into relationship with Him, offering conversion, transforming lives, and giving inner peace and joy - “peace the world cannot give”.

This is expressed beautifully in the famous quote from St Augustine, an early bishop of north Africa, who after a life of debauchery and misdeeds converted his life to Jesus saying: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, Lord”.

Countless men and women - lay, consecrated, priests, and bishops - have given their lives to proclaim the Good News. And over the centuries this Divine message permeated our laws and social order.

The new moral system brought in by the Good News of the Christians abolished some of the worst practices of Ancient Rome including infanticide and the murderous gladiatorial games. It also raised the legal status of women, children and the poor.

The concept of universal Human Dignity - which came from the Biblical teaching that people are made in God’s image (imago Dei) - paved the way not only for the development of human rights, but also democracy, capitalism and the modern state as we know it. Achievements we all celebrate today, such as universal suffrage and the rejection of slavery, were only made possible through the Biblical teaching on humanity. This has become clear since 1948, where it is largely those countries which have a Judeo-Christian understanding of human dignity that have been able to apply the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As well as this, the Catholic social teaching principles

of subsidiarity and solidarity have tempered Australian public life, limiting government and promoting participation, while the Church’s insistence on the preferential option for the poor makes her still a world leader in looking after the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.

As political life flows into culture, the Catholic Church has also had an unmistakable impact on culture.

From the magnificent works of Michelangelo in the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel, to our own heritage-listed Cathedral of St Mary’s in Sydney, Catholics have always expressed themselves in architecture and art.

The flowering of cathedrals in the early outposts of Australia, is proof that beauty grows where Catholicism is planted. At the time of the construction of St Mary’s Cathedral, Catholics were very much a minority in Australia. The Catholic Emancipation Act had been passed, but it would be decades before it would be a reality down under. However, this did not stop the Australian faithful from building our neo-gothic masterpiece, and so St Mary’s Cathedral has graced the eastern side of Hyde Park for over 150 years. It is also no coincidence that St Mary’s Cathedral is home to Australia’s oldest choir, established in 1818.

To this day, St Mary’s Cathedral continues to be a cultural hub. By preserving our heritage listed Mother Cathedral and the artworks inside, and supporting the annual Christmas Concert, we make sure that it is still able to proclaim the Good News.

As Sydney’s largest religion, Catholics still have so much to offer Australian cultural, political and social life. We can achieve this because Catholicism is not just a social program, it is a religion. The Church is inspired, that is, it has the Holy Spirit dwelling within it, and the capacity to make its members holy. The Church offers not just the pathway to a good life, but the Sacraments which make the journey possible.

As we travel into the third millennia, Catholics and the Catholic Church face new challenges. We wish to continue to bring forth treasures “new and old” to our culture, our politics, and for individuals on their path to salvation.

We would like to show that the Catholicism is not just a vestigial trait – the impressive remnants of a legacy – but the witness of the living body of Christ.

The Church continues this ministry and invites you to join us.

THE CHURCH CONTINUES THIS MINISTRY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN US



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL NATIONAL TRUST

The beauty of our Cathedral is sustained through the support given to the St Mary's Cathedral National Trust.

St Mary's Cathedral is a Sydney landmark and a beacon of hope for those who share the Catholic faith. It is a source of inspiration and the spiritual home of Sydney's Catholic community.

Your donation will:

- Restore unique historical paintings on display.
- Repair the Windows of St Mary's Cathedral.

St Mary's Cathedral National Trust needs your help to preserve our Mother Cathedral. Please donate today.

THE SEMINARY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The heart and future of the Catholic Church in Sydney begins here—at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd and the Redemptoris Mater Seminary.

It is the training ground for the future priests and deacons of the archdiocese of Sydney and surrounding dioceses of NSW.

These seminaries are a places of “intense formation”. They seek to develop men strong in faith, hope and love who are willing to give their lives to their Lord and the ones that they have been called to serve.

Your donation will:

- cover the daily living expenses of these seminaries which serve as houses of spiritual growth, character development and brotherhood.
- support the pastoral formation of seminarians at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

The Seminary needs your help to form our future priests for generations to come. Consider donating today.



THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The formation of our Catholic children in public schools is strengthened through the volunteer catechists that are trained and supported by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

Since its formation in 1958, CCD Sydney has taught over 1 million students and every week, a dedicated team of over 2,300 catechists travel across NSW bringing the Good News to 30,000 children in over 400 schools. Using a pedagogy of inductive and deductive reasoning the curriculum introduces students to the love of God, the truths of the faith and opens up the pathway to the Sacraments

Your donation will:

- develop programs and resources to help spread the Gospel to children.
- provide quality training and professional development to catechists.

CCD needs your help to teach the Catholic faith to children in public schools. Consider donating today.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Scholarships for Seminarians - a gift of \$22,900

The journey of a seminarian begins at the family home, where they are lovingly fed, clothed, educated and formed spiritually. After receiving and accepting God's call to the Priesthood, it is then up to the broader family, the Church, to continue feeding, clothing and forming our seminarians as they journey to become our future Priests.

Part of this journey includes::

- Rigorous study: which is a double degree in Theology and Philosophy, over seven years, before any further study - either a postgraduate or studies in Rome.
- Living in a well-suited environment for prayer, study and formation which is provided at the Good Shepherd Seminary, Sydney.
- Sporting and recreational facilities - to aid in the personal development and to create an atmosphere of friendship.

To meet some of these expenses Catholics in Sydney are invited to consider supporting our seminarians by providing a scholarship of \$22,900 per annum.

Your gift will help provide the financial support our seminarians need to complete their studies in Theology and Philosophy so they can be good instruments in serving the people of God.

By sponsoring a seminarian, you ensure that future generations across Australia continue to receive our Catholic Faith, sound doctrine and pastoral ministry.

It currently costs \$160,300, over seven years, to deliver a seminarian to the priesthood.

Please consider providing one of our seminarians a \$22,900.00 scholarship today, and help provide a Priest for Australia tomorrow.



WINDOW RESTORATION

WITNESS TO CHRIST. ILLUMINATE THE CHURCH.

A \$2.8 million campaign to restore the windows of St Mary's Cathedral and witness to Christ for a new generation.

\$2.8M FOR ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL RESTORATION

Windows display the glorious architecture of the Cathedral, illuminating the interior and allowing the faithful to discover the riches of the Church. Since installation over 100 years ago the windows have become faded, broken and distorted and the window restoration project will bring them back to their full glory.

In major Cathedrals there are normally two levels of windows. The lower stained-glass windows depicting the saints or narratives from scripture. The upper "clerestory" windows are designed to flood the Cathedral with light, allowing the faithful to worship bathed in light, illuminating the magnificent architecture around them.

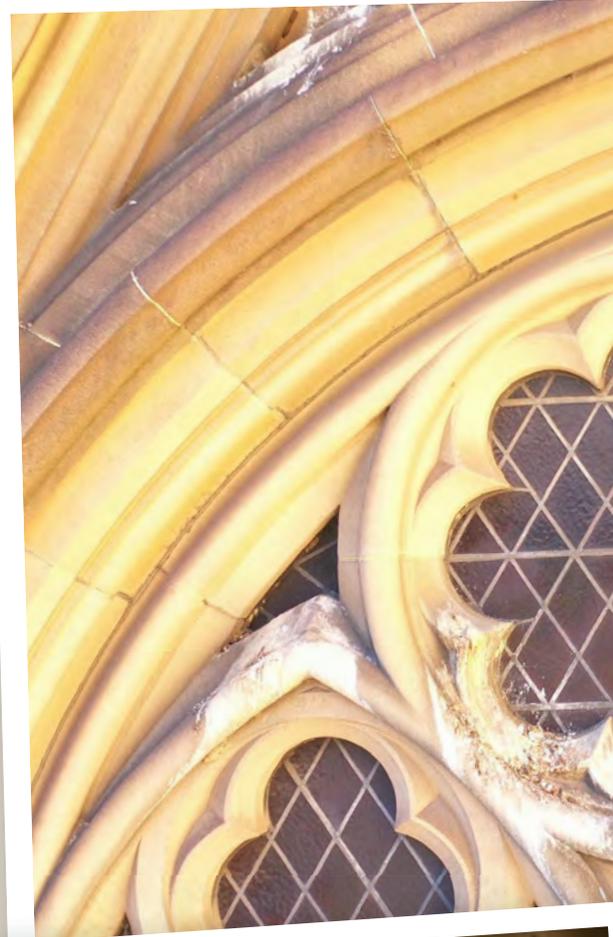
There are 39 Clerestory windows in St Mary's Cathedral that require urgent repair and replacement. Each window has 19 interconnected panels, held together in decaying lead and steel frames. These broken, fragile, distorted, dirty and at risk of collapse structures need careful replacement using specialist techniques and materials. In total the project will replace 741 panels.

