



# GATHERING

ST MARY'S

OUR CATHEDRAL

OUR FAMILY

COMBINED PUBLICATION OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, ST MARY'S  
CATHEDRAL COLLEGE AND THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

MAR2008





# DEANS OF ST MARY'S

Deans have come and gone over the years at St Mary's – to date some thirty of them, although the position in the early years, 1835-1856, is somewhat cloudy. The *Benedictine Journal* mentions a Dean in 1849, but he is not named: it could have been Fr John McEncroe, one of the first priests to work in Australia.

The first recorded Dean is Fr Daniel O'Connell OSB – the first Australian-born priest ordained. He was Dean from 1856 to 1874, although Fr Joseph Bede Summer, another Benedictine, who had arrived with Bishop Polding in 1835, also served sometime in those years. During Fr O'Connell's time in office, the first Cathedral burnt down (1865) and the plans for the present St Mary's were drawn up.

Fr Patrick Mahony was the Dean when the first stage of the present cathedral was opened in 1882. He died as Parish Priest of Penrith in 1892, aged only 47 years.

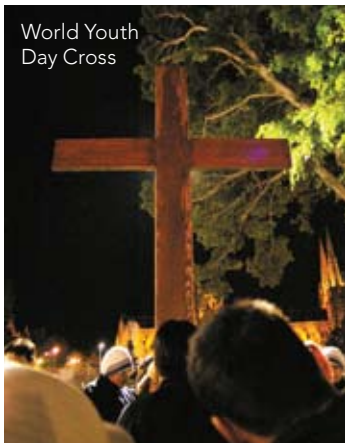
Two other distinguished Deans of the time were Fr Patrick Murphy who became the second President of St Patrick's College, Manly, (Dean 1892-1895); and Fr John Carroll, later second Bishop of Lismore (Dean 1896).

The longest serving Dean was Rt Rev Denis O'Haran, Dean from 1896-1912. He had been Vice-Rector of the Irish College in Rome and continued to act as Cardinal Moran's secretary until his death. Mgr O'Haran died as Parish Priest of Darlinghurst in 1931.

The Dean at the time of the opening of the extension to the Cathedral in 1928 was Fr Patrick Crowley, later Parish Priest of Pymble. Mgr Tony Doherty was Dean when the spires were constructed in 2000 and the Cathedral finally completed according to Wardell's original plans.

Many well known Parish Priests of the last century have served at one time as Deans of St Mary's – Ted Bond (Concord), Gerald Bartlett (Forest Lodge), Walter Hurley (Bondi Beach), John McCooe (Haberfield), John Meany (Lidcombe), Eamonn Dundon (Northbridge), and Lex Johnson (Eastwood), to name only a few.

Deans may have come and gone, but each one has contributed to the life of the Cathedral Parish and the preservation of its wonderful heritage.



World Youth Day Cross

## MASS TIMES

### St Mary's Cathedral

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 7am, 9am, 10.30am (Solemn Sung Mass), 6pm

Monday to Friday 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm

Saturday & Public Holidays 9am & 12.10pm

### St Columbkille's

Sunday 9am

## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SACRISTANS?

The *Catholic Weekly* in 1944 announced the death of Michael John McLean. It is reported he assumed the office of Cathedral sacristan in 1903 and served during the reigns of three Archbishops.

John Wilkinson, an assistant sacristan, was called up for military service according to a Cathedral diary of April 1942. John's father, William, took his place. After the war, John returned as sacristan and retired after Pope Paul's visit in 1970.

Mention of sacristans in archival documents include: John or Patrick Langton (Coningham Case of 1900); James Ryan, "connected with St Mary's for over thirteen years" (building account of St Mary's 1882); George Blitwitch replaced by Mr Casey, the sacristan of St Patrick's [Church Hill] (*Freeman's Journal* 17 April 1886).

The *Benedictine Journal* on 1st Sept 1857 states "the office of sacristan of the Cathedral created by the retirement of Br John Dwyer (Deacon) has been conferred upon a Layman", presumably by Olivier (no surname) as recorded in the same journal in October 1857.

Cardinal Moran's *History of the Catholic Church* refers to an Anthony Brady who slept in a room under the sacristy. He was aged 102 and was almost forgotten in the confusion of the great fire in 1865. He was one of the first workmen employed on the foundations of the first St Mary's. He had subsequently been the first Catholic sexton and later engaged as Dr Polding's valet in 1835.

Excerpt *Cathedral Sacristans* by Pauline Garland Sydney Archdiocesan Office



# 1850 STATUE RETURNS TO ST MARY'S

ABOVE & BELOW LEFT:  
Statue being removed from Point Piper property

BELOW:  
Ms June Baker with Madonna and Child

Fr Eugene Gourbeillon, a French Benedictine monk, accepted Archbishop Polding's call in 1847 to come to Sydney. He was a gifted sculptor and was responsible for much of the decoration in the first Cathedral. Only two of his works survive: the Virgin and Child presently near the east door of the Cathedral; and another Madonna and Child sculpture that for the past eighty years or so has been in a garden at Point Piper. Both statues survived the 1865 fire which destroyed the first cathedral.

