

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

7 December 2021

A masterpiece in digital storytelling

Lights of Christmas returns to St Mary's Cathedral forecourt

Sydney's favourite free Christmas event, *Lights of Christmas*, will be officially launched at St Mary's Cathedral's forecourt on Thursday 9 December with a dramatic digital display centered on the theme of HOME.

Now in its 12th year, *Lights of Christmas* unites families, locals and tourists with a digital storytelling display projected onto the façade of the cathedral.

This year's theme for the display is HOME, at a time when many Sydneysiders have been working or studying from home for a number of months in lockdown.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said it's a very fitting theme for this year.

"Christmas is ultimately about our great homecoming, as the Christmas Babe visits us in our earthly home and invites us back to 'his place' in heaven", he said.

"Though many of us might be sick of the four walls we call home, this year's *Lights of Christmas* theme is about recognising and reconnecting with each other as sharers in our shared home of Sydney".

Lights of Christmas Creative Director, Mr Anthony Bastic said a significant part of the display will highlight the true meaning of Christmas, as reflected in the Nativity scene.

"I have thought about the Christmas story- the true meaning where we're celebrating the birth of Jesus and thinking about how Jesus and Mary were looking for a home. They endured a long journey to search for a new home", he said.

"So the physicality of the home is unimportant, but it is the people who are surrounding us in our homes that are important".

Amongst the performers on opening night is talented young independent singer songwriter, Tommy Francisco, the Sydney Street Choir and St Mary's Cathedral Choir.

Street Choir Director, James Paul said the event really helps lift the spirit and morale of the choir members each year.

"Weekly rehearsals are something they get out of bed for. The performances are a chance to be seen and be heard and for anybody in this situation, to just be able to get up on stage and with so many people listening to you and applauding you is a really empowering experience", Mr Paul said.

NOTE FOR MEDIA

Media are invited to attend a preview of the Lights of Christmas at 9:30pm on Wednesday 8 December.

If you wish to attend please RSVP Michael Kenny by 3pm on Wednesday- see contact details below. Interviews can also be arranged with Creative Director, Anthony Bastic.

More information about *Lights of Christmas* can be found online here: www.lightsofchristmas.com.au

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