



GATHERING

ST MARY'S

OUR CATHEDRAL

OUR FAMILY

COMBINED PUBLICATION OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL COLLEGE AND THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

APR 2009





FAREWELL



With this issue of *Gathering*, we say farewell to Father Neil Brown, who has been Administrator and Dean of St Mary's Cathedral for the past four years. During his time here, he has given firm leadership to the work of conservation and restoration, as well as wise and gentle direction of the spiritual life of the Cathedral parish, which also includes, Woolloomooloo, Norfolk Island and Sacred Heart Church at Darlinghurst. Last year he saw the completion of the work on the floor and the Cathedral and the erection of the High Altar in the Sanctuary in time for Pope Benedict's visit in July for World Youth Day. Father Neil was appointed Parish Priest of St Anne's Shrine, Bondi Beach, at the beginning of October 2008.

We wish him well in his new appointment.

Fr Michael De Stoop, who is the Vocations Director of the Archdiocese of Sydney, and who is presently on the Cathedral staff, has announced his new appointment as Administrator of St Benedict's parish at Broadway. Father Michael has been at St Mary's for the past five years, assisting the Dean with the spiritual life of the Cathedral parish, and acting as Master of Ceremonies for the Cardinal when required. We keep him in our prayers for his new ministry at Broadway, and thank him for his pastoral care at the Cathedral.

We recently farewelled Fr Liem Duong, Assistant Priest at the Cathedral for the past three years and who also served as a Deacon prior to his ordination to the priesthood. We thank Fr Liem for all his good works at St Mary's, in particular with Embrace, the young adults group, and as Chaplain to the Cathedral College. We wish him well at Sacred Heart Parish in Cabramatta.

Father Huy Trong Phan replaces Fr Liem and we look forward to his friendship and pastoral care. Father Huy's previous appointment was at Cabramatta.



MASS TIMES

St Mary's Cathedral

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 7am, 9am, 10.30am (Solemn Sung Mass), 6pm

Monday to Friday 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm

Saturday & Public Holidays 9am & 12noon

St Columbkille's

Sunday 9am



Project team members left to right; Jim Woolford, Malcolm Brady and Ralph Morris

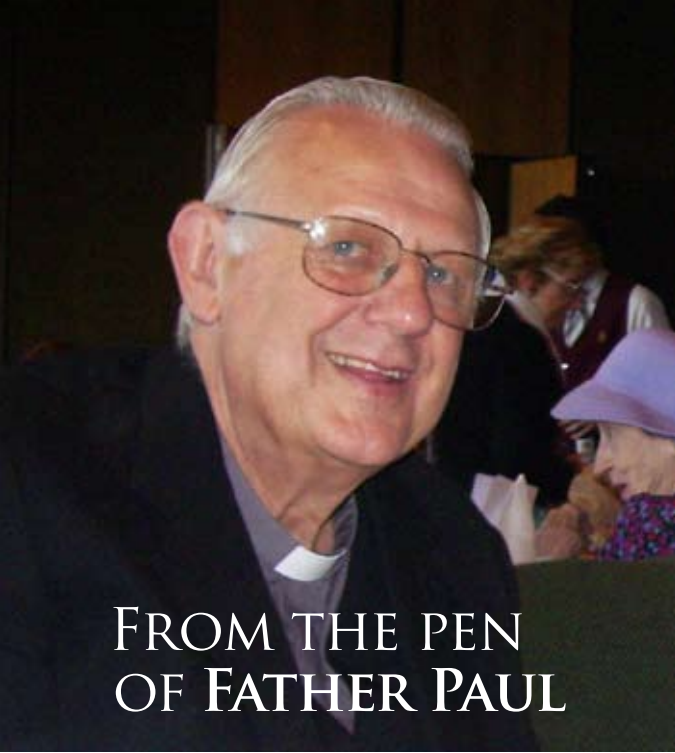
CHANGES IN THE BELL TOWER

Alterations to the positioning of the bells in the Bell Tower of St Mary's Cathedral are now complete. The realignment of three of the small bells has created a more accurate ringing circle and has improved the sight lines between individual bell ringers. These newly improved sight lines will enable the ringers to add more complicated performances to their repertoire.

Alterations included extending the bell frame, repositioning each bell and its fittings and drilling new holes in the ceiling of the ringing chamber to accommodate the new rope positions.

The project team included Jim Woolford, Bell Captain of St Mary's Cathedral; Ralph Morris, Project Manager; Kevin Nicey, Consulting Engineer and Malcolm Brady, Bell Captain of St Benedict's Broadway who gave his time generously on a voluntary basis to design and construct the alteration work to the structural steel bell frame.





FROM THE PEN OF FATHER PAUL

On the 4th October, 2008, I was pleased to take up my new appointment as Administrator and Dean of St Mary's Cathedral after an absence from the Cathedral of twelve years in the parish of Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills.