Thanks to the generosity of June Baker, the current owner of the Point Piper property, this second statue has now been faithfully returned to the Cathedral. It is a sandstone sculpture and is presently being restored, although it has withstood the elements

fairly well over the past 150 years. It originally stood in a niche on the façade of the original St Mary's. It is hoped the statue will be placed in the Cathedral grounds after it has been restored.





# CONSERVATION



Sanctuary refurbishment works – carved timber heads for Exultation



INSET AND BELOW:  
New granite floor under construction



This year will be one of the most significant in the whole 126 year history of the Cathedral.

At present this is hard to believe: the south façade of the Cathedral is still under wraps; the red cement floor is being demolished and replaced with red granite tiles; the sound system is being overhauled; and the sanctuary is being refurbished – the new marble altar will be installed.

During World Youth Day, the Cathedral will look its very best and be the central place of pilgrimage for the 500,000 participants. We expect some 250,000 young people will visit the Cathedral between 15 to 20 July.

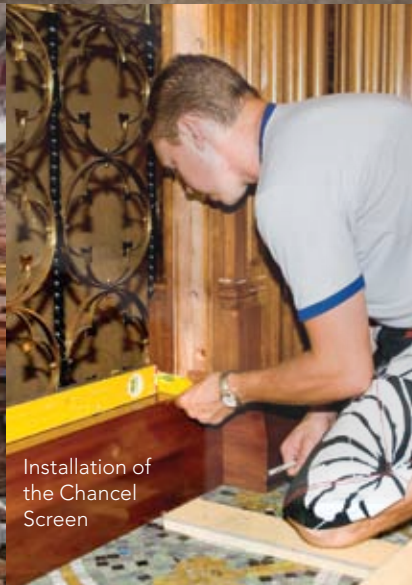
We wish to thank everyone for their continued prayers and support as we prepare for these wonderful events.



TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT HAND PHOTOS  
Sanctuary refurbishment works – construction of new Exultation



Carving models  
for timber roses  
on new Cathedra



Installation of  
the Chancel  
Screen



Relocation of Fallen  
Soldier memorial  
in preparation for  
conservation work to  
Cathedral floor



## ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION APPEAL

St Mary's Cathedral, St Mary's Rd, Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 02 9220 0464 Fax: 02 9223 5208 [www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au) [appeals@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:appeals@stmaryscathedral.org.au)

MY GIFT TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL MARCH 2008

TITLE		FIRST NAME			SURNAME		
ADDRESS							ONGOING SUPPORT PLEASE CHARGE \$ _____ MONTHLY TO MY CREDIT CARD UNTIL I ADVISE OTHERWISE
STATE		POSTCODE		PHONE			
EMAIL							
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER				<input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE ENC <b>OR</b> PLEASE DEBIT MY		<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX   AMOUNT \$	
CARD NO					NAME ON CARD		EXPIRY DATE /
					SIGNATURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SEND ME A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT				<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON INCLUDING ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL IN MY WILL			

CHEQUES: FOR **NON TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** DONATIONS, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL;  
FOR **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** DONATIONS, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL ANCILLARY FUND

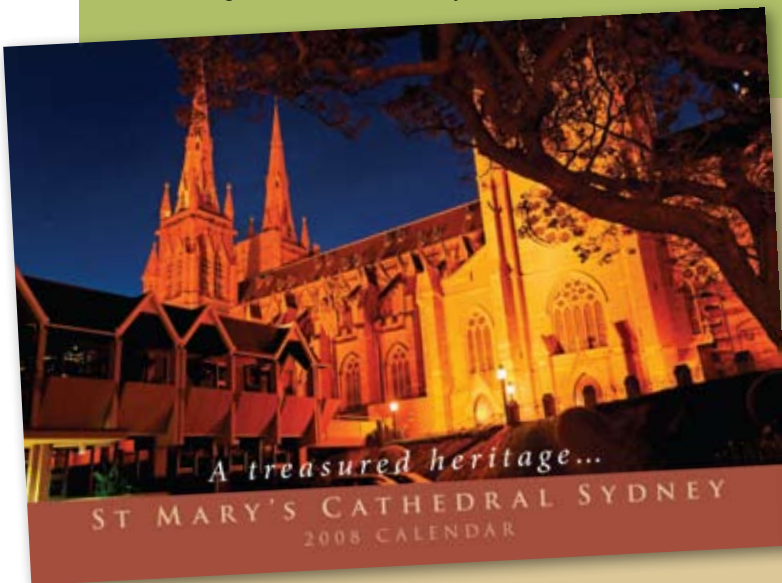


## OUR THANKS TO JOHN M<sup>C</sup>EWEN

A tall figure graced at Cathedral events, welcoming and ushering guests to their seats. For over 33 years John McEwen, Head Usher of St Mary's Cathedral, has been one of the welcoming faces of St Mary's. John has attended to major liturgical events, state funerals, weddings, and other occasions including Sunday Masses.

