



*St Mary's Cathedral*  
SYDNEY

## **POLICY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY**

St Mary's Cathedral (SMC) stands in the centre of Sydney as a Christian statement of grace and beauty. Generations of artists have bequeathed to it their magnificent gifts in stone and glass, designing a unique space of solace and prayer within this vibrant city. This Cathedral represents the spiritual origins of the Catholic Church in Australia. It is one of Sydney's most treasured historic buildings and one of the finest examples of English-style gothic churches in the world. William Wilkinson Wardell, the 19th century architect, dreamed of a gothic structure shaped from the local yellow-block sandstone on which this city is built. The building was finally completed 100 years after the architect's death. The Cathedral is dedicated to Mary Help of Christians.

Due to this beauty and heritage, SMC is a key venue of interest and importance, not only within the Catholic community, but also for all Australians and international visitors. Although the Cathedral is a tourist attraction for many, it is fundamentally a sacred place for people to enter for private prayer, to celebrate Mass and to receive the sacraments of the Church.

Given this, it is important that strict guidelines are followed to preserve the prayerful and sacred nature of the Cathedral, whilst also ensuring a hospitable and welcoming environment for all who enter.

It is the role of Cathedral staff, security and volunteers to ensure that this policy is understood and visitors are advised accordingly.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### *Outside of Mass or Special Service*

Discreet photography within SMC is allowed outside of any Mass or special service under the following conditions;

- no flash is permitted at any time
- no close up photographs of people in private prayer or devotion
- no photography of children or visiting school groups i.e. tour groups or rehearsals
- no photography of the duties of staff i.e sacristans, or private organ lessons

### *During a Mass or Special Service*

Photography is not allowed during a Mass or special service unless the photographer has been contracted by SMC or the Archdiocese of Sydney, or approval has been given by the Dean or General Manager. This is to maintain respect for the Mass or special services that occur within the Cathedral, and ensure privacy and respect for all present.

## VIDEOGRAPHY

Videography within SMC is not allowed unless prior written approval has been given. This includes commercial and broadcast media who may wish to film within the Cathedral for a Mass or special event. For any enquires regarding this, please contact the Director of Catholic Communications.

### **SACRAMENTS – Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals**

The use of photography and videography during weddings is allowed, however, please refer to 'Guidelines for Weddings at St Mary's Cathedral' for details on placement and discretion.

The use of photography and videography during funerals is not permitted unless consent has been given by the family and confirmed with SMC beforehand.

The use of photography and videography during baptisms is permitted within the confines of the baptistery area. It is appropriate to consult with the priest prior to commencement for best placement.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY – EXTERNAL

Photography and videography is permitted outside St Mary's Cathedral. However to maintain the privacy and child protection guidelines;

- no photography or videography is allowed of the entrances or exits to Cathedral House or the Song School
- no photography of the Crypt or surrounding gardens when children are present i.e. boys of the Cathedral Choir
- no photography of the private car park underneath Cathedral House

Any commercial or broadcast media are not allowed on the Cathedral property unless approval has been given prior to their arrival.

For any enquiries regarding this policy, please contact St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

*Last updated  
8 August 2023*