I love the Cathedral and before I became a Priest, it was a special place for me where I attended Mass and went to confession when working in the city. Here my vocation was recognised and the graces given me to respond. I was privileged to be appointed here in the 1980s and 1990s and to be able to take part in the spiritual and liturgical life of the Cathedral, and perhaps contribute a little something of my own.

Cathedrals are beautiful buildings and testimonies of the faith of successive generations. They are never really finished. They are meant to be icons of the changing nature of humanity and an expression of the Church as the Holy People of God, a People on a journey of faith, sharing with one another their life's story.

When I left the Cathedral twelve years ago, I left a Cathedral where the work of restoration was beginning. The work envisaged then was mainly on the exterior stonework. I could see many things that needed to be done and often wondered whether this could ever be achieved, given the considerable effort and amount of money required for the task. I come back now to see a vastly different Cathedral. Those things that I dreamed about are either realised or well on the way to realisation.

The work of restoration and conservation is ongoing. Each successive generation will have their own contribution to make to the life of the Church and their Cathedral. With the generosity of our benefactors and those who love the Cathedral, the process will continue.

New statue of Pope John Paul II donated to St Mary's Cathedral by the Italian-Australian community of Sydney and generous donations led by Italo Mazzola

BRONZE STATUE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

A statue of Pope John Paul II, a gift from the Sydney Italian community, stands on the western side of St Mary's Cathedral on College Street. The two metre tall statue is made from a fusion of bronze and wax and weighs approximately five tons. It is the work of Italian sculptor, Fiorenzo Bacci of Pordenone Italy.

The statue is a beautiful and lasting reminder of Pope John Paul for his admirable commitment to the Church and for his untiring work. It is the hope of the Italian community that the statue would encourage many to embark on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral and renew their consecration to Mary.



NEW EXHIBITION PANELS FOR THE CRYPT

Four big lecterns in the Crypt which held the exhibition panels of *The First Australian Catholics, from convict ships to the great fire*, have now been replaced with light, movable and colourful display banners. Without the large lecterns, there is a greater appreciation of the exquisite floor and a better overall use of the Crypt.

This long running exhibition has proven very popular with Catholic and non-Catholic schools alike and those with interest in the history of our faith and our nation.

A recent addition of various artefacts of the Cathedral openings has also been included in this display.





CONSERVATION



Stone restoration works in progress to the Cathedral College Street façade



Restored historical brass lectern (circa 1860)



Ralph Morris, Project Manager, and Fr Paul Hilder inspecting the brass lectern



Restored brass baptistery gates



Restored Cathedral façade overlooking Cathedral Square

PROJECTS FOR 2009

- Restoration of the lower façade of the Cathedral facing College Street.
- Interior stonework restoration.
- Restoration of brass baptistery gates.
- Roof plumbing restoration works including repairs to flashings, downpipes and roof dormers.
- Restoration of internal timber doors.
- Carving of life sized marble statues of the Risen Christ and Mary Magdalene for the main sanctuary.
- Restoration and installation of historic stone statue of the Virgin & Child in the Cathedral surrounds.
- Completion of new burial sites in the Cathedral Crypt.
- Restoration and installation of the historic Pieta in the Cathedral Crypt.
- Installation of historic bust of Cardinal Gilroy within the Cathedral surrounds.
- Installation of a new Angelus Bell in the south east bell tower of the Cathedral.



The new Cathedral floor



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION APPEAL

St Mary's Cathedral, St Mary's Rd, Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 02 9220 0464 Fax: 02 9223 5208 www.stmaryscathedral.org.au appeals@stmaryscathedral.org.au

MY GIFT TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL APRIL 2009

TITLE	FIRST NAME	SURNAME		
ADDRESS			ONGOING SUPPORT	
STATE	POSTCODE	PHONE	PLEASE CHARGE \$ _____ MONTHLY TO MY CREDIT CARD UNTIL I ADVISE OTHERWISE	
EMAIL				
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
<input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE ENC		<input type="checkbox"/> OR PLEASE DEBIT MY		<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX
AMOUNT \$				
CARD NO			NAME ON CARD	EXPIRY DATE /
SIGNATURE				
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SEND ME A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT		<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON INCLUDING ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL IN MY WILL		
CHEQUES: FOR NON TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL; FOR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL ANCILLARY FUND				



THE WAY OF THE CROSS AT HYDE PARK

The Youth Group of St Mary's, *Embrace*, led by the spirited Fr Liem Duong, began an Easter prayer vigil in Hyde Park some three years ago. *The Way of the Cross* is a dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The Cross processes along Central Avenue Hyde Park with prayers, readings in different languages, and hymns at each of the fourteen stations. The Youth group hopes to see many, from all ages, attend *The Way of the Cross* on Good Friday, 10th April.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Many who attended the Cathedral's first Parish Christmas Festival in December last year enjoyed the various activities and entertainment that the festival offered. Delicious food, children's activities and face painting; BBQ and fine cuisine, a great concert with the Cathedral Voices, Cathedral Scholars and the Sydney Street Choir, and a Youth Conference were on offer. The wonderful festival concluded with the 6pm Youth Mass.



