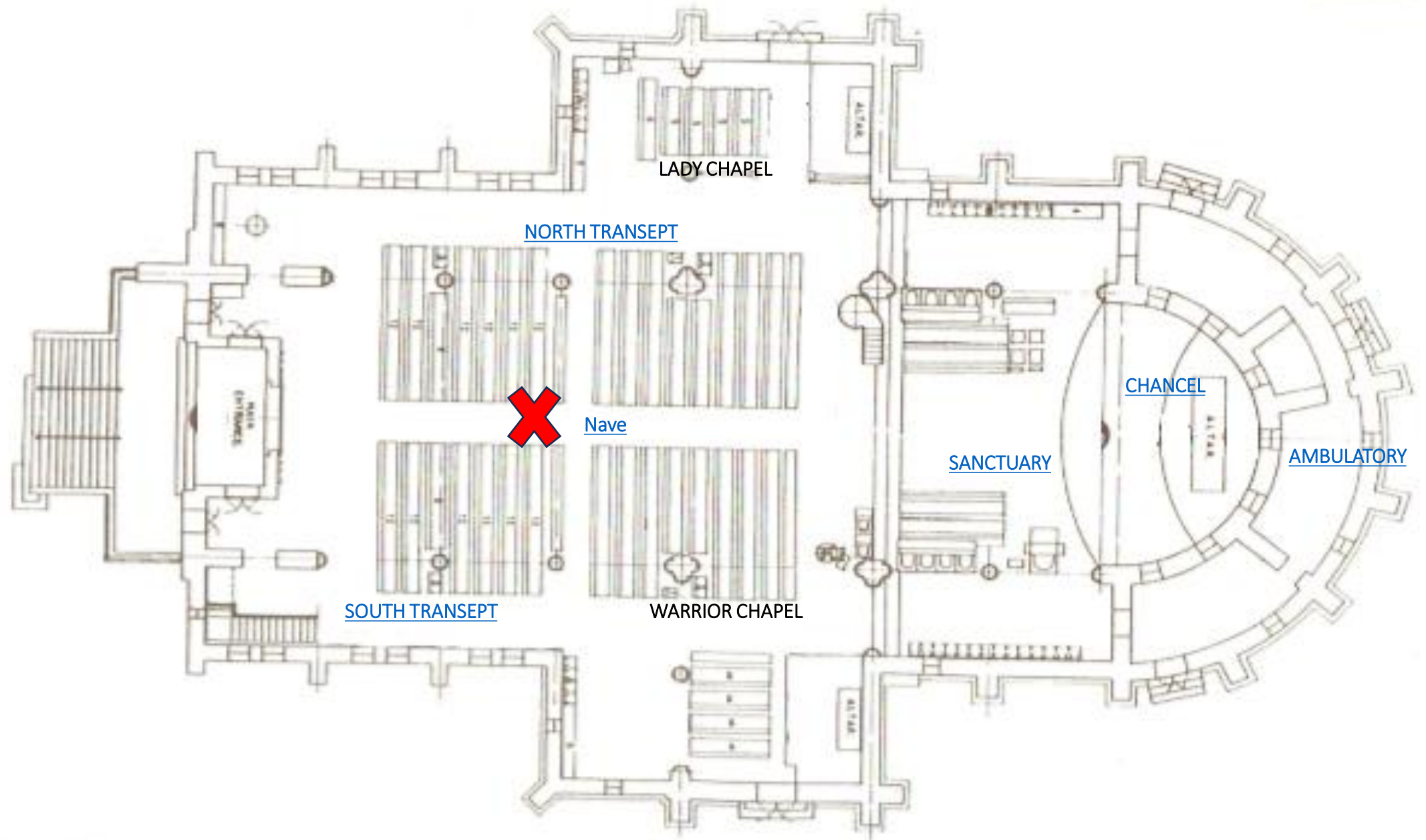


THE NAVE





Nave

- Round columns and supported Gothic arches lead to the sanctuary, located within the semicircular apse.
- At the left is the pulpit and at the right the lectern.
- The high altar is beyond. We can also catch glimpses of the transepts, with the organ placed high in the North (left) transept.
- The nave is dominated by the Rood (Cross)

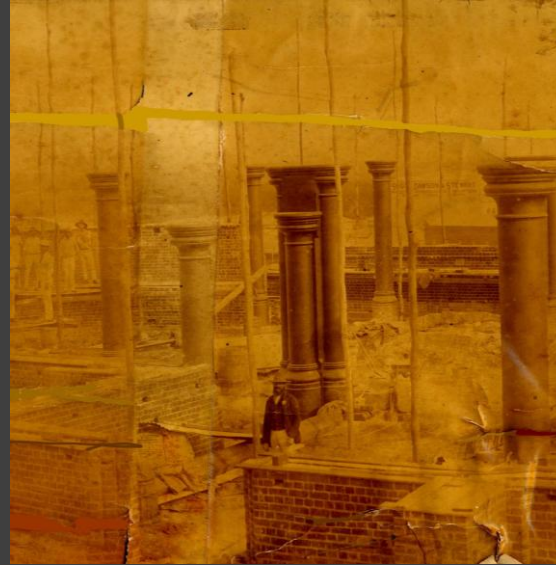


Looking East



Looking West

Columns



The columns in the original cathedral were made from cast iron. They were specially exhibited at the Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition 1888-89, as they were the largest castings ever made in Australia until that time. The weight of the four central ones is six tons apiece, the intermediate ones being about two tons' weight.

