ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
Sydney ⬥ Australia

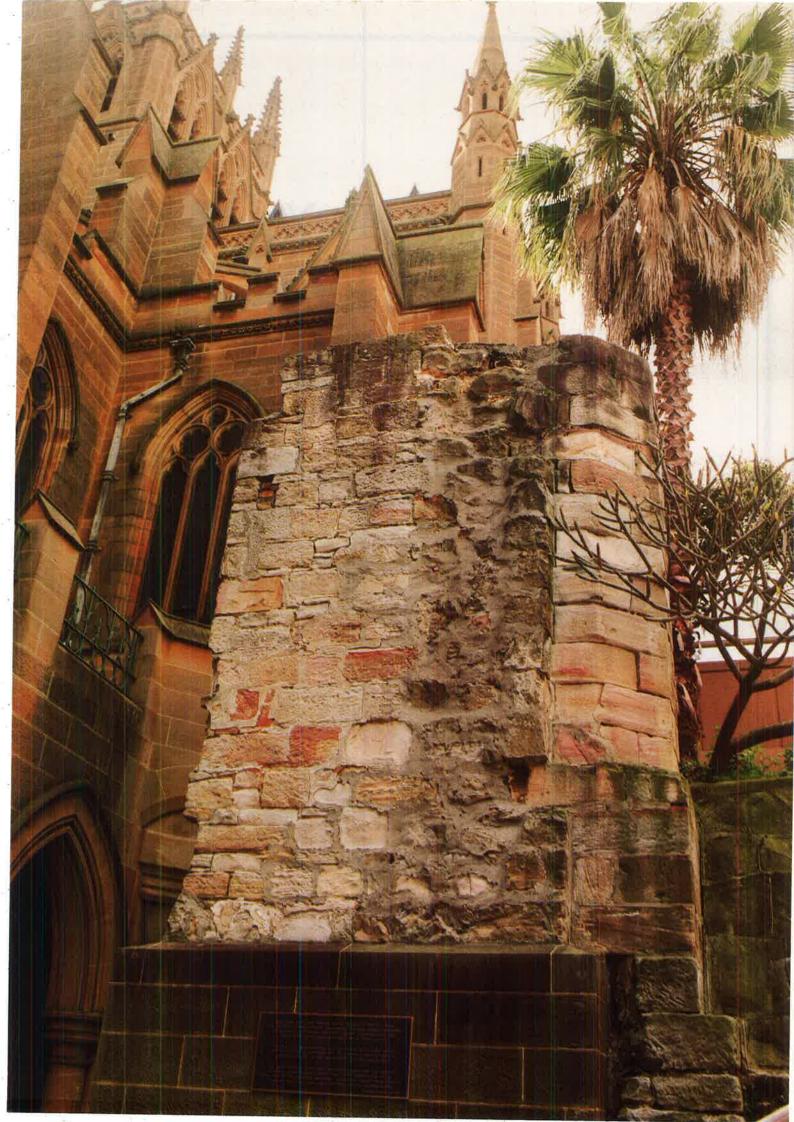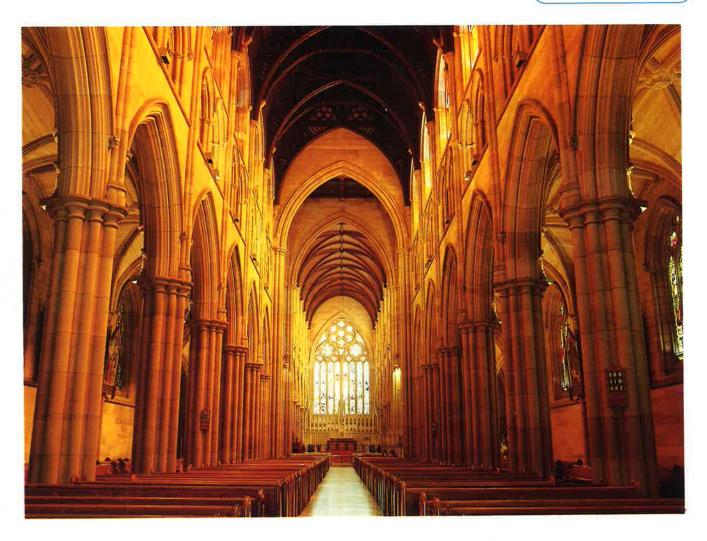# The Cathedral Church of His Eminence, Cardinal Edward Bede Clancy, A.C.

THE AMBULATORY

WEST CHANCEL AISLE

EAST CHANCEL AISLE

COLLEGE STREET

WEST NAVE AISLE

EAST NAVE AISLE

1	The Sanctuary
2	The Main Altar
3	Episcopal Chair
4	Tabernacle Altar
5	The Blessed Sacrament Chapel
6	Great North Window
7	Altar of Saint Joseph
8	Altar of Saint Peter
9	Chapel of the Sacred Heart
10	Statue - Mary, Help of Christians
11	Chapel of the Irish Saints
12	The Pulpit
13	The Crossing (Bell Tower over)
14	East Transept
15	West Transept
16	The Nave
17	The Baptistery
18	Great South Door
19	Information Centre
20	Toilets

The Following areas are not open to the public.

21	Archbishop's Sacristy
22	Priests' Sacristy
23	Acolytes' & Assistant Ministers' Sacristy
24	Courtyard of Processions

ST MARY'S
CATHEDRAL

Sydney ◆ Australia

A Living Church

The Cathedral Church has many functions within a diocese. It is the seat of the bishop and the sign of unity of the particular Church. St Mary's Cathedral not only fulfills that role but also stands as witness to the Gospel in the life of the city of Sydney. It is a symbol of Catholic faith, courage and generosity, and a national Shrine in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary
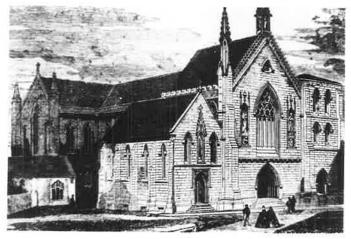
The Cathedral is the setting for archdiocesan liturgical celebrations when the people of the Archdiocese gather with their Archbishop. Every Sunday it is the setting for several different celebrations of the Eucharist. The solemn Mass with the Cathedral choir is an example of a particular Cathedral liturgy that attracts both a regular community, and many visitors, who come to experience a style of liturgical celebration not available in parish churches.

During the week, the Cathedral is a place of prayer and quiet in the midst of the city, attracting city workers who come to pray, to participate in one of the weekday Masses or to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in the individual rite of reconciliation.

On Saturdays, the Cathedral is the setting for the celebration of Marriages and occasionally it is used for funerals and special celebrations including significant ecumenical gatherings. From time to time children are baptised in the Cathedral.

It is clear that for many who enter, St Mary's Cathedral is not only a fine example of a neo-Gothic Cathedral but is a place where the human person encounters the transcendent God.
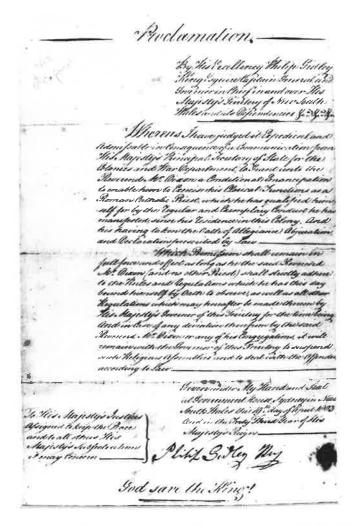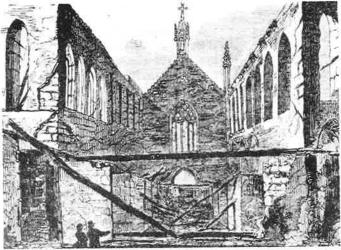
THE FIRST OFFICIALLY APPOINTED chaplains to the colony, Fathers Conolly and Therry, held a public meeting in Sydney's Court House in 1820 to raise funds to build St. Mary's. With half the Catholic population consisting of convicts and the rest ticket-of-leave men (paroled prisoners), most gifts were small. Many gave goods instead of cash. Governor Macquarie made two donations of ten pounds. Other notable citizens also contributed. Many non-Catholics gave both moral and financial support.

