

completed Cathedral, built by a generous donation of £10,000 from a wealthy settler and the many smaller contributions of members of the public, was opened. Aspects of the neo-gothic design were inspired by sketches drawn by the famed neo-gothic architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, who was a friend of the first Bishop of Hobart, Robert William Willson. The architectural plans were drawn by William Wardell, whom Pugin had mentored. The building, and its partial redesign, was overseen by Henry Hunter, Tasmania's most prominent neo-gothic architect.



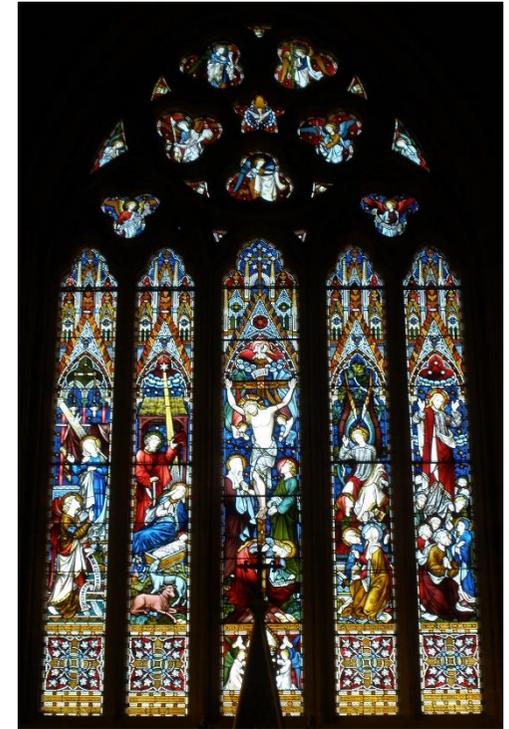
Completed St Mary's Cathedral, 1930s

Originally, St Mary's had a central tower, but structural defects meant that this was demolished prior to the nave's completion. The elaborate west wall was finished in 1898, completing the main body of the cathedral. A planned tower at the north-west corner was never built; however, stonework for its support can still be seen above the roofline by the discerning viewer.



Detail of medieval carvings on Baptismal Font

Over its many years of service as a place of worship, St Mary's has attracted a number of notable furnishings. Harkening back to the early days of the neo-gothic movement in Australia, the baptismal font is a genuinely medieval-era European font, likely one of Pugin's many donations to Bishop Willson. The large window in the chancel, known as the Hardman Window after the English studio that manufactured it, was installed in 1869 in memory of Bishop Willson and the late Vicar-General Fr Hall. It shows key events in salvation history in its five main lancets. A brass gravestone to Fr Hall can also be found in the northern transept. The pipe organ in the choir loft was installed in 1895, and is still used for weekly Masses.



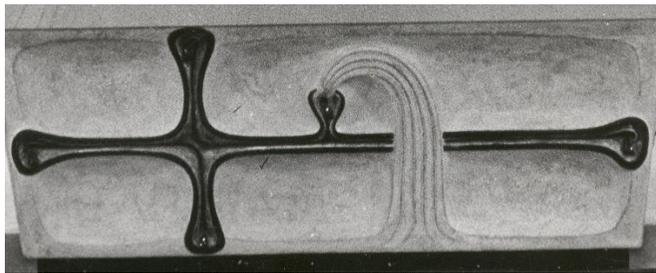
The Hardman Window, 1869

Significant modern elements of St Mary's include works by famed Australian sculptor Tom Bass, including the main altar and the exterior statue of Our Lady, Archetype of the Church. Such works were encouraged by Archbishop Guilford Clyde Young, one of the key Australia figures at the Second Vatican Council. The Pentecost Window was installed in the north transept as a memorial to Archbishop Young in 1989, and faces the window installed in 1995 commemorating heroic and saintly women.



Detail of the Heroic and Saintly Women Window,
1995

Recent additions to the Cathedral have included the new Parish Centre and various internal furnishings, including the notable Brian Harradine Memorial Calvary Group. The maintenance and restoration of this beautiful building remains an ongoing project.



Altar, by Tom Bass, 1950s

Faith

Christians are called to profess faith, hope and love. They have faith in Jesus, whose birth, death and resurrection calls all of humankind to put hope in the promise of eternal life. Furthermore, they are called to love all people in response to God's love for them and as an expression of God's concern for others. Catholics celebrate this mystery each Sunday in the Mass by listening to the Word of God as expressed in Scripture and by receiving the Presence of God through the Eucharist. The considerable charitable focus of the Church, through welfare organisations, schools and hospitals, reflects the Church's mission to express God's love in the world. While we habitually call our places of worship 'churches', the reality is that we are the Church.

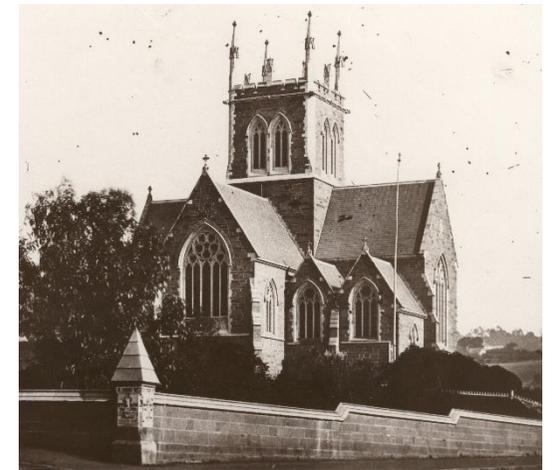
Whether committed Christians or first-time-in-church tourists, architectural enthusiasts or stained-glass aficionados, visitors to St Mary's Cathedral are always pilgrims of a sort. We invite you to reflect not only on the beauty before you, but also on the impetus behind that beauty. Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral. We hope you will find some spiritual inspiration to accompany you on your travels.

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Welcome to **St Mary's Cathedral**, mother church of the Archdiocese of Hobart.

History

The Catholic Precinct around the present St Mary's Cathedral has been a place of worship since the early 1820s. In 1823 the colonial government granted the land for use as a Catholic burial ground, and a small chapel, dedicated to St Virgil, was built on this site. St Virgil's was the first Catholic chapel built in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), and served Hobart until the construction of the Cathedral saw it demolished, having gradually fallen into dilapidation over the years.



St Mary's Cathedral, with original tower, c. 1866

The present St Mary's Cathedral building dates from 1860, when the first substantial foundations were laid. In 1866 the partially