



St CANICE'S PARISH

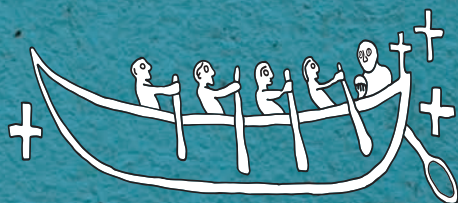
RESTORATION

St CANICE'S
LEGACY

APPEAL

**"It is both our shared responsibility
and our sacred duty to care for this beautiful Church,
continuing the chain of memory
for our own generation and those yet to come."**

Fr Dave



OUR STORY

**St Canice's is a Jesuit parish in the heart of Sydney.
Deeply rooted in our Catholic faith and guided
by Ignatian spirituality,
our parish comprises a wonderfully urban blend of
worship and service to people from all walks of life.**

**Since its establishment in 1889,
St Canices magnificent church has served our
community throughout its rich and storied history.**

**The stained glass windows beautifully depict scenes
from St Canice's life, including the central window
behind the altar, which portrays men struggling
in a stormy sea, symbolising Canice's role
as the Patron Saint of the shipwrecked.**

ST CANICE'S LEGACY

APPEAL



MORE THAN A BUILDING

At the centre of the life of our parish has always been the offering of the Mass and the sacraments – our church is a place of welcome for all who seek peace in Christ.

We are a mission-driven parish that seeks to create more doorways to encounter the Heart of Jesus, embracing and supporting those living on its fringes, never satisfied with a merely inward focus.

St. Canice's remains an open, inclusive and welcoming community and we thank God in the diversity that marks our Parish.

Our doorways to the heart of Jesus: Spirituality, community and social enterprise drive various initiatives that aim to create a community of care and inclusion.

These include:

- **Our Daily Mass**
- **Sacraments**
- **St Canices Kitchen**
- **Davids Place**
- **Curious Grace**
- **Lady of Fatima Railaco, Timor Leste**
- **Columbarium**
- **Immersion**s
- **Colombiere Social Enterprise**

OUR HISTORY

Since opening in 1889, St Canice's magnificent church has had a rich and storied history of serving our community.

St Canice's Church was completed in 1889 and officially opened on the 5th May that year. It was designed by architect John Bede Barlow (1860–1925), a specialist in ecclesiastical architecture who was responsible for nine churches, including St Canice's, St Francis' in Paddington, and later St Brigid's in Marrickville, along with several chapels and convents.

The church is named after St Canice (c. 515/16–600), an early Irish monk and missionary from the early medieval period. One of the most beloved Celtic saints in both Ireland and Scotland (where he is known as St Kenneth), he is also regarded as the patron saint of the shipwrecked.

The dedication to St Canice was chosen in 1887 by Cardinal Patrick Moran (1830–1911), the first Irish Archbishop of Sydney and Australia's first cardinal.

Early History

Our early history unfolded during the “Irish phase” of Sydney's Catholic story, a period marked by the arrival of Patrick Moran - the Irish prelate who would become Australia's first cardinal - in 1884.

Before coming to Australia, Moran had served as Bishop of Ossory and was familiar with the ancient city where St Canice was buried. Just weeks after his arrival, Moran led a group of Sydney laymen by boat to Manly to show them the land where he envisioned building a residence and seminary. Among that group was John Hughes (1825–1885), our founding father, without whom St Canice's would never have been built.

Hughes, himself an Irish Catholic, had emigrated to Australia with his parents and siblings as a ‘bounty immigrant’ aboard the Crusader in 1840.

In 1851, he established a grocery business at the corner of Market and George Streets, and quickly grew into a prominent wholesale merchant and importer. As his fortunes rose, so too did his generosity to the Church. In May 1885, Moran was summoned back to Rome where he was made a cardinal. While he was overseas, Hughes purchased the land on which St Canice's stands and donated it to the church shortly before his death.

Design and Construction

After John Hughes' death in 1885, his widow, Susan Hughes (Sharkey, 1835 – 1907), chose to honour his memory by proceeding with the construction of the church, personally funding half of the building costs.

In total, the Hughes family contributed approximately £7,500-£8,500 for the land and £4,000 for construction - a remarkable sum for the time.

