

HERITAGE NEWS

February 2026 VOL 18

WORD FROM FR MICHAEL LIM

I write to share with you an important development in our parish life since my appointment as Parish Priest of Mary Queen of the Apostles, particularly over this past year.

Fr Joshy accomplished remarkable work in the restoration of the Old Saints Peter and Paul's Cathedral. Building upon that foundation, it is now time to reflect on how this sacred place can continue to serve the spiritual life of the church. Through wider consultation and prayerful discernment, a clear idea has emerged: to seek your support in designating the Old Cathedral as a Shrine of the Saints' Relics.

This vision arose naturally. Before my arrival, the parish had already been entrusted with six significant relics by the Archdiocese: Saints Peter and Paul, St Brigid, St Bernadette, St Thomas Aquinas, and St John Bosco. Over the past year, and with encouragement, I sought additional relics from religious communities. Through their generosity, we have received relics of St Jacinta and St Francisco Marto, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, St John of God, St Carlo Acutis, as well as relics connected to the history of religious orders—including those of St Catherine of Alexandria, St Maria Goretti, and St Marcellin Champagnat.

In a short time, a credible and meaningful collection of first-class relics has taken shape within the Old Cathedral. I see in this not coincidence, but the quiet work of the Holy Spirit—an invitation for this place to become a centre of devotion, pilgrimage, and reflection on the lives of the saints.

This is fitting for Goulburn, which has played such a formative role in the growth of the Catholic faith in New South Wales for more than 180 years.

I will soon write to the Archbishop to request his prayerful consideration and Apostolic Blessing for this proposed shrine. I will keep you informed as the process continues.

With every blessing,
Fr Michael Lim



WHAT'S INSIDE

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NBN Upgrade Underway

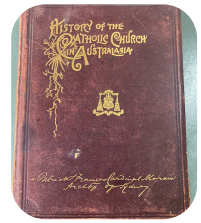
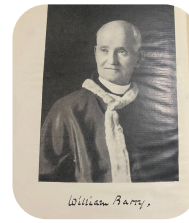
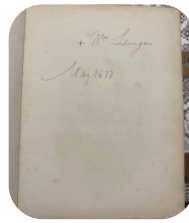
Works are now well underway to install cabling for the NBN across the Cathedral precinct. This upgrade will significantly improve our current system, which has often been unreliable and difficult to manage. Once completed, the new connection will provide faster, more stable internet to better support parish administration, communications, and events.

FROM THE VAULT: OLD FINDS

A remarkable piece of our diocesan history has returned home. The Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary a book recently discovered in the archives in Canberra, has been returned to the Goulburn Mission. It was owned by

Fr. Lanigan he was the first priest to serve this parish as a bishop, arriving at a time when the Catholic community in Goulburn was still in its early stages of development. He dedicated himself to establishing the foundations of parish life, ministering to the faithful, and nurturing the growth of St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral. This treasured volume bears his signature, a tangible connection to the man whose pastoral care shaped the spiritual life of the early community. Fr. Lanigan's memory is also preserved in the crypt beneath the Cathedral, where his grave rests.

Along with this historic volume, a number of other important books have been returned to Goulburn, including a book once owned by Fr. Barry. These returns enrich our parish library and provide a unique link to the lives and ministries of the priests who have served the Goulburn community over the years. The return of these books allows us not only to reconnect with our early mission history but also to celebrate the enduring legacy of those who devoted their lives to the spiritual care of this parish.



Trees at the North Gate

After a thorough review, Heritage NSW approved the application to remove the two trees located near the north door of the cathedral. The removal of these trees is expected to help preserve the heritage-listed fence and improve access to the side of the cathedral, ensuring that both the building and its surrounding features are better protected and appreciated by visitors

External Roof Safety Update - WHS

The recently restored roof of the cathedral, a remarkable achievement, has developed a few small leaks. We ask parish members to please be mindful of any slip hazards and to report them immediately to the parish office. Repairs are being arranged, and your vigilance will help ensure the safety of all visitors while we address the issue.

IT in the cathedral



Clare Communication has been working in the cathedral to upgrade the streaming, audio, and screen systems. Once completed, we will be able to stream Masses live to YouTube and via the MQA website.

