
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 24 September 2021 — Twenty-seventh edition

“In Time of Earthquake”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

I did not feel anything of the earthquake on Wednesday, though there were reports of buildings shaking this far away from the epicentre near Melbourne. When reports of a quake in Victoria came through, I was anxious to learn if St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne with its enormously tall central spire had suffered any damage, but apparently all is OK.

Many of you may remember when our own spires were being built, over 20 years ago now! Although they were built according to William Wardell's original design from the 1860's, modern rules, especially ones introduced after the Newcastle Earthquake of 1989, meant that the southern towers had to be strengthened and the spires themselves made quake-proof by being constructed with steel seismic reinforcement frames inside the load-bearing sandstone of the spires. In a clever bit of engineering, the cranes needed to lift the sandstone blocks were mounted on the top of the seismic frames!

As I was an Assistant Priest at the cathedral then, I got to see the fascinating design and construction process, and from time to time I was able to ascend and see the work progressing up close.

Here is a photo from 1999, with myself, Monsignor Tony Doherty (the Dean at that time) and a VIP visitor, Cardinal Roger Mahoney, Archbishop of Los Angeles, California, who was building a new, earthquake-proof, cathedral in that quake-prone metropolis. We are standing on the platform built over the cathedral roof between the two towers, with the seismic frame and the first few courses of stone of the South West Spire behind us.



Needless to say, Holy Mother Church is prepared for pretty much any eventuality, and so there is a special Mass “In Time of Earthquake” in the Missal. Here is the Collect Prayer for that Mass:

O God, who set the earth on its firm foundation,
 spare those who are fearful
 and show favour to those who implore you,
 so that, with all dangers of earthquake entirely gone,
 we may continue to experience your mercy and serve you in thankfulness,
 safe under your protection.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever. Amen.

If we do have another earthquake nearby, the spires are perhaps more resilient than the rest of the building. God willing, we’ll never have to find out for sure.

May we all have a steady week ahead!



Fr Don Richardson, *Dean*

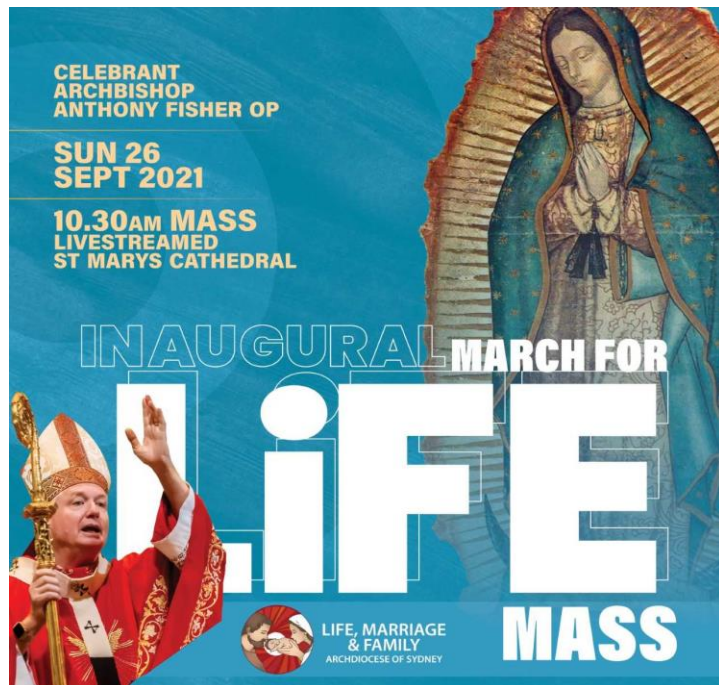
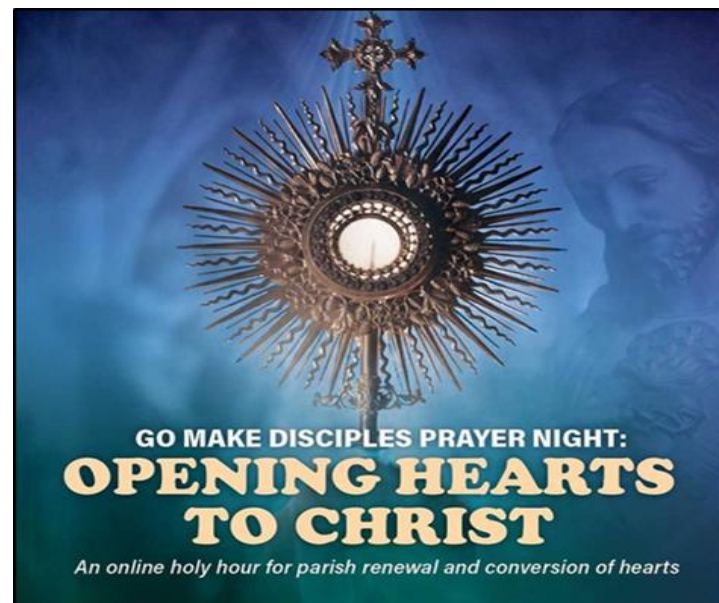
Chronicle Notices



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

Your *local* charity

**CLICK HER FOR
 Message from
 Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP**

Online Holy Hour for the needs of Sydney Catholics

Thursday 30 September

Registrations essential

Date: Thursday 30 September

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Online at

www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

THE Catholic Weekly
 DIGITAL EDITION

Free while Sydney churches are closed

Subscribe: www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/



Pre-order your copy now!

The first 100 copies ordered will be personally signed by the Author



BEAUTY AND LIGHT with *FAITH*

By
Fr Donald Richardson

\$45.00
+ \$5.00 postage & handling

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

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

SUBURB:

POSTCODE: STATE:

QUANTITY: TOTAL CHARGE:

PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM BACK TO: info@stmaryscathedral.org.au

A STAFF MEMBER WILL BE IN TOUCH WITHIN 48 HOURS OF RECEIVING YOUR ORDER TO PROCESS YOUR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Terms & Conditions: St Mary's Cathedral is collecting your personal information (including your name, your contact details such as your phone number, address and email address) and financial information (such as credit card details) so that you can purchase the book titled "Beauty and Light with Faith". Our privacy policy is available at <https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/sysweb/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SMC-PARISH-COLLECTION-NOTICE.pdf>