



Seek you first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33



## FROM THE BISHOP

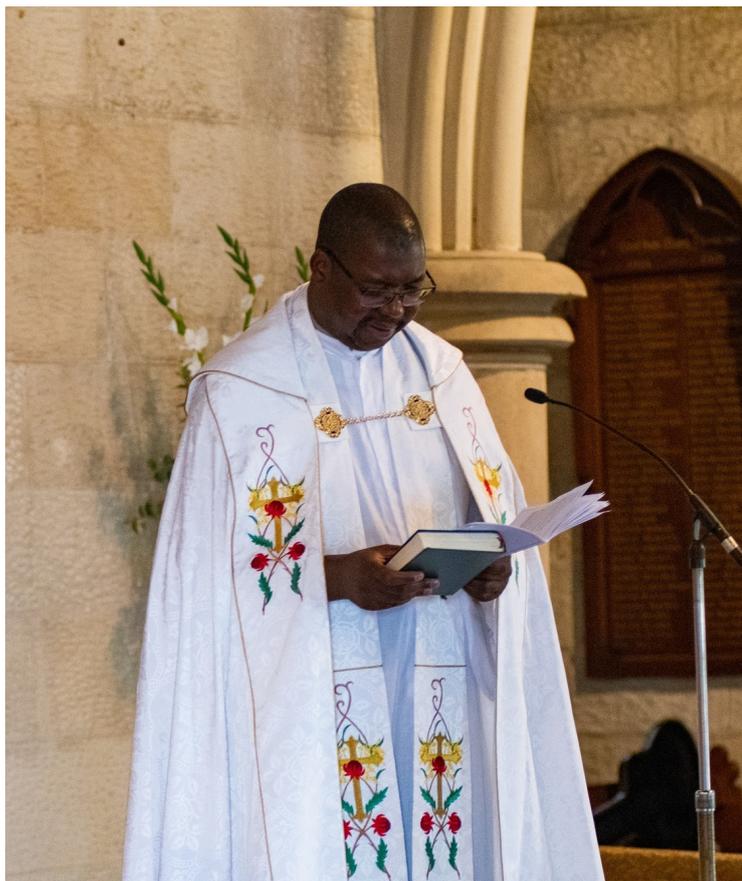
Welcome to the Cathedral Edition of CQFirst. I thought that I would share some thoughts about what a cathedral is. I speak as an ex-Dean and a Bishop. The καθέδρα (*Kathedra*) is simply a "seat"; in the case of an Anglican cathedral, the seat of the Diocesan Bishop, both symbolically and literally. St Paul's Rockhampton is my and my family's church, and it is run by Dean Melusi on my behalf. Whilst the language of "mother church" has fallen into disfavour in recent times, the cathedral remains a conspicuous symbol of the Diocese.

The cathedral is where we turn to see excellence, in liturgy, in preaching, in music, in administration, but also in architecture and construction. This is a (very) tall order. Added to this burden is the civic dimension where the cathedral is symbolic of our voice into the life of our community.

How a cathedral, as an historic and significant building in the fabric of our community, presents to the public is essential to the credibility of our witness. Furthermore, it is called upon for various duties above and beyond that of a normal parish church, involving not just parish events, but diocesan and civic duties as well. For that reason, the Diocese has a collective special responsibility to support the ministry of the cathedral. Understanding the contours of this complex network of competing interests is key to understanding cathedral ministry. I commend the following articles to your close attention and your prayers for the ongoing ministry of the Cathedral Parish of St Paul's Rockhampton.

The Rt Rev Peter Grice

## A word from The Dean



At St Paul's Cathedral we celebrate all the ministries to which God has called us and there are many exciting ways in which we seek to serve in the Lord's mission to the people of Rockhampton city and region.

PSALM 84:2

*My soul has a desire and  
longing to enter the court of the  
Lord: my heart and my flesh  
rejoice in the living God.*

We believe that together we can do great things for God, given that every Christian is called to love God above everything else.

We come to the state of loving friendship with our Creator through receiving the Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

The breadth of the worship styles we have developed, and are in the process of strengthening, reflects our commitment to God and the need to nurture discipleship among congregation members of all ages who meet in a wide range of church services. To some extent this reflects a tradition of careful liturgy, of a very seasonal nature, which is the inherited model of worship in the Cathedral. This includes sung liturgy and music settings arranged by organists. However, the congregation are also very keen to engage with other types of worship, including a visual style incorporating the use of a screen.

As the Dean and chief pastor of the Cathedral community, I am grateful to all who have supported the ministry of this place in the past and are presently engaged in the process of change, not only in matters of liturgy but in the church's missional culture as well. Please join us in praying for the growth of God's kingdom in this place. We would like to significantly increase the number of regular worshippers in Cathedral Parish and want to see more people enjoying the love of Christ and the sharing of the good news of Jesus by joining in whatever God is going to do here.

The Very Rev Melusi Sibanda  
Dean, St Paul's Cathedral

## A work in progress

Our beloved cathedral is progressing steadily after the highs and lows of the last five to six years.

The aftermath of Cyclone Marcia not only necessitated the cleaning up of dust, leaves and water that entered the Cathedral but there were grave concerns about the stability of the roof. It became a time to show patience as we waited to see if the insurers would look favourably on pending claims and quotes already obtained.