Francis Greenway, the colony's most renowned architect, was initially asked to prepare plans. He wanted a simple, inexpensive building, but his plans were rejected. Therry had more ambitious ideas and the majority of Catholics, the poorest community in the colony, agreed. They wanted a splendid symbol to demonstrate they were as good as their 'betters'.

Governor Macquarie allotted land which was in an undesirable location near the convict barracks. The Rocks area at that time was considered the finest part of town, but Therry had to accept what ironically was to become one of the best locations in Sydney.

On October 29, 1821, Macquarie laying the foundation stone remarked: "Although I never laid the first stone of a Catholic Church before, I am a very old mason (Freemason)." He vowed to keep the trowel as a reminder of the cooperation between Church and State and wished the Catholic flock success. Throughout the building of St. Mary's debts were an ever present

problem. Therry simply left it to Divine Providence to provide. Others had to try and cope with the financial problems. Governor Bourke arrived in 1831 and voted 500 pounds in the following year towards roofing and flooring the church. The first Mass was celebrated by Therry in the Chapel in December, 1833. On the arrival of Bishop Polding in September 1835, St. Mary's was elevated to the status of a Cathedral.

Then disaster struck. On June 29 1865 the church burnt down. Although devastated at the loss, a new church was soon planned. In October 1865 Archbishop Polding invited William Wardell to design a new grand cathedral. The gothic style was chosen by Wardell. Work commenced on the new cathedral in 1866. The foundation stone was laid on the 8th December, 1868.

Work continued under Archbishop Vaughan, second Archbishop of Sydney, who held fundraising bazaars, concerts and soirees and wrote more than 2000 personal appeals for donations adorning them with whimsical, artistic sketches.

On the 8th September 1882, the unfinished cathedral, was opened and solemnly dedicated by Archbishop Vaughan, with three days of ceremonies. Cardinal Moran, Third Archbishop of Sydney, arrived in September 1884 and continued the money-raising work, with personal appeals, parish bazaars and a Grand Australian Fair. He described the Cathedral as "the gift of the poor" because they had raised most of the money. St. Mary's was officially opened in September 1900, to the joyous peel of bells. Inside the flower-decked cathedral, ladies in silks and satins and gentlemen in tall hats contrasted with the rich scarlet of the Cardinal's robes, the purple of bishops and monsignori, the colourful uniforms of soldiers and consuls. In 1905 the cathedral was officially consecrated.
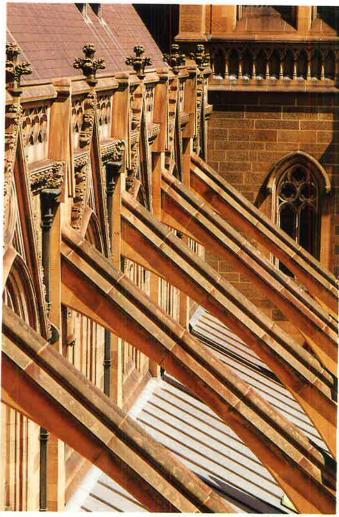
On June 8, 1913 the last foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Kelly in another colourful ceremony, with a magnificent procession, an Irish Band and colourful banners. In 1928 the final official ceremony took place, with the opening of the completed Cathedral. In the late 1940's Cardinal Gilroy began the work of decorating the crypt with terrazzo work. The bodies of Church dignitaries connected with St. Mary's were interred there.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, a Gothic style building of honey-coloured dressed Pyrmont stone, with a richly carved facade, is one of Sydney's most beautiful buildings. Churches are normally built on an east to west orientation with the sanctuary in the east catching the rising sun and the setting sun coming in the western door. St Mary's had to be built on a north to south axis because of the fall of the land and the huge dimensions of the building. Its main entrance in Cathedral Street is reached by a flight of 37 steps, flanked by the imposing bronze statues of Cardinal Moran and Archbishop Kelly. Both statues were created by Australian sculptor, Sir Bertram McKennal, who was also responsible for the Cenotaph figures in Martin Place.

The three entrance doors, decorated with beautiful iron tracery, are surmounted by carved archways. The niche in the main centre archway formerly held a statue of the Virgin Mary.

On the eastern wall outside the baptistery you will find the Latin inscription: "Baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. " Notice that the far northern section of wall is far more ornate, dating from 1882. Outside and looking up, you can see a gargoyle decorating the South Tower. Gargoyles, which reputedly warded off evil spirits, are scattered around the 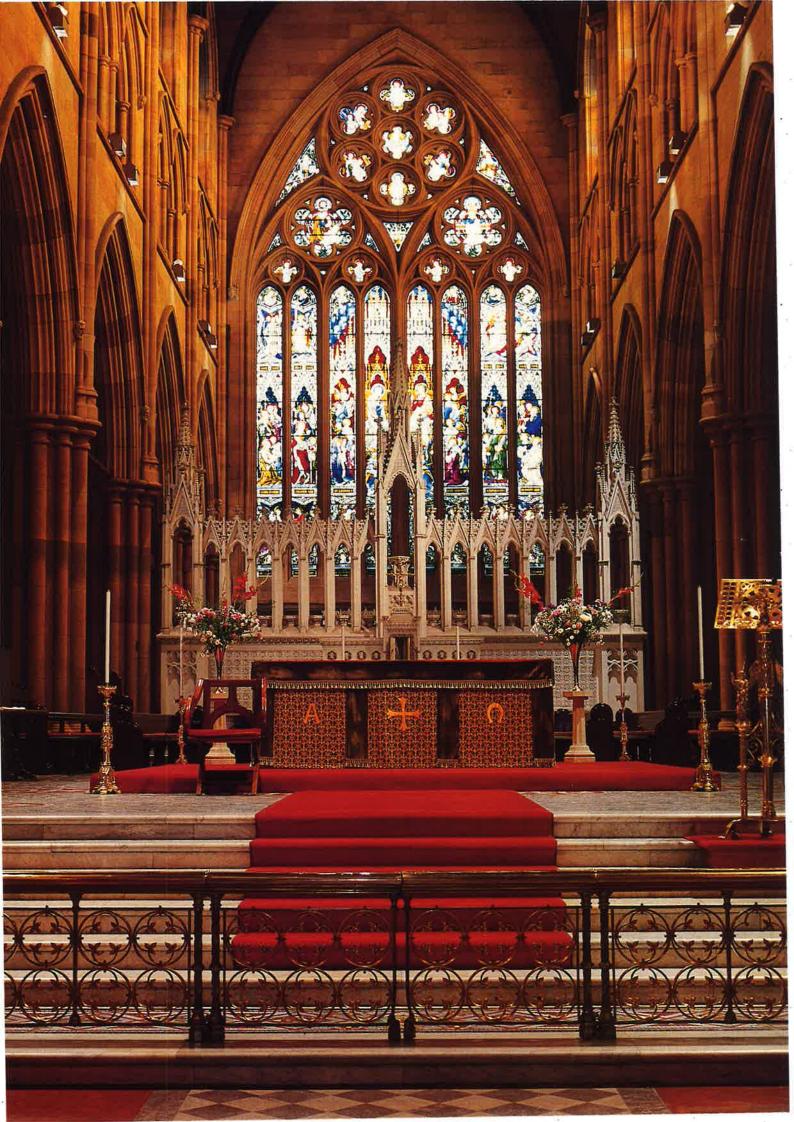Cathedral facade. On the right, a column of brick stands, the only remaining part of the old wall of the original cathedral, burnt down in 1865. On the outside wall near the eastern door to the crypt you'll notice one of the cathedral's foundation stones. This one was laid in 1913. The church has towers but no spires. They were never added because of cost. In 1928 the total cost of the Cathedral was 70,000 pounds to build. When it was officially opened, there was still a debt of 7,000 pounds. As you enter the main southern door, on your left is a statue of St Patrick donated by the Hibernian Society. The stained glass window above commemorates a scene from the life of St. Martin of Tours, cutting a cloak in half to clothe a beggar. Immediately on your left, looking down into the crypt is the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. The bronze recumbent, touchingly vulnerable looking figure sculpted by George Lambert represents a young Australian soldier lying dead on the battlefield of World War 1. On the floor nearby is the tenor bell from the cathedral's second peel of bells, awaiting erection in the South-West Tower where it will sound the Angelus. Looking back to the southern wall, you'll see the Great Organ and the Southern Rose Window. Walking along the western aisle towards the High Altar, the bookshop/enquiry office is located against the wall of the left (western) aisle, followed by confessionals divided by columns of Moruya granite. Notice the inscription 'PAX' (peace) and the papal keys on the glass windows and the little carved heads of saints. On the left of the College Street entrance door is a statue of the Pieta, a copy of

