



Welcome message from the Bishop

Tēnā koutou katoa

The first Bishop of New Zealand, Bishop Selwyn, purchased this site for a cathedral in 1843 within a year of his arrival here. He considered it a fine site and held a hope that a cathedral would benefit the social, charitable and missionary work of Auckland.

The generations that followed him held that vision quietly until the time was right to begin to fulfil it in the 1950s with work undertaken to build the chancel. Over the next 70 years the cluster of buildings has developed to form the completed cathedral and precinct - finally fulfilling Selwyn's vision.

The group of buildings reflects the development of the Anglican Church in Auckland and also the ways in which our cultural understanding has changed from a being a people who looked to England but now understand their place grounded in the Pacific.

This booklet aims to give you a souvenir with pictures of the buildings and artefacts, especially the stained-glass windows. It also sets the Cathedral in its context and outlines the development of Christianity in New Zealand.

We hope that it will deepen your appreciation of what you saw and become a valued memento. May it help you reflect on the meaning of this place and be a motivation to visit us again, and to encourage others to do so.

They can be assured of a warm welcome.

With every blessing.

Ross Bay

Bishop of Auckland

High altar and rose window



European theme

Resurrection theme

Polynesian theme

Great Window in Nave

Nigel Brown and artists 1996. Gift of Edmiston Trust and Sir Robert Owen



Welcome Message from the Dean

Kia ora and welcome

We are greatly privileged to have such inspiring places of worship at the Holy Trinity Cathedral complex.

St Mary's reminds us of the early days of Auckland and the remarkable spirit of those who brought the Christian faith to New Zealand.

The cathedral demonstrates the commitment to build in the English Gothic style and the decision to change styles to provide a more modern worship setting with a versatile open space for concerts, conferences and cultural gatherings.

The Marsden Chapel reminds us of Samuel Marsden, the first missionary to New Zealand, and provides an intimate space for worship and prayer.

The Bishop Selwyn Chapel with its modern design and open outlook provides a different kind of inspiration – and a versatile space for worship, meetings and functions.

Take a moment to enjoy the grounds with the Mountain Fountain, the Labyrinth for quiet contemplation and the English oaks planted with acorns from England.

May this souvenir booklet help keep memories of your visit alive and cause you to reflect on the spirit behind the creation of inspiring places for worship and reflection.

Anne Mills

Dean of Auckland

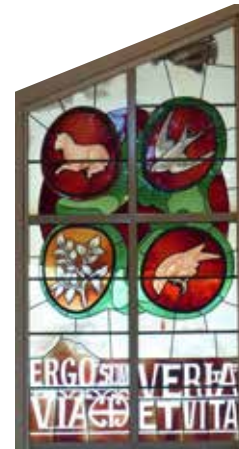
Queen's Window

John Abramczyk 1990



Cathedral Nave West – Windows 1 to 9 – Old Testament themes

Designed by Shane Cotton. Installed 1996





Cathedral Nave East – Windows 10 to 18 New Testament themes

Designed by Robert Ellis. Installed 1996





The Cathedral in Context

Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell stands as a powerful symbol of the Anglican Church's journey in Aotearoa New Zealand and its deep roots in Auckland. Its story is bound to that of Bishop George Augustus Selwyn, appointed the first Anglican Bishop of New Zealand in 1841.

Selwyn arrived in Auckland in 1842 and made it the centre of his vast diocese, which then included all of New Zealand and parts of the Pacific. A visionary leader, he promoted education, bicultural partnership, and widespread mission, laying firm foundations for the Church's future. He long dreamed of a cathedral for Auckland, and in 1843 purchased the present site, but not until 1957 was construction started there.

In 1860, the first St Mary's was built on a site opposite. In 1886, it was replaced by the present St Mary's, a larger timber Gothic Revival building, which served as the Cathedral from 1888 to 1973. Queen Elizabeth II visited St Mary's during her 1953 tour, reflecting its civic and spiritual significance.

In 1957 construction of a new neo-Gothic Cathedral started on Bishop Selwyn's site and in 1973 the bishop's seat officially moved into the partially completed building. In the 1990s, a bold new nave was designed by Professor Richard Toy, incorporating soaring timber arches and glass. Completed in 1995, it united the earlier structures into one integrated and distinctive cathedral complex. In 1982 St Mary's was moved carefully alongside, now forming an integral part of the site. In 2017 the modern Bishop Selwyn Chapel completed the complex.

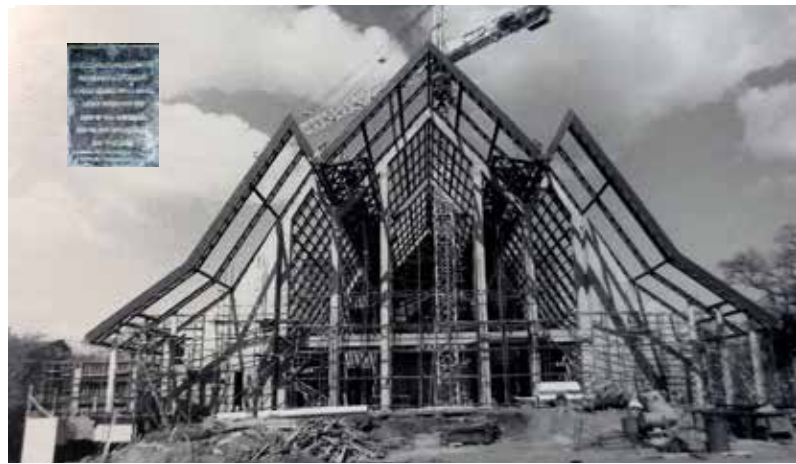
Holy Trinity Cathedral today reflects the diversity of Auckland and the evolving mission of the Anglican Church and its three traditions or "tikanga": Tikanga Pākehā, Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pasifika. It is a place of worship, hospitality, music, dialogue, and service—faithful to Selwyn's original vision, and open to the needs of the city and nation it serves.

Transept Window - Revelation theme

Artist: John Baker



Towle's 1940s design was only partially completed



Richard Toy's design of the modern nave takes shape 1995



Nave before bridge removed 1996 to 2017



Nave with bridge removed and organ installed 2017



Māori and Polynesian themes in Cathedral design

Courtyard represents a Māori marae and roof peaks echo Māori and Polynesian roof forms