Susan recommended her friend and nephew, John Bede Barlow, as the architect for the new church. A prominent early member of the New South Wales Institute of Architects, Barlow designed St Canice's in the Victorian Academic Gothic style, creating a building that was both practical and warmly atmospheric.

His original plans included an 80-foot tower and spire, though these were never constructed.

The church's stained glass windows depict scenes from the life of St Canice, with the central window behind the altar illustrating men struggling on a stormy sea - a reference to Canice's role as the patron saint of the shipwrecked.



Since Opening – A Church On Mission

Although not established as a parish when first consecrated in 1889, St Canice's was initially part of Sacred Heart Darlinghurst and later administered by St Mary's Cathedral. Nevertheless, it quickly became an important social centre for parishioners and the wider local community.

When St Canice's was elevated to parish status in 1940, a new school building - now the Parish Hub - was constructed to complement the recently completed presbytery. Until then, classes had been held in the basement of the church, which by that time could no longer meet the growing needs of the parish.

In 1988, St Canice's Kitchen was founded to provide free meals and a welcoming community space for people around the Kings Cross area.

It has operated continuously ever since. Since 1990, the Jesuits have administered St Canice's on behalf of the Archdiocese of Sydney, fostering a spirit of inclusion and initiating a wide range of programs that continue to support and welcome all who come through our doors.

ST CANICE'S LEGACY

APPEAL



A CALL FOR HELP

St Canices Catholic Church, Rushcutters Bay holds a special place in the hearts of our community.

It is not only a place of worship but a cultural, social and historic landmark that has been a part of our inner city for generations.

We seek the support of the wider community in restoring our church to ensure it stands for generations to come. By undertaking this restoration project, we are preserving our heritage and ensuring that this beautiful church remains a place of welcome for all. It is a symbol of resilience and community spirit.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

The restoration appeal for St Canice's Church Rushcutters Bay is an essential initiative aimed at preserving and enhancing this cherished community landmark.

In 2024, thanks to the generosity of several parishioners, we were able to carry out the urgent repair of the organ and reinstall two confessionals in the Church.

This has given us confidence that, as a community, we have the ability to raise the essential funds needed for the additional work that still lies ahead.

This consists of 2 phases – the first being the largest and most urgent.

We have engaged Weir Phillips Heritage to advise and assist in the management of this project.

PHASE 1

2025/2026

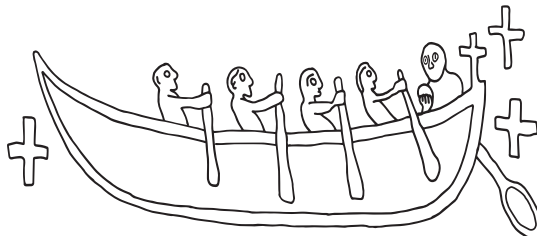
Focus on addressing key repair requirements based on safety and preventing further structural damage.

MAJOR WORKS INCLUDE:

- **Church Facade and brick repointing**
- **Roof restoration and slate repair / waterproofing**
- **Sanctuary plaster and fresco surrounds**
- **Stations of the Cross restoration**
- **Reupholstery of kneelers**
- **Cleaning, sanding & staining of church pews**

To kick start the 2025 Appeal, longtime Parishioner Michael Musgrave has very generously donated funds for:

- **Our Lady Chapel restoration – including artwork restoration and cleaning of marble and mosaic floor**
- **Altar stairs repair and cleaning of altar marble**



2027/2028

Focuses on improving the aesthetics, cleaning and painting.

- Cleaning of all mosaic windows
- Painting of eaves, rafters, metalwork and external timber
- Brick cleaning
- Metal window repair.



MAJOR WORKS PHASE 1

CHUCH FACADE AND BRICK REPOINTING:

Sections across entire facade needs repair.

ESTIMATE: \$400,000



SLATE ROOF REPAIR:

Replace tiles across damaged parts of the right hand side of the roof. Leaks are evident in the Church.

QUOTE: \$150,000



ALTAR STAIRS MARBLE REPAIR:

Cleaning of the Altar marble.
Repairs to the cracked marble and underfloor support of the stairs.

COST: \$10,000 **DONATED 2025**



OUR LADY CHAPEL RESTORATION:

Includes restoration of artwork,
cleaning of marble and mosaic floor.