1892 'OPENING OF ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL, TOWNSVILLE.', *The North Queensland Register* (Townsville, Qld. : 1892 - 1905), 2 November, p. 31. , viewed 17 Oct 2026, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article79318072>

Although no difference can be seen, the newer columns are made from steel.

The Rood

(Saxon for Cross)

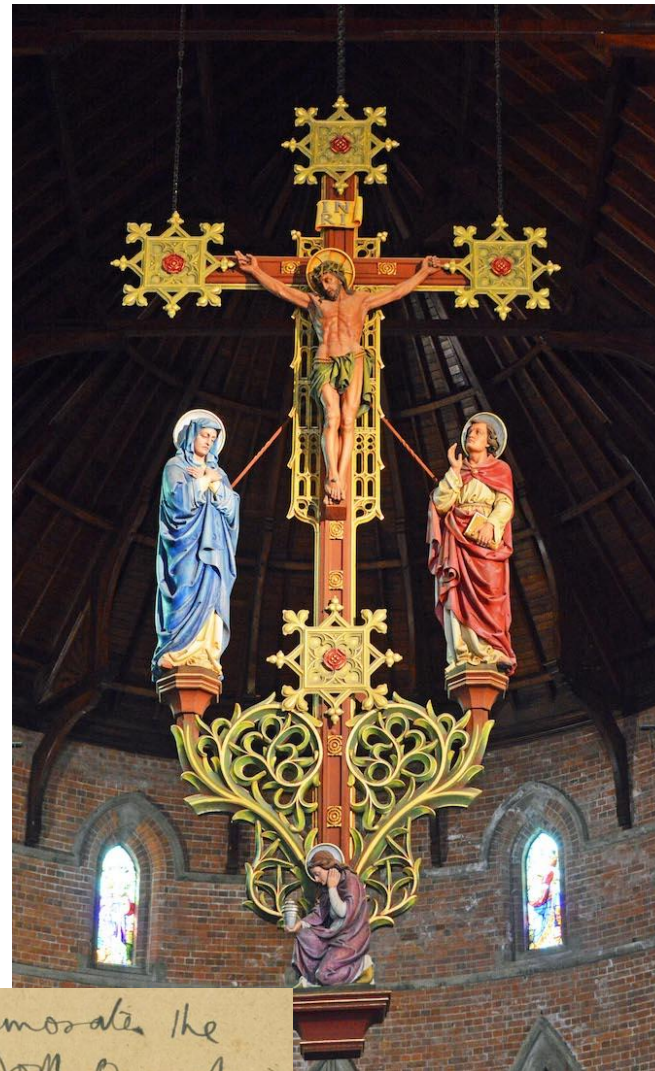
The Rood now hangs above the centre of the chancel. The two-thirds life size figures were carved from English Oak in England by John Bridgeman and the cross and tracery by Fred W. Todd in Sydney. It depicts the crucifixion with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and St John standing, as Mary Magdalene kneels at the foot of the cross.

It was installed by the late Bishop Oliver Feetham in memory of the men who gave their lives in the First World War, particularly his brother, Major General Edward Feetham who died on the 29/03/1918, aged 57.

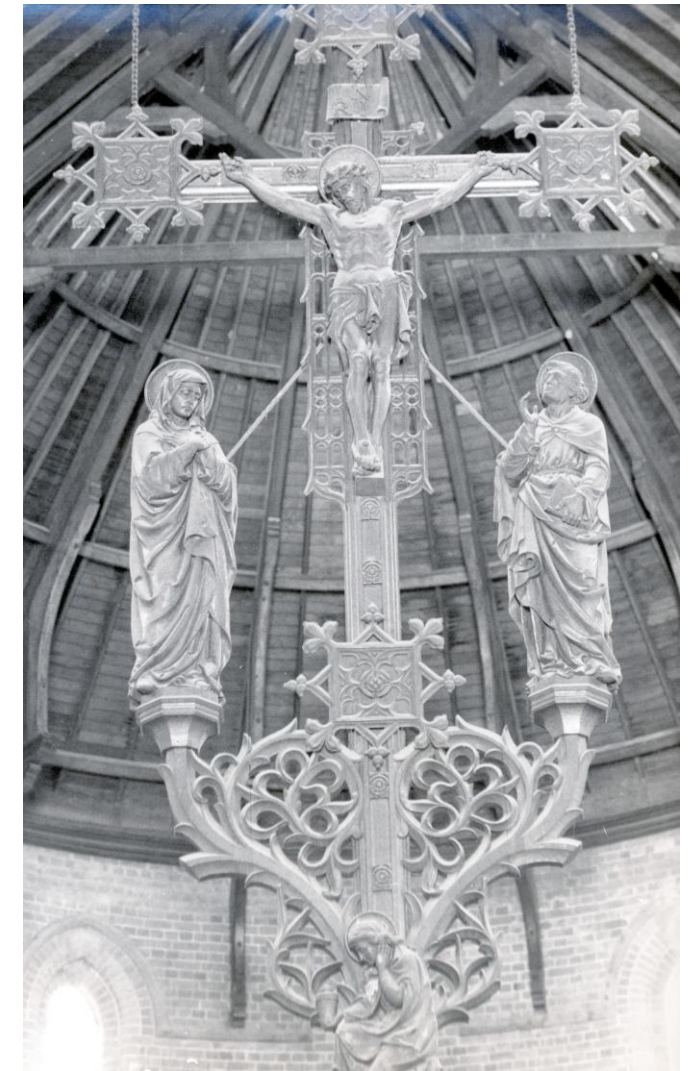
The Anzac Appeal short fall was Funded from ESTATE of Bishop Feetham's Brother (Edward killed Good Friday 1917 in Action) who died during the war - Made in England Cost £500 - Carved from English Oak by John