THE ARCHITECT

The architect of St. Mary's Cathedral, William Wilkinson Wardell (born 1823, died 1899) was an Englishman, a disciple of Augustus Welby Pugin, an architect influential in the revival of Gothic architecture. Wardell devoted his spare time to sketching and measuring medieval buildings. He came to Australia in 1858, hoping to recover from ill health, settling in Victoria where he became Inspector of Public Works. Archbishop Polding arranged for him to prepare plans for the new cathedral, leaving him wide scope with the design. Construction of the present cathedral began in 1866 (the year after fire demolished the first church). It features the Gothic style Wardell so loved pointed arches, flying buttresses (above) and ribbed vaults. Wardell also designed St. John's College in the University of Sydney and the interior of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Michelangelo's masterpiece, carved in Carrera marble, in the workshop of Nicoli Sigmas in Italy. It was given in 1971 by David Jones Ltd. (a Sydney department store) to mark the 150th anniversary of the cathedral's founding. On the wall nearby is a bust of Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty sculpted by S. Kolozsy and presented by the Council of Hungarian Organisations of NSW and the Hungarians of Sydney in 1983. The cardinal was Primate of Hungary from 1945 to 1974. Further along on the west wall past the entrance door and the Holy Water Fonts of white Italian marble is a bust of Pope John Paul II which commemorates his visit in 1986. Nearby a plaque commemorating Pope Paul VI's visit in 1970, the first pope to visit Australia.

Pope Paul VI celebrated Mass in St. Mary's, the Mother Church of Australia, leaving behind his mitre and pastoral staff as mementos. Take a seat in the transept and look up at the beautiful stone groined roof with its bosses, some inscribed with the letters IHS (Jesus Christ in Greek). Many of the sandstone columns are decorated with carved heads of saints. The Triforia, arcaded galleries originally intended as a second row of windows, extend the length of the nave.

Above are clerestory windows of amber coloured glass. Before stained glass replaced some of them, all cathedral windows were amber coloured. The side aisles have groined stone arches, while groined timber forms the roof of the transept and nave. The area under the bell tower is oak pannelled and painted sky blue and red, and decorated with stars. The Stations of the Cross, on either side wall, depict the passion and death of Jesus. They were commissioned by Cardinal Moran while in Europe in 1885 and painted by L. Crovet, a Parisian artist.

A beautifully painted statue of Mary, Help of Christians (Patroness of Australia and of the Cathedral), near the eastern door is surrounded by candles and flowers. It is believed to have been donated in the nineteenth century by the family of Sir Patrick Jennings, pastoralist, politician and relation of Cardinal Vaughan. Proceeding past t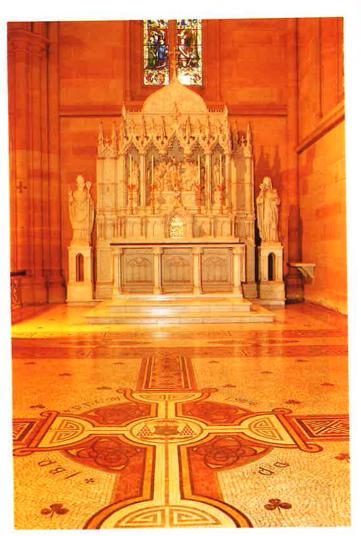he statue, along the eastern aisle near the confessionals you will notice the outline of where the first baptistery was located in the old cathedral. Further along you come to the Baptistery, enclosed by a beautiful brass grille and doors. The font is of ornately carved Royal Sienna marble, the work of Anselm Odling. It is covered by a silver canopy. The mosaic floor is delicately patterned in flowers and foliage.
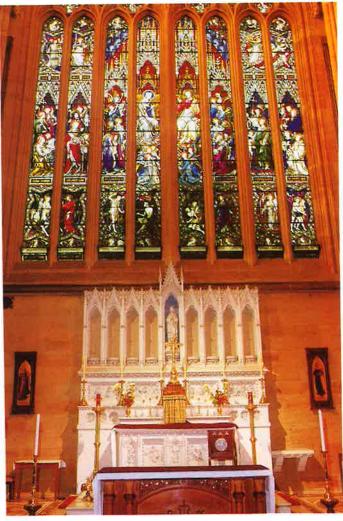
Turn and walk back to the High altar. Notice the beautiful brass lectern, a gift of Father H. B. Callachor in memory of his father. The altar, of Oamaru stone from New Zealand, was a gift of Messrs. Riley Bros. It bears the inscription 'To The Greater Glory of God and in Grateful memory of Archbishop Polding'. A stone table is supported by five marble shafts, with bases and capitals of carved alabaster. Underneath, two richly carved panels of sculpture in bas relief represent the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. The upper part of the altar is decorated with carved heads. Notice the beautifully carved reredos (altar screen) with its

crocketted work. The chased and embossed brass tabernacle doors inlaid with stones depict Angels carrying wheat, grapes, chalice and ciborium. The six highly burnished brass lamps on a circular base supported by lions' feet were designed by William Wardell. On the left, the Archiepiscopal Throne bears the Coat of Arms of the current Archbishop. The ornate brass communion rails were donated by Dean Mahony, the Administrator in 1885. The iron lace railings on each side of the High Altar were manufactured by the Balmain Engineering Co, to a design of Sir George Julius.

All altars are made from Oamaru stone except that of the Irish saints which is of Italian marble.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ALTAR (Right)
(formerly the LADY CHAPEL) lies directly behind the High Altar. A red sanctuary lamp indicates that the Blessed Sacrament is kept here. The chapel is reserved for prayer and Daily Mass is celebrated here. The altar gates bear Cardinal Moran's monogram.

ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR
The altar is on the left of the Blessed Sacrament Altar. Altar niches contain statues of St. Joachim and St. Anne (parents of the Blessed Virgin) and St. Elizabeth and St. John the Baptist.
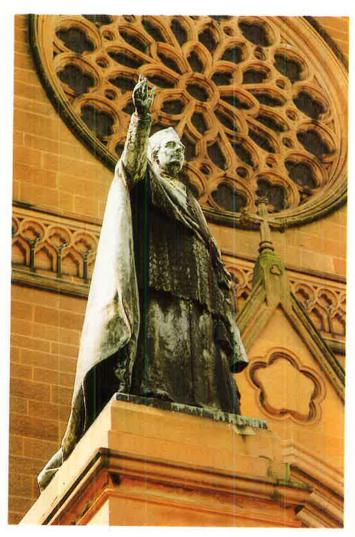
ST. PETER'S ALTAR
This is to the right of the Blessed Sacrament Altar, with its sculptured group representing Christ's command to Peter to look after the Christian flock. Two chapels lie on either side of the High Altar: On the eastern side the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, on the western side the Chapel of the Irish saints.

CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART
The mosaic floor shows a pelican piercing her breast to feed her young (an image of Christ and His flock). Symbols of Christ's passion in mosaic include pieces of silver and a money bag, the ladder, spear and sponge, the pincers and nails, the kingly crown and the crown of thorns.

CHAPEL OF THE IRISH SAINTS (Left)
The mosaic floor was laid by Peter Melocco. In a special memorial built of Waverely sandstone is a bronze bust of Cardinal Moran. Australian flora, gum blossoms, flannel flowers and waratahs, have been incorporated in the carvings surrounding the bust.

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ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

THE ARCHBISHOPS OF SYDNEY
ARCHBISHOP JOHN BEDE POLDING

An English Benedictine, who related well to all levels of society. He promoted education, especially for underprivileged convicts, the poor, orphans and destitute women. Founded St. John's College, University of Sydney, and the Congregation of Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St. Benedict.
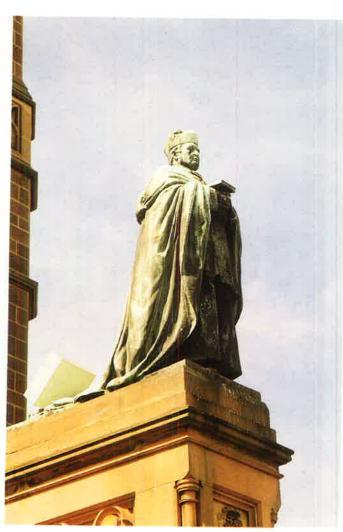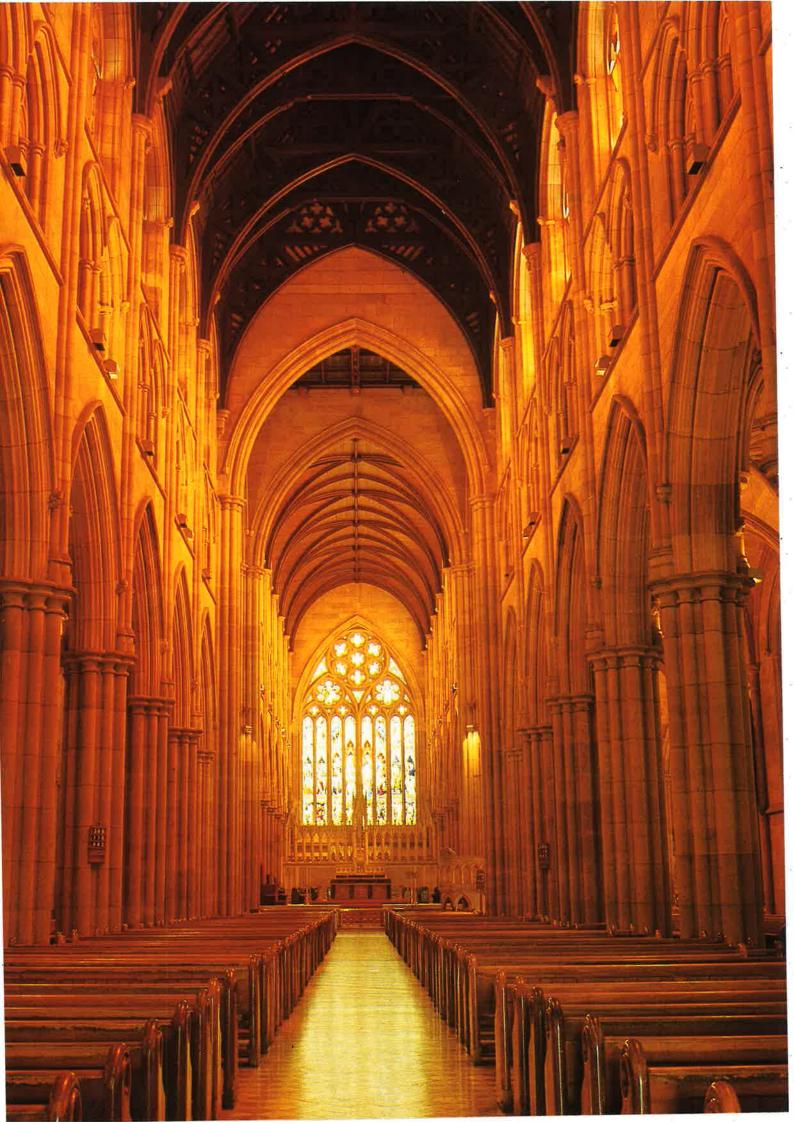
ROGER BEDE CARDINAL VAUGHAN