After establishment costs such as purchase of scaffolding, the restoration will be approx. \$70,000 per window or \$3,684 for panels. In total the estimated cost over 5 years is expected to be \$2.8 million, over \$560,000 per annum.

“

The beautiful windows of St Mary's Cathedral help to connect us to God, and allows us to feel His presence in a way that we could not achieve by other means. It is important that we maintain these great treasures so future generations can experience their profound beauty. I encourage you to pledge your support to this important project.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher





CATHEDRAL WINDOWS AT RISK

- Century-old windows at risk of collapse unless urgent work is conducted.
- Breakages, dirt and deterioration blocking illumination of interior riches.
- Years of pollution, decay, rain impact, sun damage and breakage has taken a serious toll.
- Cathedral worship at threat of closure if major issue occurs.





“

PLEASE HELP US REPAIR AND RESTORE THE BEAUTIFUL AMBER GLASS PANES OF THE CLERESTORY WINDOWS. AS SCRIPTURE SAYS:

“You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways.” (Job 22.28)

Fr Don Richardson MA VF
Dean of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney and the City Deanery

RESTORATION PROCESS

Rick Allan of Heritage Decorative Glass has been appointed as Chief Restoration agent. He comes with decades of experience in working with heritage glass in nationally significant buildings like St Mary's Cathedral.

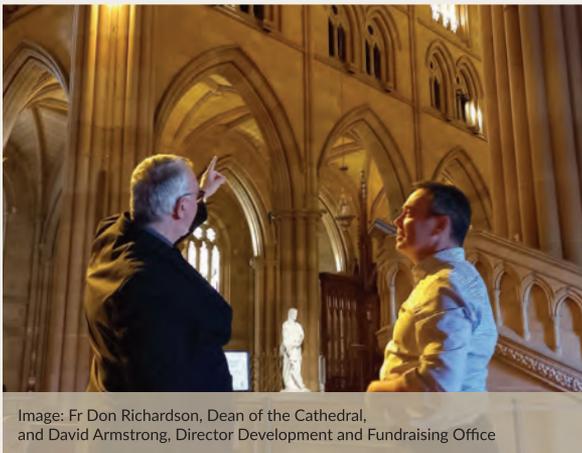


Image: Fr Don Richardson, Dean of the Cathedral, and David Armstrong, Director Development and Fundraising Office

- Each window, panel by panel, frame by frame is carefully dismantled, lifted to the ground, and then transferred to the restoration studio in the Southern Highlands. Masonry work is also required. This takes two to three weeks.
- At the studio, over a two to four week period, the lead and steel frames are carefully replaced or reconstructed, with restored or new heritage glass that has been specially crafted.
- Restored windows are then transported back to St Mary's and gently lifted into position and secured on the stonework. This can take a final two weeks.

For each window the entire process can take up to two months, weather permitting. For all 39 windows the entire project is therefore expected to take in the region of five to seven years, subject to sufficient funding.

SPONSORSHIP

By arrangement, special sponsorship packages, recognition and other opportunities are available for organisations pledging over \$100,000. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney reaches to over 90,000 parishioners across 137 parishes. It also includes 70,000 students, 10,000 employees, and over 116,000 parents and families in over 150 Sydney Catholic Schools.



ST MARY'S
CATHEDRAL

LEADERSHIP GIVING

Pledge your support today for the *Witness to Christ. Illuminate the Church* campaign. All pledges are tax-deductible.

	Donors	Pledge	Goal
 North, South, East or West wing	2	\$560,000	\$2.8 million
 Full Clerestory Window	15	\$71,794	
 Large Panel	148	\$3,778	

RECOGNITION

To thank our generous benefactors and sponsors we have arranged for a specially commissioned, limited edition, framed cross, uniquely made from the broken window pieces to be presented to those giving over \$50,000.

Supporters will receive a certification of appreciation from St Mary's Cathedral, Archdiocese of Sydney. Your name will be included on a commemorative plaque in the Cathedral.



