

# MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre  
133 Liverpool Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

6 December 2018

## **TIME CAPSULE TO MARK CATHEDRAL'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate a Sesquicentenary Mass and bury a time capsule this **Saturday 8 December from 12pm-1:30pm** to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Mary's Cathedral.

The present cathedral is the largest in Australia and its foundation stone was laid in 1868. It was designed by the English-born architect, William Wilkinson Wardell who was commissioned to complete the project by the first Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev Bede Polding. It was built after a fire destroyed the original cathedral in 1865.

The Dean of St Mary's Cathedral, Fr Don Richardson says the Sesquicentenary will be a very special occasion for the Catholic community not only in Sydney, but across the nation.

"St Mary's Cathedral is regarded as the Mother Church for Australian Catholics and is a magnificent tribute to the faith and commitment of generations of worshippers. It took over 100 years to complete the cathedral to its current state and it really is one of Australia's great architectural wonders", Fr Richardson said.

The St Mary's Cathedral Choir, the oldest established cathedral choir in the country will sing at the Sesquicentenary Mass. Its choristers have travelled to Rome to perform for His Holiness Pope Francis and his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI. They have also appeared in concerts with the Brandenburg Orchestra and Sydney Youth Orchestra.

After the Sesquicentenary Mass, Archbishop Fisher will bury a time capsule containing a copy of Saturday's print edition of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Weekend Australian*, this week's edition of *The Catholic Weekly* and coins of today.

**Media wishing to attend the event should contact**

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