COST: \$26,000 **DONATED 2025**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

All 14 stations require significant restoration. This project will be completed in stages, as funds allow, and will take some time to bring to full completion. Each station will be quoted separately.

QUOTE: By Station



RE-UPHOLSTERY OF KNEELER:

All 34 kneelers are in poor condition. This project will be completed in stages, as funds allow, and will take some time to bring to full completion. There are 34 kneelers to repair.

QUOTE: \$17,000



SANDING PEWS AND STAINING OF CHURCH PEWS:

All 34 Church pews require sanding and staining. This project will be completed in stages, as funds allow, and will take some time to bring to full completion.

QUOTE: \$3,000 per pew - \$102,000



ALTAR FRESCO:

The plaster and gold paint surrounding the altar frescos require repair due to water ingress. We need to repair both external and internal walls.

QUOTE: \$14,000



MAJOR WORKS PHASE 1

ELECTRIC WIRING:

The cotton cabling wire within the church needs to be replaced and upgraded.

QUOTE: \$129,800



ORGAN RESTORATION:

Organ required new switching system to ensure it will last for future generations. Parts were imported from US and this was funded in 2024 by parishioners.

COST: \$15,000 **DONATED 2024**



REINSTATE CONFSSIONALS:

In 2024 were able to re-instate 2 confessionals into the church thanks to the generosity of parishioners.

COST: \$15,960 **DONATED 2024**



Note:

To ensure the highest quality outcome, we have obtained quotes from qualified tradespeople who come highly recommended and are experienced in heritage restoration.

At the same time, we are mindful of achieving the best possible price for this important work. We remain open to considering alternative providers, provided they have the appropriate expertise and experience in this specialised field.

If you are able to assist or recommend someone suitable, please contact our office.

HELP US RAISE \$1 MILLION TO RESTORE & PRESERVE OUR SACRED CHURCH

For generations, our historic church - built in 1889 - has stood as a beacon of faith, comfort, and community. It has witnessed countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, and quiet moments of prayer. Now, this spiritual home needs us.

Today, we invite you to be part of a new chapter in our church's story - a Legacy of Restoration - as we work to raise \$1 million for essential needed restoration works.

A Trusted Way to Give

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) listed St Canice's Church on the National Trust Register which means that in the Trust's view St Canice's Church is an essential component of Australia's heritage and must be preserved.

Donations over \$2 to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Appeal for St Canice's Church are tax deductible.

This ensures your contribution has both spiritual and financial value - restoring sacred spaces while offering tax benefits for your generosity.

A Legacy Worth Leaving

This church has served as the spiritual heart of our community for over over 136 years.

We now have a responsibility and a privilege to ensure it can continue to do so for generations to come.

By contributing to this appeal, you are not just repairing a building. You are preserving history. You are passing on a legacy. You are making spaces for future generations to encounter faith, hope & love.

How You Can Help

We are asking for your kind generosity. Whether it's a one-time gift or a pledge over time, every contribution brings us closer to our goal. There are multiple options available. Whether you choose to sponsor a particular item in the church that needs repair or whether you wish to donate to the general fund, every dollar will count towards the restoration of our beautiful Church.

All major donors over \$3,000 will be recognised on an honour board within our Church. All donations made to one of the programs will be recognised on our website.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To make a donation to St Canice Legacy Appeal, please use one of the following options. If you wish to donate to a specific item, please reference this in the payment.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Account Name: National Trust of Australia (NSW)

BSB: 032078

Account: 956113

CREDIT CARD

Visit: [StCanicesRestorationAppeal-StCanice's-Raisely](#)

QR Code will facilitate a credit card payment.



Together, let's ensure our church remains a sacred place for all - now and in the future.

General Donation

Help Restore Our Church

If you would like to make a general tax deductible donation to the Legacy appeal please do so.

Your funds will go towards the most pressing repair work. You do not have to sponsor a particular item in the church.

GOAL :

\$50,000

Join us in preserving this sacred journey.

Help preserve the heart of our community.



Buy a Roof Tile

Shelter our sacred space. Leave a legacy of care

The roof of St Canice's has sheltered generations through prayer, celebration, sorrow and community. Now, it needs our help.

For \$150, you can symbolically 'buy a tile' and be part of restoring the roof that protects our sacred home.