DONATE TO THE PALESTRINA FOUNDATION AND SUPPORT SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The Palestrina Foundation has been established to support Saint Mary's Cathedral Choir, which could not continue to exist without the generosity of donors like you. Through the donations and it receives, the Palestrina Foundation is able to:

- Support the Choristers and Cathedral Scholars, thus assisting with the education of boys from a wide range of backgrounds, and ensuring the development of highly skilled Australian musicians.
- Assist with the ongoing performance of liturgical music by professional musicians in St Mary's Cathedral so that people in Sydney and around the globe can access world-class choral music, while also allowing us to maintain a cultural heritage which spans more than 500 years.
- Commission new works of choral music from contemporary composers, thus ensuring that we can contribute to the repertoire of choirs of generations to come.
- Help the musicians of the Choir to engage with communities outside the reach of St Mary's Cathedral through tours, master classes, and training sessions.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Sponsor a Musical scholarship – a gift of \$31,500

There are 33 choristers at St Mary's Cathedral Choir, providing the boys with a world-class musical education and financial scholarships to attend school. Many of Choristers have appeared in concerts with the Brandenburg Orchestra, The Song Company, and the Sydney Youth Orchestra,

The Choir provides music in the Cathedral every day during term-time, making it one of only two cathedral choirs in the world to continue such a rhythm of worship, with over 400 performances a year.

Over the course of their schooling, which is Year 4 to Year 12, the nine year program comes to \$31,500 per student, or \$3,500 per year. Funds go directly for college tuition, 1 to 1 vocal lessons, materials, performances and other related expenses.

To meet these expenses, you are invited to consider sponsorship for a Musical Scholarship of up to \$31,500.





“

**2,000 YEARS OF BUILDING
CHARITIES AND SACRIFICIAL
LOVE IN COMMUNITIES**

2,000 YEARS OF BUILDING CHARITIES AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE IN COMMUNITIES

“A New Commandment I Give To You, That You Love One Another: Just As I Have Loved You.”

John 13:34

For 2,000 years Catholics have instilled charity, service and sacrificial love as the most important expression of being Christian in the community.

It is hard to imagine how challenging this call to service was at the beginning. In the centuries after Jesus’ death, the followers of Christ mostly lived in secret, under persecution, in the shadows of the Roman Empire. For four hundred years it was legal to arrest, torture and even kill those accused of practising Christianity. The Roman catacombs - a vast underground network where these early communities gathered – are evidence of how our Christian brothers and sisters once lived. They were truly Christ’s “poor in spirit”.

Inspired by Jesus’ message, and transformed by Divine Love, these same Christians took in the unwanted of Rome – the sick, orphans, widows, infants left to die in ‘exposure’, the poor and slaves. Christians would even fast so they could give their food to those in need. These poor were cared for and treated like members of the family and the familial treatment eventually led to the custom of calling priests and religious ‘father’, ‘mother’, ‘brother’ and ‘sister’.

Julian, an earlier emperor of Rome and no friend of what he called ‘the Galilean cult’, was so struck by this that he once commented to his fellow Romans; “[The Christians] support not only their poor but ours as well”.

As Catholicism spread across the globe, it brought with it this message of radical love and so institutions for the poor and sick began to spread across Europe. The Biblical teaching that all were made in God’s image, and that what was done for the “least of these brothers and sisters” was done for Christ Himself, meant that the first institutionalised hospitals, orphanages, shelters, schools and universities were open to serve everyone.

To this day, the Catholic Church still operates more hospitals, schools, orphanages, pro-life societies and charitable institutions than any other organisation in the world.

Our heritage and tradition of service to the poor is an area where we can take genuine pride.

In Australia, we have felt the benefit of this Catholic tradition, as many of our most prestigious schools, hospitals and welfare institutions trace their roots back to religious orders of men and women who sacrificed everything in service of others.

There is no modern substitute, or government agency, that could equal the work of those countless anonymous men and women of faith who served quietly in love.

There are the well-known examples, such as St Mary MacKillop, founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, who developed a series of schools and welfare institutions for the destitute and rural poor to the more recent example of Eileen O’Connor who sanctified her suffering (resulting from a spinal injury at an early age) and founded Our Lady’s Nurses of the Poor.

Catholics in the Archdiocese of Sydney continue such ministries in the Charitable Works Fund, which supports the likes of CatholicCare, the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Centre, Chaplaincy Services and much more.