An English Benedictine of great intellectual gifts, he was deeply interested in education. He brought out Irish religious to teach in Catholic schools, refusing to have schools secularised.
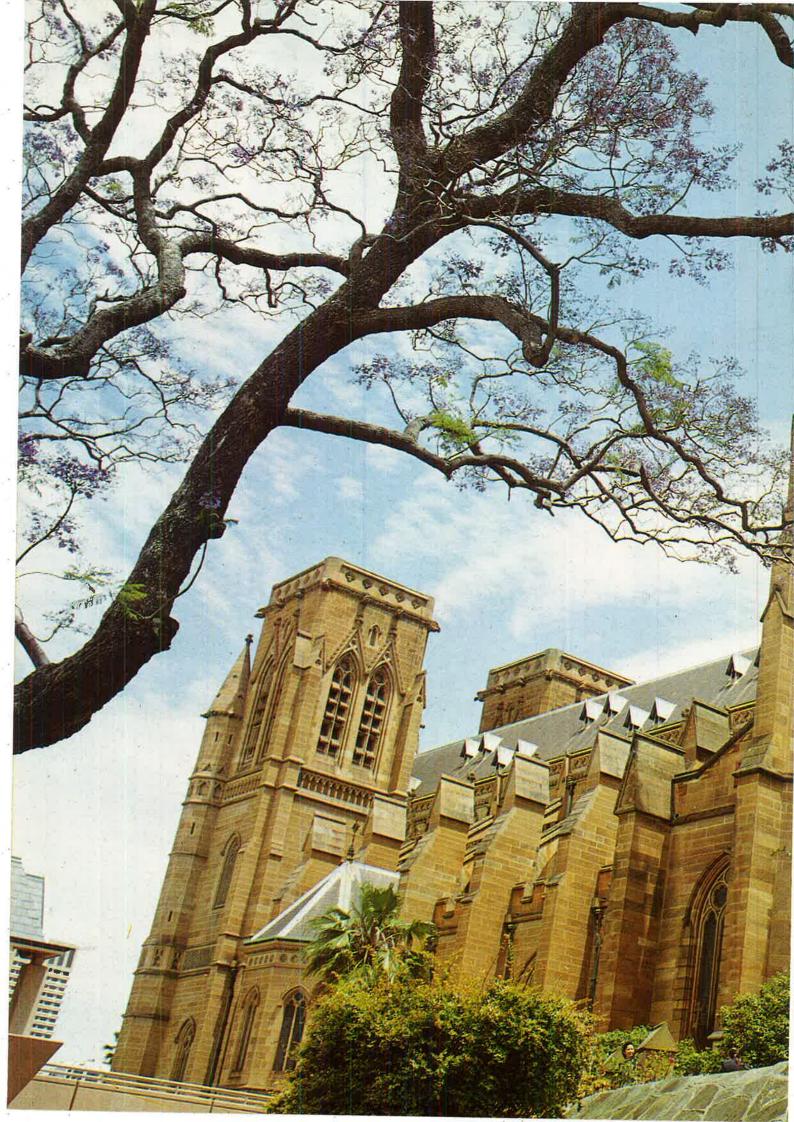
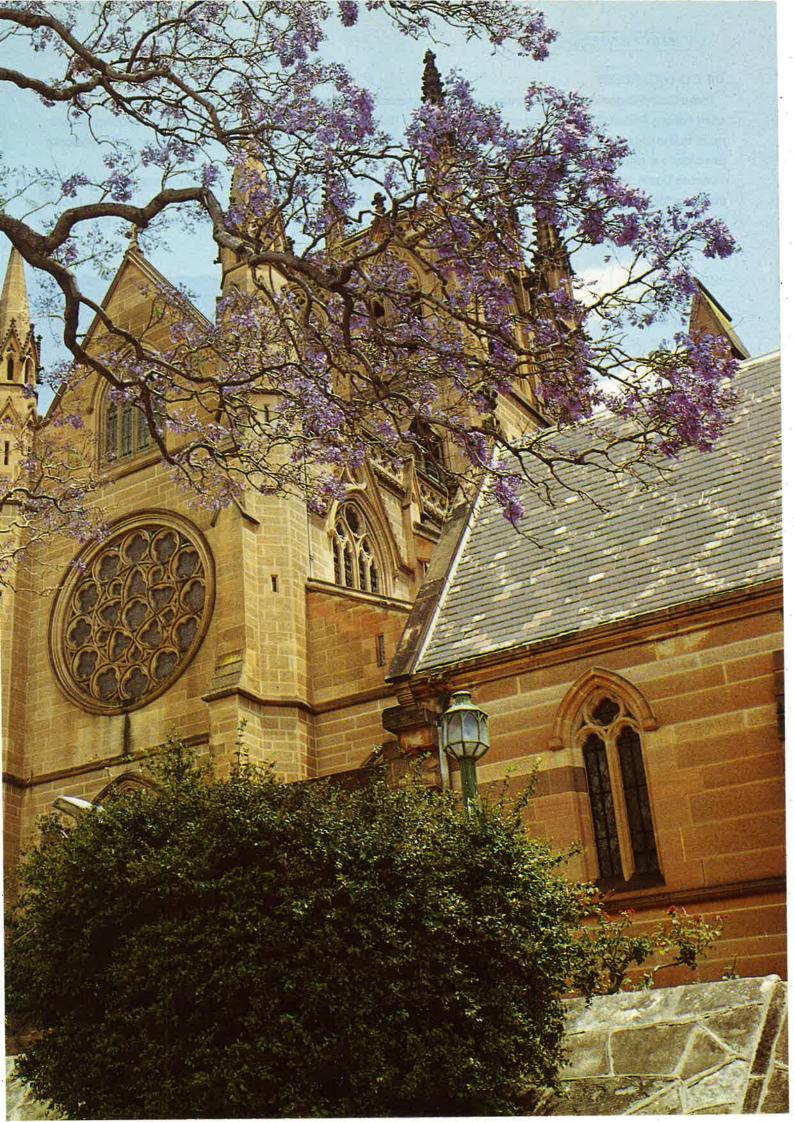### PATRICK FRANCIS CARDINAL MORAN

He was deeply committed to Australian Federation (a politically united country, with a Federal Parliament) in the 1880s/90s. He founded two seminaries. Cardinal Moran always proclaimed: 'I'm Australian first, Irish second'.

Statues of Cardinal Moran (left) and Archbishop Kelly (below) at the main entrance to St Mary's Cathedral.

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL KELLY

An Irish diocesan priest known for his piety. An austere, disciplined man, calm and aloof, he promoted religious education.

SIR NORMAN THOMAS B. CARDINAL GILROY K.B.E

The first Australian archbishop, he began his working life as a telegraphist with the Australian postal service. He served in World War I as a radio operator on a ship off Gallipoli. Cardinal Gilroy guided the Sydney Archdiocese in the changing times after the Second World War. He witnessed massive migration to his Archdiocese, with increaing demands for Catholic schools and institutions.

SIR JAMES CARDINAL FREEMAN

An affable 'man of the people', with an approachable manner. A very eloquent speaker, he regularly broadcast on religious matters.

CARDINAL EDWARD BEDE CLANCY

A Bishop of wide experience in the Australian Church, he brings strong gifts of leadership and spirituality to the Archdiocese of Sydney.

12

THE CONVICT PRIESTS

Three Catholic convict priests transported for alleged complicity in the 1798 Irish rebellion are part of the Church's early history. Father James Harold arrived in January in 1800. He suffered poor health and loneliness. Falling out with local authorities, he was sent to the notorious Norfolk Island penal colony where he taught school and ministered privately. He returned to Ireland in 1810.

James Dixon arrived the same year. In 1803 he was granted permission to minister publicly. He celebrated the first Mass for convicts that year, robed in vestments made from an old velvet curtain and using a tin chalice, made by a convict, (the scene is captured in a Cathedral stained glass window). He returned to Ireland in 1808. Father Peter O'Neil, arrived in 1801. He returned to Ireland in 1803.
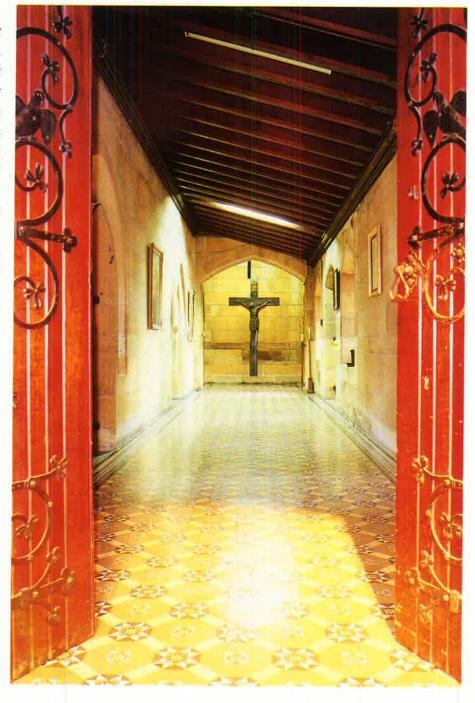
PIONEER PRIESTS

The first non convict priest to minister in Sydney was Father Jeremiah O'Flynn. He arrived in Australia without government approval in 1818. After nine months he was deported from the colony. The first official chaplains to the colony, Fathers Philip Conolly and John Joseph Therry, arrived in Sydney in May 1820 and immediately set about organising a meeting to raise money for a Catholic chapel.

Father Conolly soon left for Tasmania, leaving Therry the only Catholic priest in NSW. Therry obtained a grant of land for a church (the present site of St Mary's Cathedral) and on October 29, 1821, Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone.
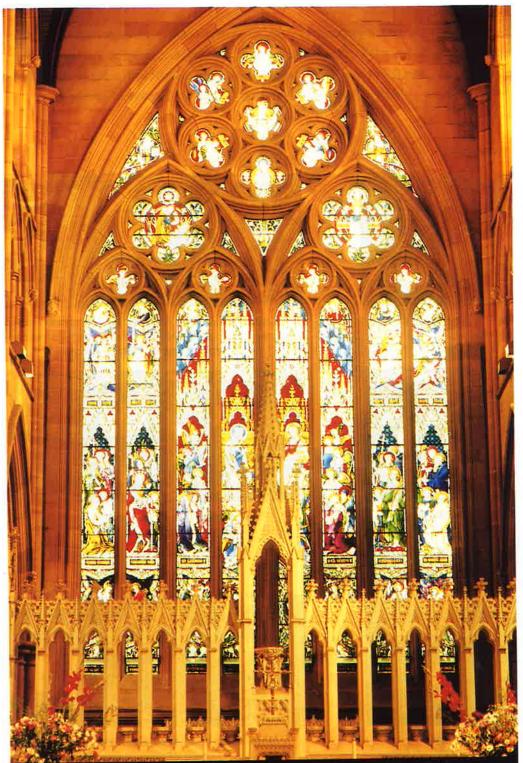
Despite his missionary zeal, Therry was a strong willed Irishman, often at the centre of disputes with authorities. In 1826 he was dismissed as an official chaplain. He was exonerated in 1837.

