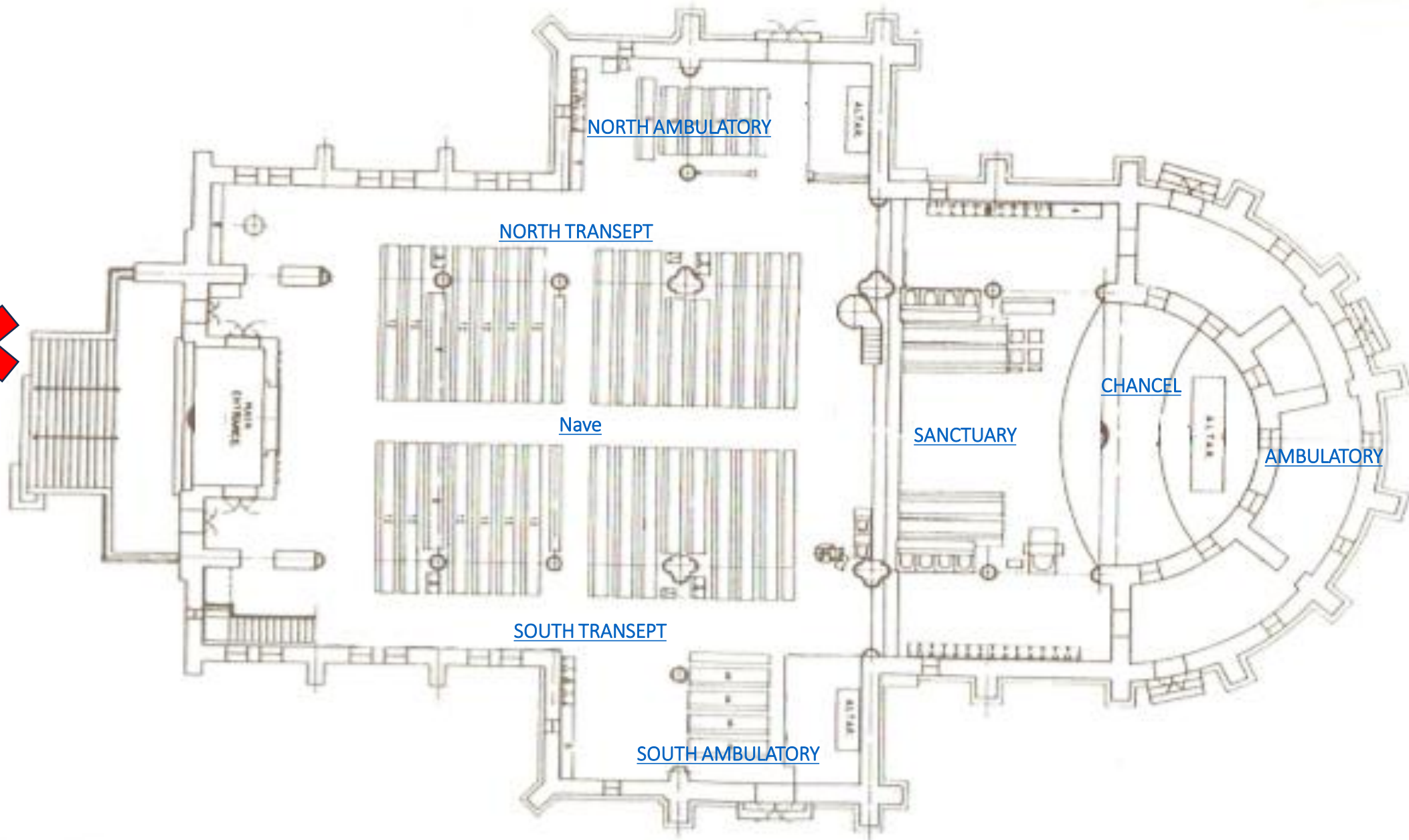


FRONT OF ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL





St James Cathedral Townsville

St James' Cathedral is a heritage-listed cathedral of the Anglican Diocese of North Queensland in Townsville, Queensland. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992

Built on Melton Hill, the large red-brick structure is a well-known landmark of the Townsville central business district

It was designed by Arthur Blackett and was partially built in 1887 by MacMahon & Cliffe.



Satellite View

St James' Cathedral is essentially cruciform in shape, but with a large semi-circular apse towards the east. The main axis of the Cathedral is just 20° off a geographical East–West direction

The nave has covered aisles which extend to the West side of the transept. There is a small tower and spire to the East of the transept, and a bell tower with a cross in the Northwest corner.

The Cathedral sits on the corner of State Road 16, and Cleveland Terrace which rises up on the North side. We shall begin our tour of St James near the West doors and walk around the Cathedral in a clockwise direction. Returning to our starting point we shall enter through the West door.





Front Steps

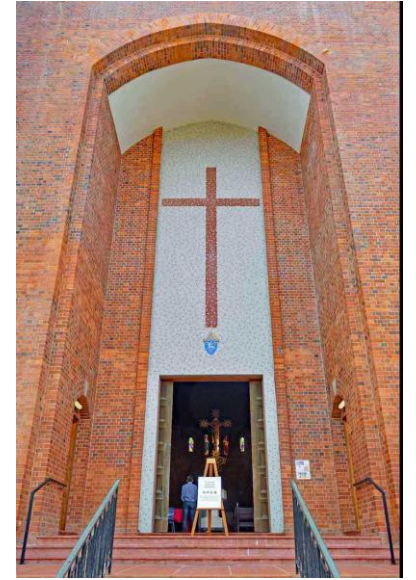
The west entrance to Saint James' Cathedral is an impressive sight with the main entrance reached by a flight of steps – which Blackett designed so that"we do not have to cut away so much ground".