The ancient Romans saw ‘charity’ as a weakness, not a virtue. In the Christian worldview, however, charity is an opportunity to be united to Christ and to serve Jesus in the poor, as seen in the Gospel; “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

Hence, despite growing hostility toward Catholic Christians in Australia, we will not stop doing what we have always done in charity.

It is our privilege to continue this beautiful tradition, and we hope to do it for the next 2,000 years in an effort best summarised by St Paul; “in the end, there is these three, faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.”

The Church continues this ministry and invites you to join us.

THE CHURCH CONTINUES THIS MINISTRY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN

ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY

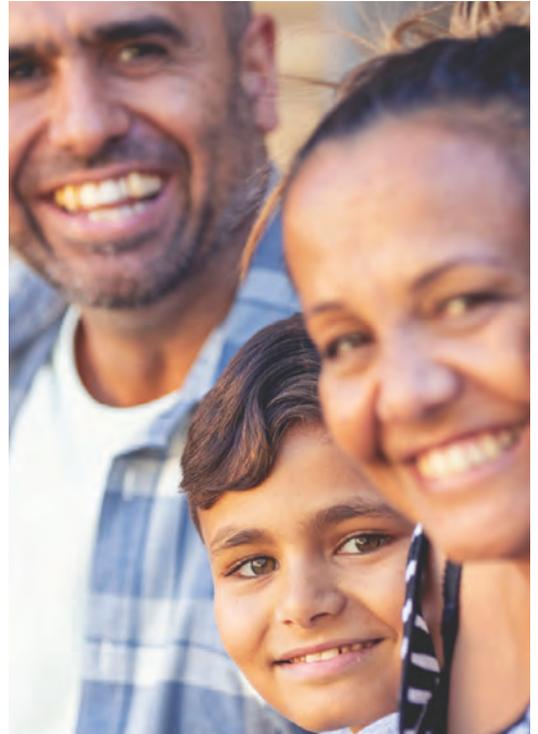
The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) provides pastoral care and support to Sydney's Catholic Aborigines.

In his historic Alice Springs address in 1986, Pope St John Paul II said "the church in Australia would not reach its potential until Aboriginal people had made their contribution to her life". ACM seeks to make this hope a reality. Operating from two premises, Reconciliation Church and Alexandria Office, the ACM offers a range of services including Sacramental preparation, monthly cultural Mass, prayer resources, support with funerals and baptisms, prayer groups and pastoral support.

The Ministry also provides an interface between Indigenous Catholics and the wider Catholic and political community. They connect Aboriginal educators and speakers with schools and parishes. Where necessary, the ACM will act as advocates and provide counselling services and practical aid.

The ACM hopes to build ties with Nungalyina and Wontulp Bi Buya Indigenous theological colleges to support the spiritual development of Indigenous Catholics in Sydney.

Help our Sydney Aboriginal Catholic reach their full potential. Consider donating today.



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Catholic Chaplaincy Services are a series of chaplaincies that look after the pastoral needs of all people connected to various Catholic institutions these are.

- **University Chaplaincy:** Established by Cardinal Pell at the beginning of 2002, it aims to create a Catholic culture on campus and provide spiritual and friendship support to all students.
- **Hospital Chaplaincy:** The Sydney Archdiocese has a long history of ministering to the sick, as well as the family and friends of those affected by illness. There are both religious and lay chaplains serving within our major hospitals in the Sydney region.
- **Prison Chaplaincy:** Chaplains are available at Long Bay (currently with over 1000 men interned) and at Silverwater (with nearly 1500 women resident in its five gaols). The Chaplaincy office provides a range of services from Mass, to prayer reflections, counselling, assistance and general support for family and friends.

Consider donating today.



CATHOLICCARE

With more than 100 programs running to assist those in need, CatholicCare is the social services agency of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Every day CatholicCare's 600 staff and nearly 200 volunteers work to strengthen families, individuals and build community from their sites at Bankstown, Belmore, Cabramatta, Fairfield, Lakemba, Lewisham, Liverpool, Woolloomooloo and Sydney.

Every age has its own invisible people and since its beginning in 1941, CatholicCare has cared for those who have no one else. Following the example of Christ, their programs seek to assist anyone in need; those struggling with their marriage, new parents, crisis pregnancy support, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed, children in need of foster homes and those afflicted with gambling, addiction or poor mental health. In 2018, with the introduction of CCareline telephone service, CatholicCare received over 20,000 calls for help.