His money-raising efforts to build a large cathedral in stone continued. He was constantly threatened with bankruptcy due to his policy of relying on Divine Providence. Despite this, the walls of St Mary's rose slowly.

An Irish Priest, Father Daniel Power, arrived in Sydney as official chaplain in 1826, replacing Father Therry. In poor health, he lived mainly at Parramatta. He died in 1830.

Father John McEncroe, an experienced Irish missionary, arrived in 1833. McEncroe became the editor of the *Australasian Chronicle*. He later founded the *Freeman's Journal* promoting the cause of Ireland in Australia. McEncroe played an influential part in local church affairs. He died in 1868.

THE CATHEDRAL'S beautiful stained glass windows were designed and manufactured by John Hardman & Co. in Birmingham, England. After seeing the first windows, architect, William Wardell, requested a deeper, richer tint in the glass because of the strong glare of the Australian sun. You can see the paler colours in the window depicting Our Lady's Assumption Into Heaven to the right of St. Peter's Altar.

Left: THE GREAT NORTH WINDOW This depicts the Fall of Mankind and the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary, surrounded by saints. It was unveiled by Cardinal Moran during the 1885 Plenary Council, costing £1234.

THE ROSARY WINDOWS

These windows, depicting the mysteries of the Rosary are located on the eastern and western walls, beside and behind the High Altar.

THE SOUTHERN ROSE WINDOW (the Papal Window) has a centre piece showing the head of St. Peter surrounded by the heads of sixteen Popes who are identified by name or coat-of-arms.

THE EASTERN ROSE WINDOW
Shows Christ as teacher, surrounded by the Evangelists and St. Paul and in the outer circle, the Twelve apostles. Under this window is a beautiful stained glass of Our Lady, Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia and this Cathedral, surrounded by the chief patrons of the Irish Church.

THE HISTORICAL WINDOWS

The lower panels of the first four windows on both eastern and western walls, from the transept looking towards the main entrance, depict historical scenes from the church's early days. The upper panels of the Historical windows depict appropriate scenes from the Scriptures. The next series of windows on both sides of the cathedral depict the Evangelists and the final 'Tower' windows on the Eastern side depict St. Therese of Lisieux and (opposite) St. Martin of Tours.

WESTERN WALL HISTORICAL WINDOWS

Father Dixon, A convict Priest saying mass in a colonist's kitchen.

Catholics worship the Blessed Sacrament which remained in a colonist's home after the arrest and deportation of Father O'Flynn.

Governor Macquarie lays the foundation stone of the first St. Mary's.

Bishop Polding is welcomed on his arrival in the colony in 1835.

EASTERN WALL HISTORICAL WINDOWS

Archbishop Kelly consecrates the new cathedral on September 2nd, 1925. His coat-of-arms is on the left.

Archbishop Kelly recommences work on Stage two of the cathedral.

Cardinal Moran receives the Cardinal's red hat in 1885.

Procession of Archbishop Vaughan and ministers at the opening of the first section of the Cathedral.

THE WESTERN ROSE WINDOW
The central figure is Adam surrounded by the principal figures of the Old Testament. The whole window has a background of apple foliage.

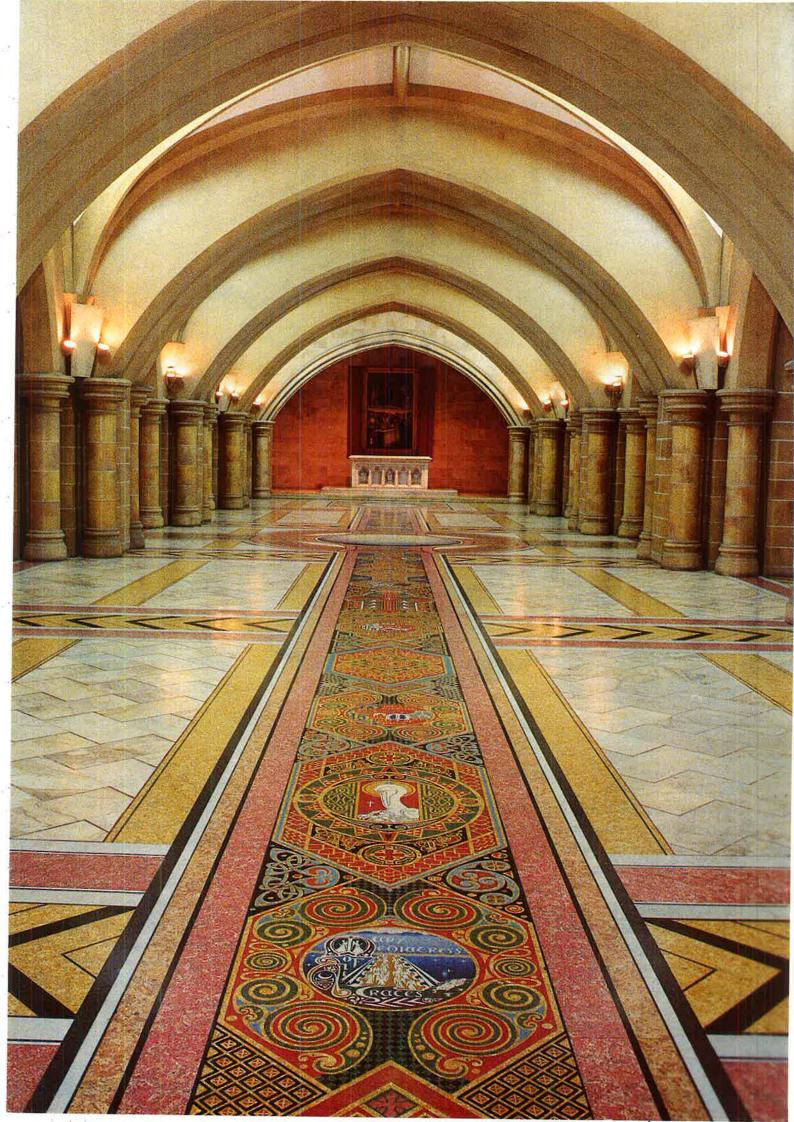## WINDOWS IN THE CHAPEL OF THE IRISH SAINTS

THE POLDING WINDOW
The centrepiece shows Pope Gregory sending St. Augustine forth to convert the English. Below are represented Bishop Ullathorne, Archbishop Polding and Bishop Davis.

THE NEWMAN WINDOW is inscribed to the memory of John Henry Cardinal Newman. It depicts Our Lord and various saints. Beneath the central theme are two angels hovering over Newman's tomb. Below, the Cardinal is shown praying. Above him appears the title of his famous hymn: "Lead Kindly Light".

WINDOW OF THE IRISH SAINTS
Located in the Chapel of the same name, the window behind the altar depicts St. Brendan presenting to St. Patrick two officers in khaki, Lt. Brendan Lane Mullins and his brother-in-law Col. Bertram Norris. The window was erected by John Lane Mullins and his wife, Jane, in memory of their only son, Brendan Lane Mullins, who was killed in action in France in 1917. Windows above the altars of St. Joseph and St. Peter depict scenes in the life of these saints.