John recruited the early ushers and was the first to be given the title Warden of the Cathedral. He assisted with the installation of two Archbishops of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell and Cardinal Edward Clancy; and with the visits of Pope Paul II in 1986 and 1995.

John has recently retired, and we thank him for his graciousness and for the many years of hospitality in this demanding yet rewarding role. John is replaced by yet another gracious usher, Tim Ryan.



## CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

A magnificent Cathedral calendar has been produced to help sponsor disadvantaged pilgrims to World Youth Day, who may otherwise not be able to come to Sydney for this exciting event.

This beautiful calendar is an historic memento of St Mary's, prior to its major restoration and refurbishment works this year. The calendar is beautifully and skilfully put together, and contains wonderful shots of St Mary's, along with saints feast days, events and liturgical dates.

It is not too late to obtain a copy. The calendar is available from the Cathedral Store.



## ANZAC MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

The George W Lambert's sculpture of the Recumbent Figure of a Soldier (Unknown Soldier) was commissioned in 1928 for St Mary's Cathedral.

The bronze figure is a simple and dignified design, representing a young Australian soldier dead on the battlefield.

This sculpture to the Fallen was unveiled on 26 July 1931; moved to the Crypt in 1937; and relocated on the south western corner of the Cathedral in 2004. It has recently been temporarily removed to make way for the new floor tiles.

On ANZAC Day each year, we remember members of the Australian Defence Force who offered their lives and service for peace.

An ANZAC Eve Mass of Remembrance will be take place at 5.30pm on 24 April celebrated by the Archbishop and concelebrating past and present chaplains of the Australian Defence Force. A commemoration recognised by the Protocol Office as worthy of official Defence Force representation.

Any retired or service military personnel are welcome to attend and are asked to contact the Cathedral. All are welcome to pay their respects to the Fallen, and to pray for those who serve or have served the nation in the defence of Australia.

## FROM THE PAST EASTER CHOIR 1888

*Freeman's Journal*, 7 April 1888, page 15

"The singing of the choir during the Tenebrae and on Good Friday morning was very impressive, and Mr. Delany is to be congratulated particularly on the manner in which Vittoria's Passion music and Allegri's "Miserere" were rendered, this being, we understand, the first time these celebrated compositions have been rendered in Australia. The music referred to was specially imported from Rome for the choir."

# ST MARY'S

## STUDENTS IN TUNE WITH SUCCESS

The 2007 Year 12 cohort at St Mary's Cathedral College have once again achieved outstanding results in the HSC.

The school's two top-scoring students, Nathaniel Ko (UAI 99.25) and College captain John Durrant (UAI 99.2), are both accomplished musicians, and joined with other students in celebrating the school's record seven Band 6 results in Music. While Nathaniel (who plays guitar) and John (who is a featured trumpeter in a number of College ensembles) did not sit Music for their HSC, both emphasised the important role played by music in the life of the College. "Music has been a key component in my education," said John. "It has not only provided me with an outlet from the demands of study, but has assisted me in understanding the sort of discipline required in any endeavour in order to do well."

The College is also celebrating the success of David Satti, who was named in the Premier's Merit List, after scoring 12 units at Band 6 level, and Stanley Wong, who was among the Top 10 Industrial Technology students.



St Mary's Cathedral HSC High Achievers (L-R): John Durrant, Nathaniel Ko, Richard Banzon (seated at piano), John Luna, Mark Musumeci, Xavier Bryson.



Nathaniel Ko and John Durrant



## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

### Aims of the Friends

- to take appropriate initiatives in the presentation of the cultural tradition of St Mary's Cathedral to the City of Sydney
- to promote the pastoral, cultural and historical programmes proposed by the Archbishop and the Dean
- to assist in recruiting new ministers of hospitality.
- to arrange and conduct occasional social gatherings for the members of the Association.
- to provide support to Cathedral events.

### Our Mission, Our Goal

The Friends of the Cathedral have the specific opportunity of assisting the Dean of St Mary's to continue the Cathedral's pastoral, historical, musical and arts tradition and suggest practical initiatives to expand this mission.

Application for membership (\$20 Ordinary Member, \$25 joint membership or \$1000 for life member) may be obtained by contacting the Cathedral Office on 9220 0400.



# CONSERVATION



INSET:  
Sanctuary Refurbishment  
Works – installation of new  
Chancel Screens.

ALL BELOW:  
Conservation of the  
Cathedral Floor – laying of  
new granite paving tiles.