Marriage breakdown, mental health issues and an ageing population are on the rise, and the need for support is only going to increase.

CatholicCare hopes to expand their services across NSW, but to do this, they need your help. Consider giving today.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

As the social services agency of the Archdiocese of Sydney, CatholicCare helps those in need in the face of life's challenges.

Most importantly, CatholicCare works within the community itself, supporting vulnerable families and individuals. Through working closely with their clients, and listening to their needs, CatholicCare has developed many innovative and tailored programs that have changed peoples' lives. Unfortunately, government funding does not completely cover these programs but are still made possible through the support of many generous donors.

For as little as \$50, you can make a huge impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals and families that CatholicCare aims to serve. Alternatively you may like to consider a special gift in the following:

Essential aid items - \$50-\$500 per family

Food, toiletries and other basic needs for clients in crisis dependent on their current circumstances.

HOPE Program - \$18,000 per annum

CatholicCare helps young single mothers find secure housing, access educational and work opportunities, develop a strong bond with their child, begin to feel confident as a parent and learn to make better life decisions.

House in a Box (x 7 per annum) - \$5000

This consists of a washing machine, a fridge, beds, kitchen utensils, cleaning products and other basic home needs.

Pregnancy in a Box (x 7 per annum) - \$5000

This consists of baby clothes, nappies, pregnancy clothes for mothers, baby bottles, sterilisers, prams and other basic baby needs.

Financial Telecare Counselling - \$2,000 per month

Each call begins with assessing the client's financial situation and can involve assisting negotiations with creditors as well as providing specialist emotional support to help them through stressful times.

Crisis Telecare Counselling - \$2,000 per month

Each call begins with an assessment of the client's emotional and physical wellbeing, then organising immediate help if needed and/or developing the best pathway with the client for ongoing support.



“

**2,000 YEARS OF
LOVING THE POOR,
SICK AND OUR
ELDERLY**

2,000 YEARS OF LOVING THE POOR, SICK AND OUR ELDERLY

“For I Was Hungry And You Gave Me Food, I Was Thirsty And You Gave Me Drink, I Was A Stranger And You Welcomed Me, I Was Naked And You Clothed Me, I Was Sick And You Visited Me, I Was In Prison And You Came To Me. ... Truly, I Say To You, As You Did It To One Of The Least Of These My Brethren, You Did It To Me.”

Matthew 25:35-45

For 2,000 years the Catholic Church has taken a lead role in caring for people with disabilities, those who are sick and for our elderly.

The Catholic Church currently operates more hospitals, schools and charities than any other organisation in the world.

This is also true in Australia, with Catholic Health Australia (CHA) being the largest non-government provider of health, community and aged care services in the country. Catholic Health Australia, a not-for-profit, operates 10% of all Australian health care services and employs over 35,000 people.

Many of our most prestigious hospitals and schools began as Catholic outreach to the poor. Catholic Hospitals in Sydney began as free hospitals for the poor, established by the Sisters of Charity in 1857. Along with the Sisters of Mercy, they now operate four public hospitals, seven private hospitals and 10 aged care facilities across the country.

The Christian emphasis of serving the poor and tending the sick led to founding the first ever hospitals in history. The early Church was renowned for their radical care for the poor and sick, with wealthy Christians sometimes giving their entire wealth to aid those in need. Taking heed of the parable of the “rich young man”, the ranks of the Church quickly swelled with saints who gave “all to the poor” to follow Christ. St Basil the Great, an early bishop of Caesarea (a Roman province in modern-day Turkey), developed a hospital that was said to be the size of a city.

As the Church grew and became more structured, so did its hospitals. The Benedictine Rule, the first formalised rule of monastic living, instructed its monks that the care of the sick should be placed “above and before every other duty as if indeed Christ were being directly served”. For the next thousand years, the monasteries and convents became the key medical centres of Europe. These hospitals, hospices and charities formed a comprehensive welfare system for the poorest.

A concern for health was often coupled with a concern for education. In this way, the Cathedral schools attached to the convents and monasteries eventually developed into universities. Bringing the brightest minds of the age together, these fertile hotbeds of research led to almost all the developments of modern science and technology. For this reason, the history of science is disproportionately littered with genius inventor-priests. In just a shortlist, we can thank Pope Gregory for the modern-day calendar, Fr Nicholas Steno for geology, Roger Bacon for the scientific method, Fr Mendel for genetics and Fr Lemaitre for the Big Bang Theory.