The entrance is not as imposing as was initially planned with a tower at the West End planned to be 9 meters square and 45 meters high.

Front Entrance

Above the West Doors is a huge mosaic (by Stan Moses) showing the ecclesiastical arms of the Diocese surmounted by a 6 meter high red cross.

The front entrance and bell tower have newer curved lines compared to the original building and spire with straight lines of the time



Bell Tower

The Bell Tower is about 25 meters high, topped by a spiring cross that adds another 5.5 meters to its height and contains a single, electrically operated bell.

The conservation of the Bell Tower was undertaken in 2008 by Base iGi, a local engineering consultancy.

Mr Bill Jordan diagnosed the reasons for the crumbling of some of the existing bricks and why there was white residue in some parts of the building. Salt laden air had caused corrosion on the metal bell casing, causing it to expand and crack the brickwork

Similar bricks were sourced from Red Brick (Mudgee), Austral Bricks (Nowra) and Fugen Bricklaying (Mittagong).

Prior to laying the bricks, the corroded steelwork and damaged bricks had to be removed.

When the brickwork was removed from the top of the bell tower, it exposed the metal head of a pick that was wedged under the base of the cross. It was presumed that the axe was used to lever the cross into a vertical position. The new bricks were again laid over the axe head.



The Bell

The 750kg bronze bell was cast in the Mears and Stainbank foundry in England in 1901 and was originally located on a tower at the rear of the Cathedral. It cost £100.

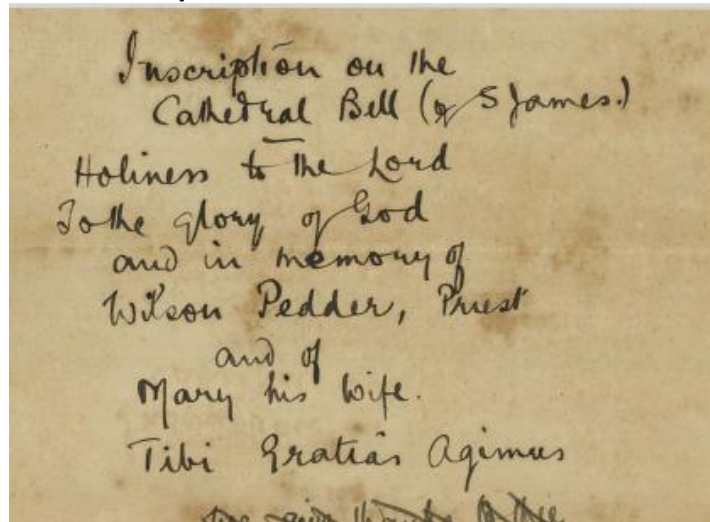
In 2008, the bell was restored under the guidance of Hervey Bagot from Bagot Bells in Adelaide

Magnetic Steelworks constructed a new mounting frame and swing mechanism superior to the previous one to resist corrosion from the sea air and to put less strain on the brickwork. The bell and mountings weigh more than 900kg.

At this time an electronically controlled mechanical bell ringing mechanism was installed.

The bell is set to ring the Angelus each Monday to Saturday at 8am, 12 noon and 6pm and also at 12 noon on Sunday. It also calls people to the 9am service on Sunday.

- [The Week \(Brisbane, Qld. : 1876 - 1934\) Fri 30 Aug 1901](#)
[Townsville Cathedral Bell.](#)



The St James Cathedral Bell rings in sequence (3,3,3,9) at 8am, noon, and 6pm. It is a traditional call to prayer, but usually at 6am not 8am.

The ringing consists of three strokes of the bell, each followed by a pause, and then nine strokes. John Sullivan, in his 1917 book, "Externals of the Catholic Church," writes: "The manner of ringing the Angelus seems to have varied little since the beginning of the devotion.... Old monastic records, going back to the fifteenth century, show that the bell-ringer was directed, 'to toll the Ave-bell nine strokes at three times, keeping the space of one Pater and Ave between each of the three tollings.'"

During the bell ringing, there is the Angelus prayer that can be recited in time with the bell sequence.

The Bell also rings 10 minutes prior to the Sunday Service, and you will perhaps hear a different toll for a funeral or a wedding.

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,
Your Grace into our hearts;
that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,
your Son by the message of an angel,
so by His passion and cross
we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Anglican Diocese of North Queensland

The arms show a bishop's mitre above a shield with the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) carrying the Banner of Victory and three cross crosslets fitched.

Mosaic by Stan Moses



St James' Statue- (affectionately known as "Slim Jim")



The tower supports a white stone statue of Saint James the Great, which was erected in 1960 on the completion of the Cathedral. The sculptor was Erwin A. Guth who was born in Saarbrücken, Germany in 1926. He studied at the Berlin Academy of Fine arts during the Second World War (1940-42) and was a teacher of sculpture at the Ministry of Public Worship and Instruction of the Saar from 1950-1953 before migrating to Australia in 1954.

His Saint James holds a shepherd's staff, signifying his vocation as a 'shepherd of souls' rather than the traditional pilgrim's staff, and wears three cockle shells on his left sleeve. The tradition is that at the martyrdom of St. James, his body was smuggled out of Herod's land. By ship it was taken to Spain. As the ship approached land a horse and rider were seen on shore. The restless horse plunged into the sea to greet the ship but in a few moments appeared again on shore covered over with white-lined scallop shells. The rider, said to be a bridegroom, went joyfully on to his wedding. The scallop shell has always been the emblem for St. James.