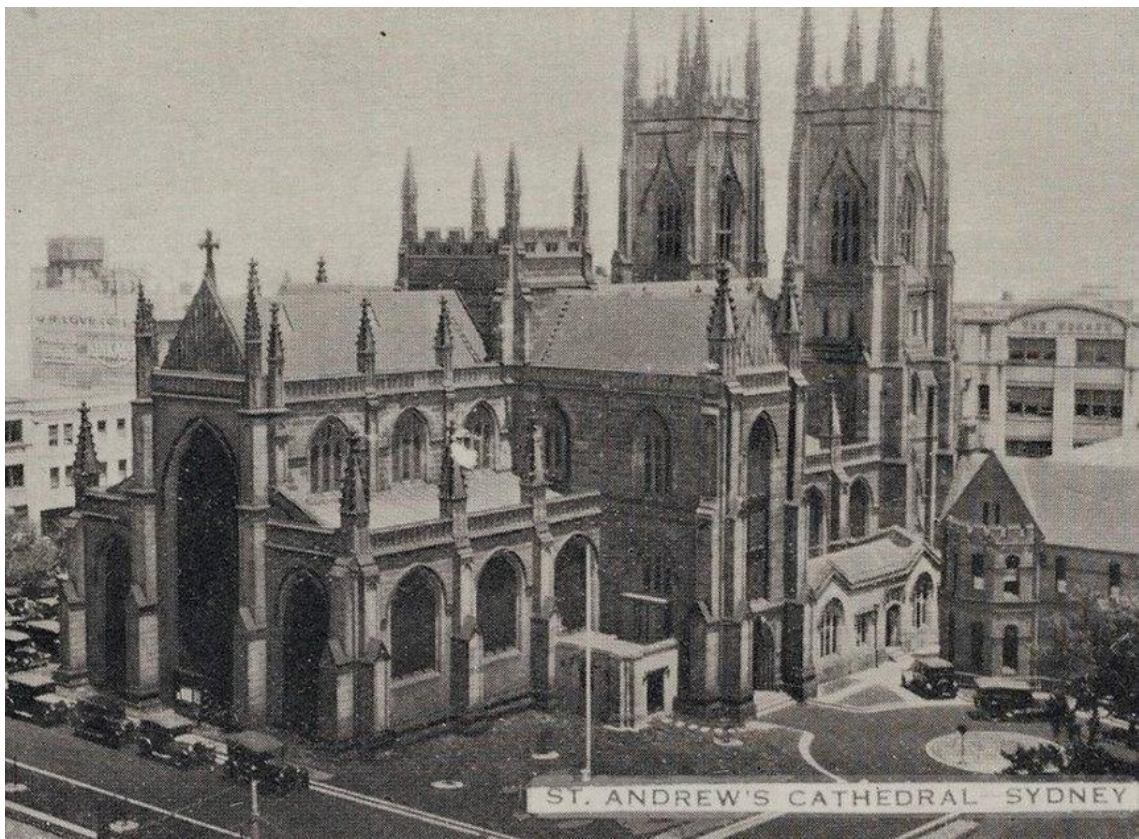


# St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, NSW



St Andrew's Cathedral is situated in the city of Sydney above the busy Town Hall Railway Station. It is the cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.



St Andrew's Cathedral was founded in 1819 and was designed by Edmund Blacket on foundations laid by James Hume. The above picture of the cathedral is circa 1901. It has been described as a perfect example of the colonial desire to reproduce England in Australia. It was built on the site of a smaller, temporary structure authorized by Governor Macquarie in 1812. Construction began in 1837 and was completed and consecrated in 1868 making it the oldest cathedral in Australia.