New discoveries and technologies were often used to further the work of caring for the poor. In particular, women’s religious institutes used their expertise to establish some of the first modern general hospitals.

We are blessed to be a wealthy country, but there is still so much need in Australia. One of the key areas we are facing is an ageing population, perhaps a first in our history as well as increasing demand for disability services. This brings its own set of challenges and needs.

Catholics, following in unity and imitation of Christ, continue to care for our elderly and retired, and our deaf and disabled community, by supporting the Priests’ Retirement Foundation and our Charitable Works Fund – which in turn supports the Ephpheta Centre (Ministry to our deaf and hard of hearing community).

In light of our aging population, and growing demand for disability services, let us continue the work of Christ, tending to the sick, elderly and disabled, rooted in the Gospel 2,000 years ago.

The Church continues this ministry and invites you to join us.

THE CHURCH CONTINUES THIS MINISTRY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN US



THE EPHPHETA CENTRE

The Ephpheta Centre is a special ministry for the deaf and hard of hearing run by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and supported by the dioceses of Parramatta and Broken Bay.

The Centre organises weekly Mass in Auslan (Australian sign language) as well as social and pastoral outreach including a youth group, women's group, men's group, craft group and home visits.

The Centre is run by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. In 2012, former director Stephen Lawlor was made a Knight of St Sylvester by Pope Benedict XVI for "distinguished services to the Church"—the first Papal award to a deaf person in Australia.

The name 'Ephpheta', meaning 'Be Open', comes from the Gospel of Mark, where Jesus heals the deaf man. For 40 years, Ephpheta has opened the riches of the Catholic faith to the deaf community of Sydney and hopes to do so for another 40 years.

Your donation will:

- support a wide range of initiatives for the deaf and hard of hearing including men's, women's, youth, craft and other interests groups
- help train seminarians and priests in Auslan so the sacraments can be more accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing Catholic community.

The Ephpheta Centre needs your help to spread the Catholic faith to those that are deaf and hard of hearing. Consider donating today.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

The Priests' Retirement Foundation of the Archdiocese of Sydney ensures all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement.

There are now over 75 retired priests in Sydney, many of whom worked long into their 70's, caring for the spiritual life and welfare of their people.

The Archdiocese gives two dollars for every dollar contributed to the Priests' Retirement Foundation.

The Priests' Retirement Foundation covers needs such as:

- Convalescence care.
- Nursing home and hostel care for frail priests.
- Assistance in transitioning to retirement.
- Health insurance.
- Medical and dental expenses.
- Assistance with board and lodging expenses.

Our retired priests have given so much to us, and the Priests' Retirement Foundation is an opportunity to give back. Please consider donating to support our retired priests today.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Be the Guardian of a Retired Priest - a gift of \$12,000

At the heart of the priesthood is the call to a life of sacrifice and service.

Sacrifice in the many good things a priest will give up, like marriage, family and wealth.

Service in their perpetual pursuit to serve the poor, administer the sacraments - like baptisms, the Eucharist, marriage and the anointing of the sick - and pastorally caring for others.

Many also fulfill the call to "go to all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and leave their home of origin, and their immediate family, to either establish a new Catholic community or school.

Priests give up a lot to serve and to pass on the faith to others, and many continue this ministry and service in their retirement.

Our priestly fathers cared and nurtured us through our spiritual life. Now its our turn to care for them during their time of old age and retirement. Please consider becoming the Guardian of one of our retired priests, by providing a gift of \$12,000.

Many of the expenses to support our retired priest surround their medical support, accomodation, and every day practical needs (food, clothing, electricity, insurance, etc.). Hence, many of our retired priests need your support to sustain a daily standard of living.

Please consider providing a \$12,000 Guardianship gift and remind our retired priest that we are there for them, just as they were, and still are, there for us.





CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS

To discuss pledging or make a leadership gift please contact:



Richard Allcock

Relationship Manager, Fundraising
and Development Office

richard.allcock@sydneycatholic.org



David Armstrong

Director, Fundraising and
Development Office

david.armstrong@sydneycatholic.org

Development and Fundraising Office

Level 7, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Donations may also be made online at www.ourfaithourworks.org or by calling 1800 753 959