During 2016, the Cathedral was closed for re-roofing and stonework repairs which included the strengthening and replacement of stonework around the Rose window. Whilst the re-roofing was covered by insurance the stonework was a costly exercise, hence the decision to sell the parish church, St Marks's at Allenstown, to pay for the work. Soon after the Cathedral was closed, the Cathedral's main hall was vacated by the tenant so church services were celebrated in there, using some of the furniture from the Cathedral.

Back in the Cathedral only a few weeks, it was noticed that part of the roof in the front of the Cathedral had come away from the wall. The Cathedral grounds were declared out of bounds with signs forbidding entry. Parish Council meetings, each month, had comprehensive updates either by The Dean or Mr Des Haughton, our liaison person with the Diocese, regarding progress towards completion of the work on the Cathedral. Discussions revolved around expediency. At monthly Parish Council meetings, parish councillors, in their quest for expedient

action, experienced a range of emotions – frustration, impatience, disappointment – not with each other but with the situation faced. Patience became a valued keyword and the congregation were to be commended for their efforts in adapting to 'Church in the Hall'.

During 2019, the congregations continued to be patient and ever hopeful of returning to the Cathedral. In the December, the engineers completed the bracing supports to the Cathedral. However, scaffolding needed to remain inside the Cathedral for at least twelve months to allow monitoring of the front wall and the fixing of the gap between the roof and the front wall.

The year 2020 looked to be so full of promises with the re-opening of The Cathedral after three years of closure for the structural works. Relief, excitement, hope, plans – all part of 'being back' – were stalled within a few weeks with the news of the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. Strict laws cast a shadow over our Cathedral life, resulting in the closure of the Cathedral once again. Eventually, during the year, the Cathedral was re-opened.

During early 2021, Parish Council was informed that the scaffolding could be taken down. However, it will remain in place for a few months more until flashings are placed over the area where the roof came away from the wall, windows (taken out for safety) are replaced and some stonework attended to. The cost of this will be covered by a grant obtained by Mrs Cheryl Haughton, the parish and the diocese.

Mrs Bev Russell  
Church Warden, Cathedral Parish

# Help preserve our Cathedral for future generations

St Paul's Church was completed and consecrated in 1883, becoming a Cathedral with the formation of the Diocese of Rockhampton in 1892. It has served generations of Central Queenslanders as a site for worship, family celebrations, and civic events. A significant landmark in the historic centre of the city, it is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register.

Constructed of local Stanwell sandstone the building has suffered from rising damp and salt, and the nature of the soil on which it is built. Over the years much work has been undertaken at considerable expense to repair and conserve the building, including the current supporting structure installed to address movement of the northern wall.

The National Trust of Australia has listed St Paul's Cathedral. This means that, in the Trust's view, it is essential to Australia's heritage and must be preserved. Donations of over \$2.00 to the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) for this appeal are allowable as deductions for tax purposes. To donate:

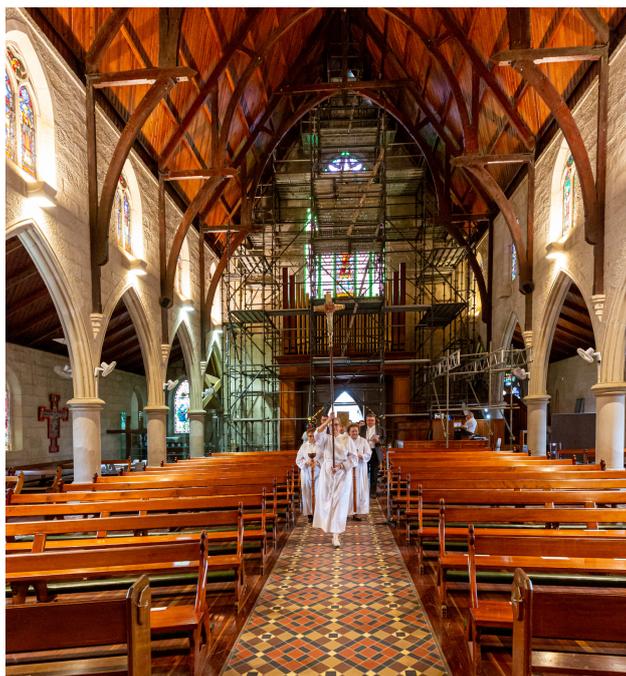
- **Direct** <https://nationaltrustqld.org.au/what-we-do/Heritage-Conservation/heritage-appeals/regional-heritage-appeals>

or scan the QR Code:



Go to the 'Give Now' heading and scroll down until you see 'St Paul's Cathedral Appeal, Rockhampton'.

Click on the dropdown arrow beside the name. (Do not click on the name as you will be redirected to the Cathedral website).



A number of boxes will then appear for you to indicate the amount you wish to give. Click on the + sign beside the amount you wish to give, scroll down and click the 'Continue' to checkout button.

Enter your details as required, click on the 'Continue' button and select the method of payment. Enter the details as indicated and click on the 'Pay' button.

- **By cheque** to the National Trust of Australia (Queensland). Please note the Appeal Name: St Paul's Cathedral Rockhampton
- **Cash donations** can be made through the Parish. These will be forwarded to the National Trust of Australia (Queensland). Please include your name so a receipt can be issued. The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) will issue a receipt for tax deductibility purposes.

Mrs Cheryl Haughton  
Treasurer, Cathedral Parish