



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL VISION

July 2023

Have your say on our vision for the future of the Cathedral Precinct

We are exploring the future vision for St Mary's Cathedral, the spiritual home to Catholic communities across Greater Sydney and NSW.

Our vision is to protect and enhance the iconic Cathedral and grounds, whilst making these more accessible for everyone.



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

OUR VISION

St Mary's Cathedral is an iconic Sydney landmark that serves as the spiritual home to Catholic communities across Greater Sydney and NSW. Annually, the Cathedral welcomes more than one million parishioners and visitors as well as thousands of national and international tourists wanting to explore its iconic structure and heritage significance.

Planned for in the 1980s, the last site-wide masterplan and subsequent construction works were completed in 1991 when Cathedral House and the current Cathedral College were built.

Since this time, the uses and needs at the Cathedral Precinct have evolved, and the Archbishop of Sydney, His Grace Anthony Fisher OP, and the Dean of the Cathedral, Fr Don Richardson, have identified that the functional requirements of the Cathedral no longer match the facilities available on the site.

In response, the Cathedral is exploring its vision for a future masterplan. The vision seeks to celebrate the Cathedral's heritage and update and renew the facilities throughout the Precinct to support the needs of the Cathedral clergy, staff, parishioners, school and visitors for the next 40 years.

We are preparing our vision for the masterplan and would like feedback from parishioners and other interested parties to inform our thinking for the future of the site.

EXPLORING OUR FUTURE

In its current state, the Precinct has limited wheelchair and pram access and there are no options for parishioners to gather and meet after Mass. There are inadequate bathroom and baby change facilities and no refreshments available on the site.

To meet our current and future community needs, the masterplan for the Cathedral Precinct will explore:

- Improved amenities for parishioners, including on site refreshments and larger bathrooms.
- Improved spaces for parishioners to meet and socialise after mass and for community groups to gather.
- Improved access around the Cathedral Precinct including wheelchair and pram ramps and lift access to the crypt level.
- Relocating the gift shop to a less intrusive location.
- Better use of storage areas in the crypt.
- Possible co-location of the Chancery functions and agencies on to the site to provide a focal point for Catholic services at the Cathedral Precinct.
- Improving toilet facilities adjacent to Chapter Hall to support more uses and functions.
- Lighting upgrades internally and externally to improve general lighting, transition to low energy LED technology, and improve safety after dark.
- Expansion of the College to the new 52-58 William Street Campus.

The Stations of the Cross – restoration works



RESPECTING HERITAGE, UPDATING FOR TODAY

The St Mary's Cathedral Precinct is significant for being the first land granted to the Catholic Church in Australia. Known as the Mother Church for many Australian Catholics, the Precinct is regarded as one of the most spiritually significant sites for the Catholic community in Australia.

St Mary's Cathedral is continually being maintained and conserved to ensure its heritage integrity and Catholic cultural significance is protected.

Major conversation works completed over the last 5 years:

- Replacement of the Cathedral, baptistry, sacristy and Chapter Hall rooves with two-tone Welsh slate.
- Restoration of the Stations of the Cross and their frames.
- Installation of lead roof lining to the confessionals' sandstone rooves to provide rain protection.
- Cathedral song school upgrades (lighting, acoustics and new support spaces).

OUR NEXT STEPS

As the first step in the process, we're seeking feedback from parishioners and those with an interest in the Cathedral to inform the vision of the future masterplan.

Once our Cathedral masterplan is prepared, it will be presented back to the community for further feedback. Following engagement, any major plans will be submitted as a Development Application (DA) and will require consultation with City of Sydney Council and Heritage Council of NSW.

Subject to these discussions with Council, we will determine how best to take the project forward. We are committed to keeping the community informed of any changes.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We're at the early stages of a long and complex planning process, and community feedback now is a critical to shaping plans for the future of this iconic site.

Community information sessions

To help us gather your feedback, everyone is welcome to join us at a community information session after Mass where you can share your ideas and speak directly to the project team.

Sessions will run after the following Mass services:

- **Sunday 9 July:** 10:30am and 6:00pm
- **Thursday 13 July:** 1:10pm and 5:30pm
- **Friday 14 July:** 1:10pm and 5:30pm
- **Saturday 15 July:** 9:00am and 6:00pm
- **Sunday 16 July:** 10:30am and 6:00pm
- **Tuesday 18 July:** 1:10pm and 5:30pm
- **Wednesday 19 July:** 1:10pm and 5:30pm
- **Saturday 22 July:** 9:00am and 6:00pm

CONTACT US

We have commissioned Urbis Engagement to support us to hear your views.

To learn more or provide feedback, please fill out a paper form at one of the engagement sessions (times above) or you can complete an online survey at the QR code.



Email us at
engagement@urbis.com.au



Call us on
1800 244 863



Electronic
feedback forms



Visit
stmaryscathedral.org.au