Easter

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

PALM SUNDAY

5th April

7.00am Mass

9.00am Mass

10.15am Blessing of the Palms and Procession, followed by the Solemn High Mass at 10.30am

6.00pm Youth Mass

HOLY THURSDAY

9th April

10.30am Chrism Mass and Consecration of Oils

6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

9.00pm Night Prayer (Compline)

GOOD FRIDAY

10th April

10.00am Stations of the Cross with the Cathedral Choir

3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

5.00pm The Way of the Cross at Hyde Park

EASTER VIGIL

11th April

8.00pm Service of Light and Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

12th April

7.00am Mass

9.00am Mass

10.30am Solemn High Mass

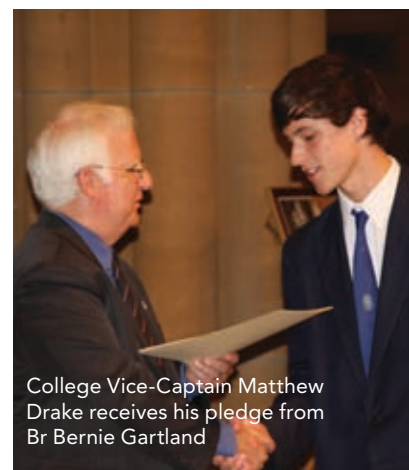
6.00pm Youth Mass

STUDENT LEADERS

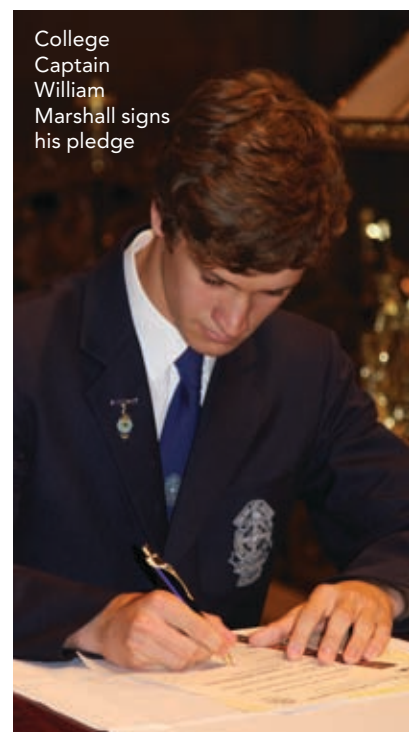
The Opening School Mass on February 4th in St Mary's Cathedral is one of the most important events in the St Mary's Cathedral College calendar. Not only does it mark the first occasion where the whole school body gathers together to celebrate the Eucharist, the first such Mass for more than 200 students new to the College, but it also serves as an induction for the College's new leaders.

All of the College prefects, chosen by their peers and the staff, sign a pledge to uphold the finest traditions of the school and promise to discharge the responsibilities of student leadership with which they have been entrusted. All students in Year 12 likewise pledge to demonstrate leadership to all the younger students in the College and to support the College's ideals and aims. This year's College Captain is William Marshall, a

former chorister who has been a student at the school since Year 5, and who made his opening address to the College community at the Mass. William was also entrusted with the 'Captain's Diary', a volume containing the reflections of the last seven College captains, and which can only be read by the present incumbent. He is supported by his Vice-Captain, Matthew Drake. The other prefects are: Joel D'Angelo, Joshua Finnegan, Paddy Hall, Chris Jansen, Darren Lesaguis, Kieran Movsessian, Christian Schrammel, Nick Skapetis, Chris Soubris, and Vass Stylli. House leaders, who take on the role of leading their teams at carnivals and other sporting events are: Scott Reynolds (Kelly), Mitchell Shad (Moran), Michael Cremin (Polding) and Anthony Pledger (Vaughan). We wish all these students well in their role as student leaders in 2009.



College Vice-Captain Matthew Drake receives his pledge from Br Bernie Gartland



College Captain William Marshall signs his pledge



2009 Prefects with Br David Standen



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, INC

Our Mission, Our Goal. The Friends of the Cathedral have the specific opportunity of assisting the Dean of St Mary's to continue the Cathedral's pastoral, historical, musical and arts tradition and suggest practical initiatives to expand this mission. To join this worthwhile group, simply contact the Cathedral office on 9220 0400.

REMEMBER ST MARY'S IN YOUR WILL

Join those who support the conservation of this great Cathedral and ensure that St Mary's, the Mother Church of Australian Catholics, continues into the future as a building of great beauty and significance.

To obtain a free copy of our booklet on preparing wills, *Making a Will – a simple guide*, or for more information, contact our Bequest Officer on Tel. 9220 0400 or email mpalomares@stmaryscathedral.org.au



COMPLETED CONSERVATION WORKS

New Chancel screens, Cathedra and Exultation
(this photo and photo to right)



New celebrant's chair

Restored painting: "Assumption of Mary" (copy after Raphael, circa 1800s) located in the Cathedral Crypt



New marble altar
dedicated by His Holiness
Pope Benedict XVI;
WYD 2008