A detailed section of the Crypt's marble and terrazzo inlaid floor.

THE CRYPT

The main entrance to the crypt is under the stairs facing Cathedral Street. Six archbishops of Sydney, one bishop and three priests associated with St. Mary's are buried here. The vaulted crypt's most striking feature is the marble and terrazzo inlaid floor, based on the Book of Kells, an ancient hand-illuminated religious text, kept in Trinity College, Dublin. The decoration is in the form of a huge celtic cross inlaid with the six days of creation and titles of Our Lady. The design of the crypt floor was the work of Father William Leonard. Cardinal Gilroy employed Peter Melocco, who had already designed and executed the beautiful mosaic floor in the Chapel of the Irish Saints, the baptistery floor, the War Memorial floor and most floors in the chapels, to carry out the work. With his fee for his first commission, he sponsored his brothers to Australia and set up Melocco Bros. Pty.Ltd., which continued to work on the crypt floor. The six Archbishops of Sydney buried here are: Polding, Vaughan, Moran, Kelly, Gilroy and Freeman; the Pioneer Priests are Fathers Therry, Power and McEncroe. Bishop Henry Charles Davis was Coadjutor Bishop of Sydney and Bishop of Maitland.

THE GRAVES OF THE ARCHBISHOPS OF SYDNEY
IN ORDER OF SUCCESSION

ARCHBISHOP JOHN BEDE POLDING
The Altar, which bears his coat-of-arms is the original monument placed over his grave in Lewisham cemetery, later Petersham cemetery. His body was later re-interred in the Chapel of Irish Saints, and finally in the Crypt. Archbishop Polding (born 1834, died 1877) was Archbishop of Sydney, 1834-1877. His motto: "God is my helper".
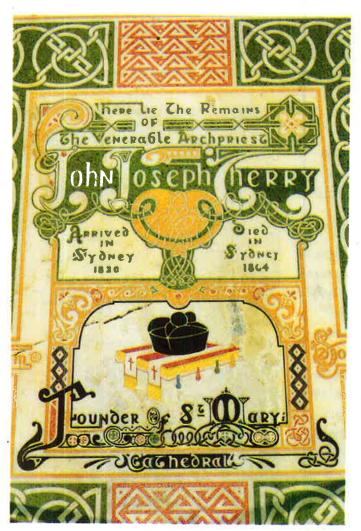
ARCHBISHOP ROGER BEDE VAUGHAN
Born in England 1834, died there in 1883. Archbishop 1877-1883. His coat-of-arms is shown. Originally buried in England, his body was re-interred here in 1946. His motto: "Wise as a serpant, simple as a child".
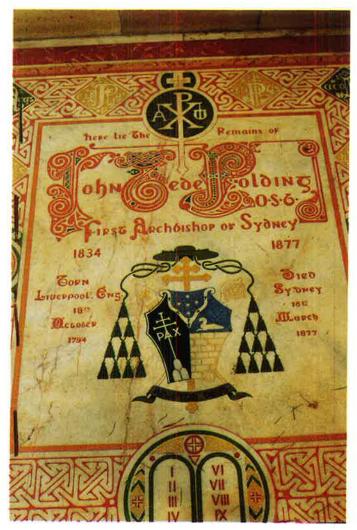
CARDINAL PATRICK FRANCIS MORAN
Born 1830 in Ireland, died 1911 in Sydney. Archbishop of Sydney, 1884-1911. His coat-of-arms and motto: 'All things to all people' is inscribed on his grave.

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL KELLY'S GRAVE IN THE KELLY MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Born in Ireland 1850, died here 1940. Archbishop of Sydney 1911 to 1940. The beautiful mosaic floor features flanel flowers, waratahs and other Australian flora and includes his motto: 'God Is A Tower of Strength To Me'.

SIR NORMAN THOMAS CARDINAL GILROY
Born in Sydney 1896. died here 1977. Archbishop 1940 until resignation 1971. His motto: "Christ my light".

SIR JAMES CARDINAL FREEMAN: Born in Sydney 1907. died here 1991. Archbishop 1971 until resignation 1983. His motto: Through Him (Christ) with her (Mary) for guide".

BISHOP CHARLES HENRY DAVIS: Born in England 1815 died here 1854. Bishop of Maitland. Coadjutor to Archbishop of Sydney 1847-1854.

GRAVES OF THE PIONEER PRIESTS
VENERABLE ARCHPRIEST THERRY
Born in Ireland 1790, died here 1864. He and Father Philip Conolly were the first officially appointed chaplains to the colony. Therry was the only priest in mainland Australia for many years. He built the first St. Mary's chapel, later to become the first cathedral.

FATHER DANIEL POWER
Born in Ireland in 1790 died here 1830. Appointed official chaplain to the colony in place of Father Therry in 1827.

VENERABLE ARCHDEACON JOHN McENCROE
Born in Ireland 1795, died here in 1868. Became a Catholic chaplain for New South Wales in 1832.

Left: The Baptistery floor was designed by Peter Melocco who was also commissioned to work on the Crypt floor mosaic.

ST MARY'S BELLS AND BELL TOWER (below)

The central tower, known as the Cardinal's (or Moran) Tower, was completed in 1900 under Cardinal Moran. The bells were first rung in the new tower on November 6, 1900. The richly carved stone tower has a total of eight stone-louvred windows through which the sound of bells escapes. The lower portion is the ringing chamber and above are hung the bells which constitute St. Mary's Peal.

The present peal of 14 bells was consecrated during Solemn Pontifical Mass by his Grace, Archbishop Edward Bede Clancy on June the first, 1986. Each bell has its own religious name such as "Mary, the Mother of God" or "St. Francis". The Cathedral ringers belong to a body known as the 'St Mary's Basilica Society of Change Ringers'. It includes both Catholic and non Catholic ringers. The head of the Society is known as the 'Captain'.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR is Australia's oldest existing organisation, formed just 30 years after the First Fleet arrived in Sydney.In 1993, it celebrated its 175th anniversary, a remarkable achievement in a country little more than 200 years old. The choir was formed in 1818 by Mrs. Catherine Fitzpatrick to sing at services conducted by Father Jeremiah O'Flynn, during his short stay in the colony. The choir maintained Catholic public worship in the colony by singing Vespers regularly until the first official Catholic chaplains, Fathers Philip Conolly and John Joseph Therry, arrived in 1820. Therry, a music lover, welcomed the choir, which sang at all his services. It moved to the Cathedral site in 1829 and was already in existence to sing at the installation of the first Catholic bishop, John Bede Polding, in 1835. In that year, the choir gave Australia's first choral recital and in the following year, the country's first choral concert. St Mary's, a vast church with a fine choir and mighty organ was Sydney's major musical venue up unitl World War I. Many important musical works had their Australian premiere here. First performances in Australia included movements from Handel's Messiah and Haydn's The Creation (1835), Beethoven's Mass in C (1841), Rossini's Stabat Mater (1857) and Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius (1903). The current Choir, of about 80 men and boys, sings in the Cathedral every Sunday, except during January. It also gives numerous public performances in the city, performs frequently on radio and television and gives several public concerts each year. The Choir has toured extensively in New South Wales and interstate and has made concert tours to Germany, Belgium, Italy, France, Monaco, Canada, the United States and Mexico.
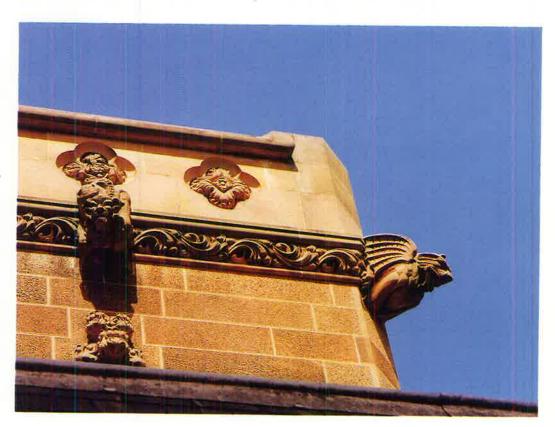
FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL
The Friends provide significant support, both financial and promotional, for the restoration and conservation of the Cathedral. Its membership is open to all who have a love and deep regard for this unique building.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
St Mary's Cathedral holds the Flower Festival every three years. During the festival the Cathedral is filled with beautifully arranged flowers, the work of a dedicated committee. The money raised greatly assists in the conservation and restoration of the Cathedral.