Your gift is more than a tile - it's a gesture of love for the church and a legacy for the future;

- Make your donation in memory of someone special
- Give thanks for your faith journey
- Honour a milestone, or memory



Help us reach our goal of 1,000 tiles x 150 tiles. Every tile brings us closer to a renewed, safe, and lasting place of worship.

One tile.
One gift.

Sponsor a Station of the Cross

Walk with Christ. Leave a legacy of faith

The stations of the cross are more than artwork - they are a journey of love, sacrifice, and redemption. For generations, these sacred images have guided our community in prayer and reflection.

Now, as a part of our Church restoration, we invite you to sponsor one of the 14 stations - helping to restore their beauty and ensure they continue to inspire future generations.

Your sponsorship of station can be made:

- In memory of a loved one
- In thanksgiving for a special blessing
- As a lasting expression of faith



Join us in preserving this sacred journey.

Be part of the story.
Be part of the way.

Restore a Kneeler

Restore the kneelers that have held a thousand prayers. In moments of quiet reflection, deep prayer, and sacred liturgy, our kneelers have supported countless hearts toward God. Now, they need renewal.

For \$500, you can sponsor a knee kneeler in our restored church - a tangible gift that supports the comfort and reverence of worship for all who kneel in prayer:

- Dedicate your gift in memory of a loved one
- Give thanks for a sacrament, a milestone, or a grace
- Honour the quiet power of prayer in your life
- Each sponsored kneeler is a lasting contribution to the spiritual life of our parish

GOAL :

**\$500 each x 34
kneelers
= \$17,000**

Help us restore 34 kneelers one by one. Your generosity brings comfort, dignity, and reverence back to our sacred space.

Kneel with us.

Stand for something eternal.

Restore Our Historic Pews

We have 34 pews that have served our community for generations.

These beautiful wooden pews are not just seating - they are part of our spiritual and architectural heritage.

Over time, they've worn with love, but now they need careful restoration to preserve them for future generations.

For \$3000 you can refurbish an entire pew.

Take your seat in history and help to restore a pew.

GOAL :

**34 pews at
\$3000 each
= \$102000**

Help us restore 34 pews One by one, your generosity renews the warmth and beauty of the place we gather, pray, and belong.

Sit with us.

Stand for something lasting.

Altar Fresco & External Waterproofing

Help Restore Our Sacred Space

The wall surrounds and paintwork of the altar frescoes are in urgent need of repair to preserve their beauty and integrity. In doing so we will waterproof the external wall to prevent water ingress.

Your donation will help safeguard this treasured part of our church for generations to come.

Every contribution brings us closer to restoring the heart of our worship space.



Help us reach our goal of \$14,000 for this repair.
Preserve the beauty that inspires our prayer.

Electrical Wiring

Help Keep Our Sacred Space Safe

Fire is one major concern in an old church with faulty electrical wiring being a primary cause of damage and destruction. Replacement of the old 'cotton cable' wiring is needed.

Individual contributions of any value towards this expense will help to safeguard our church against electrical fault.



Help us upgrade our Church.
Power our sacred space safely into the future.



**FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH:
Legacy Giving for the Restoration
of Our Church Facade**

**A sacred legacy.
An enduring impact.**

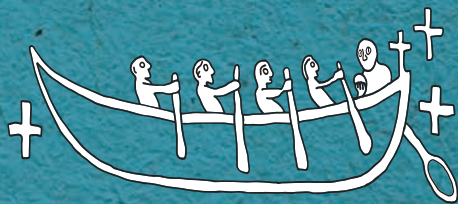
The restoration of the external sandstone façade is one of the most significant and urgent works in preserving the beauty and integrity of St Canice's Church.

With an estimated cost of \$400,000, this project calls for the visionary generosity of major donors and benefactors who believe in safeguarding our spiritual home for future generations.

If you or someone you know may be in a position to support this essential restoration, we would be honoured to have a conversation.

To explore legacy giving or naming opportunities for any of our restoration projects, please contact:

Fr David Braithwaite SJ
pp@stcanice.org.au



**St CANICE'S
LEGACY**

APPEAL



St CANICE'S
PARISH

**24 ROSLYN GARDENS
RUSHCUTTERS BAY NSW 2011
Email: contactus@stcanice.org.au**

stcanice.org.au



NATIONAL TRUST