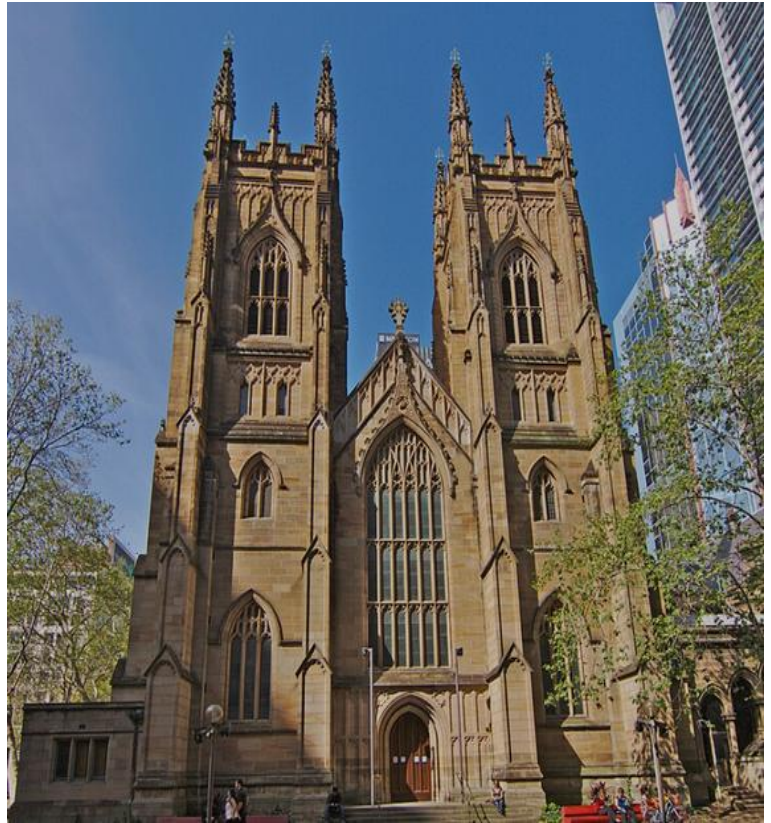


The challenge facing Blacket in designing St Andrew's Cathedral was how to make an imposing cathedral on foundations which were only the size of a large English parish church. With the repetition of forms and the strongly vertical lines characteristic of the Perpendicular Gothic style, Blacket succeeded in creating a building in freestone of the late Colonial and Early Victorian periods which, despite its small size, is nevertheless imposing and of harmonious proportions.



AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN  
CHURCH CALENDAR

The exterior has weathered to a mellow warm brown colour which adds to the rich texture created by delicate Gothic windows, well-proportioned towers and buttressing and multiplicity of decorated pinnacles. The main roof is slate.



St Andrew's has a largely tessellated tile floor with raised timber sections under most pews. The ceilings in the main space are stained and painted timber. The interior is a harmonious composition in Perpendicular Gothic.



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CHURCH CALENDAR

Although the building is small, it is given a sense of grandeur by the proportions of the arcade and clerestory, the richness of the mouldings, the loftiness of the hammerbeam roof with its blue and vermillion decoration, and the decorative details, which include carved stone ribbons around the nave piers, bearing the names of notables in the early Sydney church.

The windows fall into three classes, stained glass with their protective glazing, leaded light windows and plain windows or other miscellaneous windows. The building contains many fine stained-glass windows by local stained glass artists including Ashwin and Falconer and Norman Carter. This window in the choir depicted below was made by John Hardman & Co of Birmingham in 1864. It shows Mary Magdelene in three scenes - at the tomb with the angels, with the risen Christ, and with the disciples.





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One of the treasures of the cathedral is the Great Bible of 1539 (printed at the date when Henry VIII ordered that every church should have a Bible in the English language). It was donated to St Andrew's by the Church of St Andrew's Barnwell in Northamptonshire, United Kingdom, in thanksgiving for Australia's generosity to post-war Britain. The prominent positioning of the Bible (in its glass case) at the side of the reredos is illustrative of the Sydney diocese's emphasis on belief in the Bible as the authoritative "Word of God".



The Cathedral remains the central gathering place for Diocesan events, being the "seat" of the Archbishop of Sydney. The wider community of Sydney also come to the Cathedral for special occasions such as when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II came to Sydney in 2006 with a special service in her honour to commemorate Commonwealth Day.

St Andrew's Cathedral remains a place in the midst of a busy city where people can visit and enjoy its history or sit in quiet prayer and reflection. It also has a close association with the St Andrew's Cathedral school which was first established as a school for the Cathedral choir. The school continues to provide choristers for the Cathedral choir, which sings during the week, and on Sunday mornings.