



St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

Mgr Patrick CHAUVET

Recteur-archiprêtre

Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral

6 Notre-Dame square-Place Jean-Paul II

75004 Paris

16th May 2019

Very Reverend and Dear Monsignor Chauvet,

On behalf of the clergy, staff and parishioners of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, I want to assure you and your people of our prayers as you face the devastation by fire of your beloved Notre Dame Cathedral. Many Catholics from Sydney have visited Notre Dame de Paris to pray and to marvel at its beauty and significance, and no-one could be unaffected by the awful pictures of the fire.

I understand that at least one of the brave fire-fighters has been badly hurt, and we pray to the Lord that the protective love of Our Lady will keep everyone safe from any further harm.

The destruction of so much that is priceless and irreplaceable of Notre Dame Cathedral is a truly shocking blow. Please know that we in Sydney share in your grief and offer you our solidarity. Australians know that after fire comes new growth.

Our own, more modest, cathedral was destroyed by fire in 1865, but by God's grace and the efforts of the community it rose again from the ashes to flourish once more as our "mother church". How much greater must be the grief caused by the burning of your beautiful and historic Notre Dame, the repository of so many spiritual and artistic treasures and historical memories? But I pray with confidence that the people of France will restore and renew Notre Dame de Paris as your cultural, artistic, and above all sacramental home, a place of peace and beauty which elevates the heart and mind to God.

Mgr Chauvet I hope that you, with the clergy and the people of Paris, will take comfort from the coming Paschal feasts, which bring the promise of resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Fraternally in Christ,

Fr Donald Richardson

Dean of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

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