The hearing link system is also available and requires no setup—simply turn it on and hang the receiver around your neck. Anyone interested in using this device is invited to ask one of the acolytes for assistance.

Good bye Demountable

After many years of standing proudly in the cathedral carpark, our demountable building has now found a new home. This familiar landmark, which has served the parish community in countless ways over the years, is currently undergoing extensive work to prepare it for a safe journey to Crookwell.



While it will be missed here, we are pleased it will continue to serve others in its new location

Followthejourney -

www.mqagoulburn.com.au

 NATIONAL TRUST



P1

Planning & Preliminary Works (Now – End 2026)

Focus: Planning, approvals and preparation.

- Strategic Planning approval obtained.
- Commencement of structured planning and external stakeholder consultation. Detailed
- building plans prepared for St Brigid's, including indicative costings, timelines and updated structural report. Survey of
- approximately 2,500 m2 of vacant land for Early Learning Facility Demountable
- building sold and removed Development of
- Pilgrim Centre committee



P3

Presbytery & Future Planning (2029 onwards)

Focus: Long-term sustainability and future use.

- Conversion works commence on the Presbytery to create office spaces (prior to DA expiry) (Ref DA59AC plans) Decision on
- delivery model: Mission-led project or external tender Ongoing engagement with
- interested external parties Regular review to ensure alignment with strategic, financial
- and community needs Redevelopment of the prescient gardens (Ref plan from
- 2021)



PRECINCT TIMELINE

REDEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW (2026–2029)

P2

Construction & Site Development (2027 – End 2028)

Focus: Major construction and enhancement of the precinct.

- Construction of St Brigid's begins
- Tender process opened for proposed Child Care Centre (with Canberra Archdiocese support) construction begins
- Application for Minor Basilica status submitted



Pilgrim centre committee

If you are interested in joining the Pilgrim Centre Committee or would like more information, please contact Carlie or Heather at the Cathedral office.

A Heartfelt Thank You –to all our donors

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our generous donors who continue to support the ongoing restoration of St Peter and Paul's Cathedral. Your contributions play a vital role in preserving this sacred place for future generations.

A special thank you goes to Michael Wilcox, Bill, Penny, and Iona for their extraordinary generosity and commitment—it is truly inspiring. We would also like to thank the amazing anonymous donors.

If you would like to join them in supporting the Cathedral, contributions to the Restoration Fund are always welcomed and deeply appreciated. Every gift, big or small, helps us continue this important work.

Thank you for helping us care for this historic and sacred treasure.

With gratitude,

The St Peter and Paul's Cathedral Team

Restoration Account:
Goulburn cathedral restoration
BSB:062786
Account number: 23100



Ruth Read

Ruth has been a faithful member of our parish community for more than 50 years, generously sharing her time and gifts in countless ways. She currently supports the Tuesday Gospel discussion group, where her wisdom, encouragement, and gentle presence are deeply valued.

Over the years, Ruth has served as a reader and undertaken a wide variety of roles behind the scenes.

She has always been front and centre whenever a volunteer was needed — whether baking a cake, handing out booklets, welcoming parishioners at the door, or assisting at parish gatherings. Her quiet dedication and steady commitment have been a true blessing to our community.

BEHIND THE SCENES THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Lance Eccles

For over 20 years, Lance has been a dedicated and active member of St Peter & Paul's Parish, generously giving his time and talents in countless ways. Present at the Cathedral seven days a week, he faithfully assists with Communion, serves as an acolyte, and supports a wide range of ministries whenever help is needed. With a background as a lecturer in Chinese, Lance brings both wisdom and depth to his service.

Warm, friendly, and always engaging, he is a wonderful presence in our parish community and someone many enjoy stopping to chat with.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Do you have a story, reflection, photo, or update from around the mission that you'd love to share? We're currently gathering content for the next edition of the Heritage Newsletter, and we'd love to hear from you!

Whether it's a parish event, a historical insight, or a community highlight, your contribution helps us celebrate and preserve the rich life of our mission.

✉ Please send your articles to:

Goulburn@cg.org.au

Subject line: Attention: Carlie – Heritage Newsletter

Thank you for helping us keep our shared story alive

Follow the journey -

www.mqagoulburn.com.au



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