CATHEDRAL TOURS.
Guided tours are conducted by guides after Solemn Mass every Sunday. Special tours for interested groups can be arranged through the Cathedral Office.

PRINCIPAL HISTORICAL DATES.

1800-1807: CONVICT PRIEST, FATHER HAROLD ARRIVES IN THE COLONY .

1800-1808: CONVICT PRIEST, FATHER DIXON ARRIVES IN THE COLONY.

1803: FATHER DIXON CELEBRATES THE FIRST GOVERNMENT AUTHORISED MASS.

1801-1803: CONVICT PRIEST, FATHER O'NEILL ARRIVES IN THE COLONY.

1818: ST MARY'S CHOIR ESTABLISHED.

1818: FATHER JEREMIAH O'FLYNN ARRIVES ILLEGALLY IN COLONY. HE IS ARRESTED AND DEPORTED IN 1818.

MAY 3, 1820: FATHERS CONOLLY AND THERRY ARRIVE IN THE COLONY.

JUNE 15, 1820: FATHER CONOLLY PRESIDES AT MEETING TO ARRANGE PUBLIC MEETING IN THE COURT HOUSE ON 30TH JUNE, TO RAISE FUNDS TO BUILD A CHAPEL..

OCTOBER 29, 1821. GOVERNOR MACQUARIE LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF ST. MARY'S, THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHAPEL IN AUSTRALIA.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1835: ARRIVAL OF FIRST BISHOP, JOHN BEDE POLDING.

JUNE 29, 1865: ST. MARY'S DESTROYED BY FIRE.

OCTOBER 10, 1865: ARCHBISHOP POLDING INVITES WILLIAM WARDELL TO DESIGN A NEW CATHEDRAL.

DECEMBER 8, 1868: FOUNDATION STONE OF PRESENT CATHEDRAL LAID.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1882: DEDICATION AND OPENING OF PRESENT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL BY ARCHBISHOP VAUGHAN. THIS BUILDING HAD BEEN COMMENCED IN 1866 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS PREPARED BY WILLIAM WARDELL.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1885: ARRIVAL IN SYDNEY OF ARCHBISHOP MORAN. BY THE TIME OF HIS DEATH THE BUILDING WAS TWO-THIRDS COMPLETED.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1905 ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CONSECRATED.

JUNE 8, 1913: FOUNDATION STONES FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE CATHEDRAL LAID BY ARCHBISHOP KELLY.
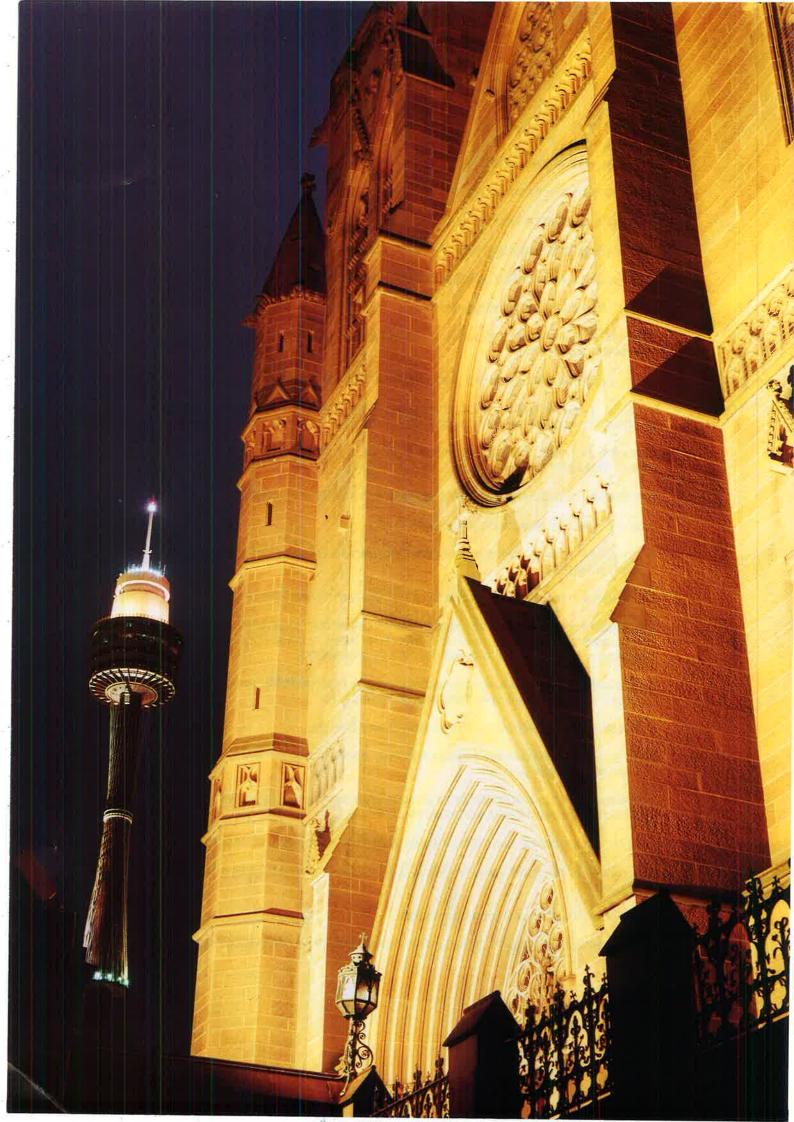
SEPTEMBER 2, 1928: THE COMPLETED ST. MARY'S WAS OPENED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE XXIXTH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS.
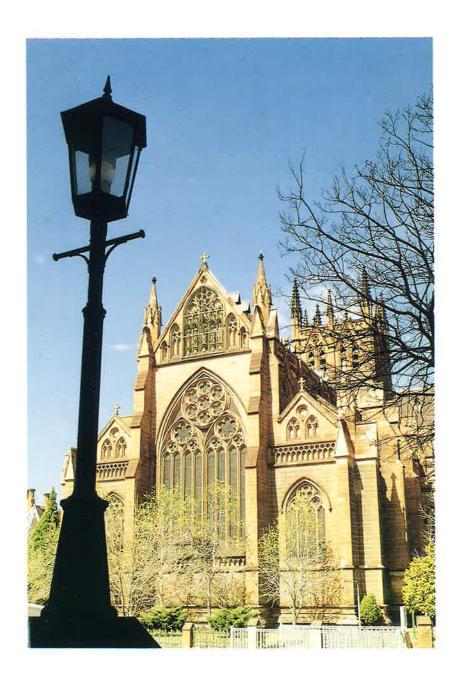
1961: COMPLETION OF THE CRYPT, UNDER CARDINAL NORMAN THOMAS GILROY.

NOVEMBER 1970: POPE PAUL VI ARRIVED IN SYDNEY, THE FIRST POPE TO VISIT AUSTRALIA.

1986: POPE JOHN PAUL II VISITS AUSTRALIA.

1986: THE PRESENT PEAL OF 14 BELLS WAS CONSECRATED BY ARCHBISHOP CLANCY.