



# St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

## **Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney**

*St Mary's Cathedral is the Cathedral church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney and the seat of the Archbishop of Sydney, The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP.*

*It is dedicated to the "Immaculate Mother of God, Help of Christians", Patroness of Australia and holds the title and dignity of a minor basilica, bestowed upon it by Pope Pius XI on 4 August 1932.*

*I invite you to explore , reflect and pray within this sacred space.*

***Fr Don Richardson, Dean of St Mary's Cathedral***

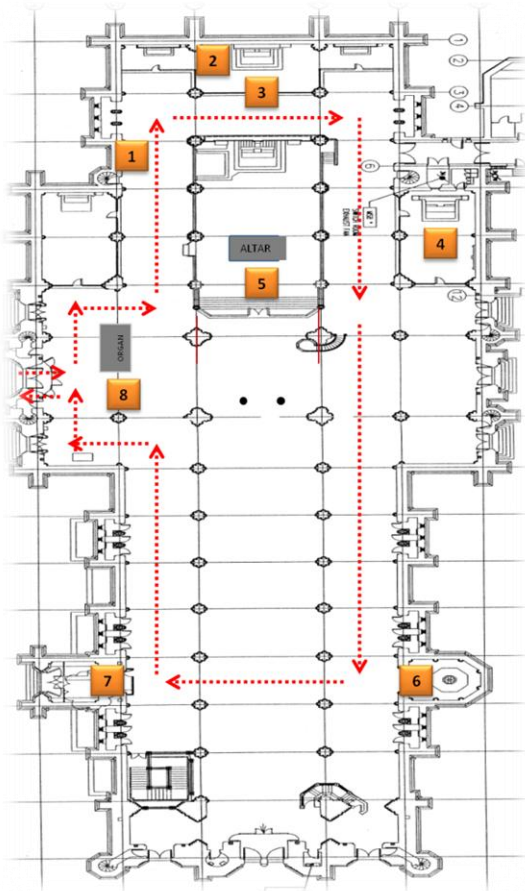


## **Cathedral Facts:**

- ❖ 1821 - The foundation stone of the first St Mary's Chapel is laid by Gov. Macquarie and blessed by Fr Therry
- ❖ 1865 – St Mary's Cathedral is destroyed by fire
- ❖ 1868 – the foundation stone of the present Cathedral is laid
- ❖ St Mary's is designed principally in the Geometric Decorated style of Gothic Revival which first evolved around the 13th century
- ❖ St Mary's Cathedral is 107 metres (351 ft) in length. The Nave is 24.3 metres (80 ft) wide. The Nave height 22.5 metres (74 ft) and the central tower rises to 46 metres (151ft)
- ❖ Number of spires = 2. Spire height 74.6 metres (245 ft)
- ❖ The slope of the land and an apparent error in the 'starting point' of the building on the site necessitated the addition of a flight of more than 30 steps to the front of the building by the architects
- ❖ Construction materials used consisted of Sydney sandstone, Oamaru stone, marble, alabaster, Moruya granite
- ❖ There are a total of 70 internal access doors and 47 external doors
- ❖ The stained glass windows of the Cathedral were made in Birmingham, England at the famous Hardman Studios and were brought to Australia in the late 1880's
- ❖ Today the Cathedral's central Moran Tower houses 14 bells. The Bells range in weight with the smallest weighing at 281kg whilst the heaviest weighs 1741kg. Each bell is named after a saint of the Church
- ❖ Another bell is located in the Southern Tower of the Cathedral. The Angelus Bell is one of the original bells of the 1882 peal and is still rung everyday at 12 noon for the Angelus prayer and devotion.



## SELF-GUIDED TOUR



- 1. St Francis Xavier Relic**  
*A first class Relic of St Francis Xavier, former patron of Australia*



- 2. Our Lady, Help of Christians**  
*statue dedicated to the patroness of this Cathedral and of Australia.*



- 3. Our Lady Chapel**  
*Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Chapel also contains statues of famous female saints!*



- 4. Chapel of Irish Saints**  
*Dedicated to the Irish Saints of the Church and paying homage to Australia's Irish Heritage*



- 5. Sanctuary and Main Altar**  
*The Main Altar was consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day. Also located on the Sanctuary is the Cathedra, the throne of the Archbishop*



- 6. Baptistry**  
*Fr. Albert Clarke included in his Will enough funds to furnish the Baptistry. The silver lid and lining of the font are the largest piece of silver in Australia.*



- 8. Organs of St Mary's Cathedral**  
*The Cathedral currently has four organs. They are the Whitehouse 1942 (southern gallery), Sharp 1960 (triforium), Bellsham 1985 (crypt) and the Letourneau 1999 (transept).*



- 7. Cathedral Shop**  
*Feel free to purchase religious items and souvenirs to remember your visit.*

