
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 28 August 2021 — Twenty-third edition

“let’s celebrate!”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

Every year as September approaches I get more excited, because September 2nd is a very special day in Sydney: it’s the Anniversary of the Dedication of St Mary’s Cathedral.

In terms of the liturgy, the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral of a diocese is celebrated as a Proper Solemnity in the cathedral itself, and as a Feast in all the other churches in the diocese.

Why make such a big deal about the anniversary of dedication of a church building anyway?

- “Through his death and resurrection, Christ became the true and perfect temple of the New Covenant and gathered together a people to be his own.
- This holy people, made one as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, is the Church, that is, the

temple of God built of living stones, where the Father is worshiped in spirit and in truth.

- Rightly, then, from early times ‘church’ has also been the name given to the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and to celebrate the Eucharist.
- Because the church is a visible building, it stands as a special sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven.
- When a church is erected as a building destined solely and permanently for assembling the people of God and for carrying out sacred functions, it is fitting that it be dedicated to God with a solemn rite, in accordance with the

ancient custom of the Church.”.

That’s a quote from the Introduction to the current Rite of Dedication of a Church. So a church is a sign of the spiritual and heavenly realities which really pertain to the Churchy made of living stones; and a cathedral has the added importance of being the seat of the bishop as chief shepherd, teacher and guardian of the flock of his diocese. When we gather here with our Archbishop for the solemn sacramental rites, Christ’s Church is visibly revealed and made present in a most full way. The solemn rites of dedication of a church – sprinkling, anointing, incensing, blessing – signify what God has done for us, washing us clean through baptism into Jesus’s death and resurrection, anointing us with the Holy Spirit, making us holy, joining us to Christ in his Mystical Body, the Church.

It’s worth celebrating! We’re not

only commemorating a past event, but constant, daily gift of God's mercy and love.

With the Covid lockdown, sadly you won't be able to visit the cathedral for the Anniversary this Thursday, but please join us online for the liturgies, and transform your home into a little cathedral chapel for the day!

God bless,



Fr Don Richardson, *Dean*

Chronicle Notices

SIGN THE NO EUTHANASIA PETITION TO PREVENT STATE-SANCTIONED KILLING IN NSW

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is urging all Catholics to sign an e-petition to prevent the NSW parliament passing laws that sanction the killing of vulnerable human beings. There is never a good time to introduce laws such as this, but to do so in the middle of a pandemic and amidst lockdowns adversely affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions is unconscionable.

Please sign this petition, calling on the Government to keep us focused on the present challenges and once they have been met, let us focus on medicine at its best and not its most lethal. Click image below



COVID-19 FAQs

Frequently-asked-questions
Please click here for further information

 CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Afghan Refugee Appeal

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, has launched the Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

TO DONATE TO THIS APPEAL PLEASE
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BEAUTY AND LIGHT with *FAITH*

By
Fr Donald Richardson

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BEAUTY AND LIGHT WITH FAITH, The Stained Glass Windows of St Mary's Cathedral, is a guide which takes the reader through the history and story of each beautiful stained glass window of St Mary's Cathedral and Crypt. The beauty and story in each window may serve to draw the reader closer to their faith.

Book will be available for distribution: November 2021

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