The cross was unveiled on Anzac Day, 1923, by two returned soldiers, Harold Thorley and William Harcourt Phillips.

This Rood was later restored and painted by the late Stan Moses.



This Rood commemorates the men & women of North Queensland who gave their lives for our liberty in the war 1914 - 1918.



(You will notice that one of the rosettes does not match the other three.)

Nave Altar

The Nave Altar is regularly placed below the Rood to enable a greater sense of Eucharistic community during parish services.

It was crafted by Ryan Moss of Australian Bloodwood (top) and timbers saved from the 1896 Church of St Mary, Charters Towers for the base.



The Pulpit

The original silky oak pulpit which survived Cyclone Leonta. It was presented to the Cathedral by "the past and present clergy of the Diocese in memory of the first Bishop of North Queensland, Bishop Stanton." 1879-1891

Inscription

*"To the Glory of God and Loving
Commemoration of the Episcopate of George
Henry STANTON D.D. First Bishop of this
Diocese - This Pulpit is given by the Past and
Present Clergy of the Diocese"*

*The Pulpit in St James' Cathedral is a Stanton memorial
To the Glory of God
and
in ~~memory~~ Commemoration of the Episcopate
of
George Henry Stanton D.D.
First Bishop of North Queensland
1878 - 1891
This pulpit is given by the past & present
clergy of the Diocese.*



Lectern

The lectern carries a copy of the Bible and it is from here that the Scripture is read at services.

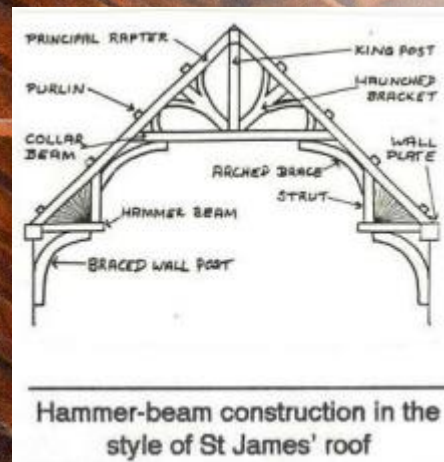
Eagle lecterns are very common in Anglican churches and cathedrals, although they are usually made of brass.

The eagle symbolism is rather obscure, but may relate to the eagle being the insignia of the disciple John, or perhaps a reference to Isaiah 40:31. ...”but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; “

The “dragon’s teeth” pedestal indicates that although the lectern survived Cyclone Leonta in 1903, the pedestal was added later



Nave Ceiling



The design and construction of the cathedral roof adds greatly to the beauty and effectiveness of the cathedral as a place of worship. It is an open roof with no ceiling to hide the construction. Pairs of principal rafters, called couples, pitch against each other to meet at a ridge-piece at their apex. The feet of the rafters rest on timbers, called wall plates which lay on the top of the walls.

To stop the roof collapsing, there is a tie beam or collar, about two thirds of the way up. This collar is also called a wind-beam as the major force on a roof, apart from its own weight, is wind.

Above the collar beam is a kingpost supported by haunched brackets. Below the collar are a series of braces, struts, beams and wall posts providing more structural support to prevent sagging. This part of the roof is hammer-beam in design – a style that dates from the 14th century.

Nave Ceiling

The principal rafters are connected on each side by four purlins running longitudinally which support the common rafters, which in turn support boarding laid diagonally to provide additional strength. Above these are, presumably, battens to hold the tiles.

New tiles, imported from Belgium, were installed in 2008. The guttering is beautifully made in one eighth inch copper which curves around the eastern end.

The roof is higher above the nave and chancel than above the side chapels as their width is less. Over the altar the rafters are set radially to support a conical roof falling to the semi-circular wall.

In the main body of the church the roof is high, with the hammer beams allowing a lighter, more open appearance which lifts eyes and hearts upwards. The lower roof which covers the aisles is a far simpler lean-to construction, again the underside of wood, but covered in iron instead of slate. The iron has been cold galvanised by painting on galmet.



New and Old Timber

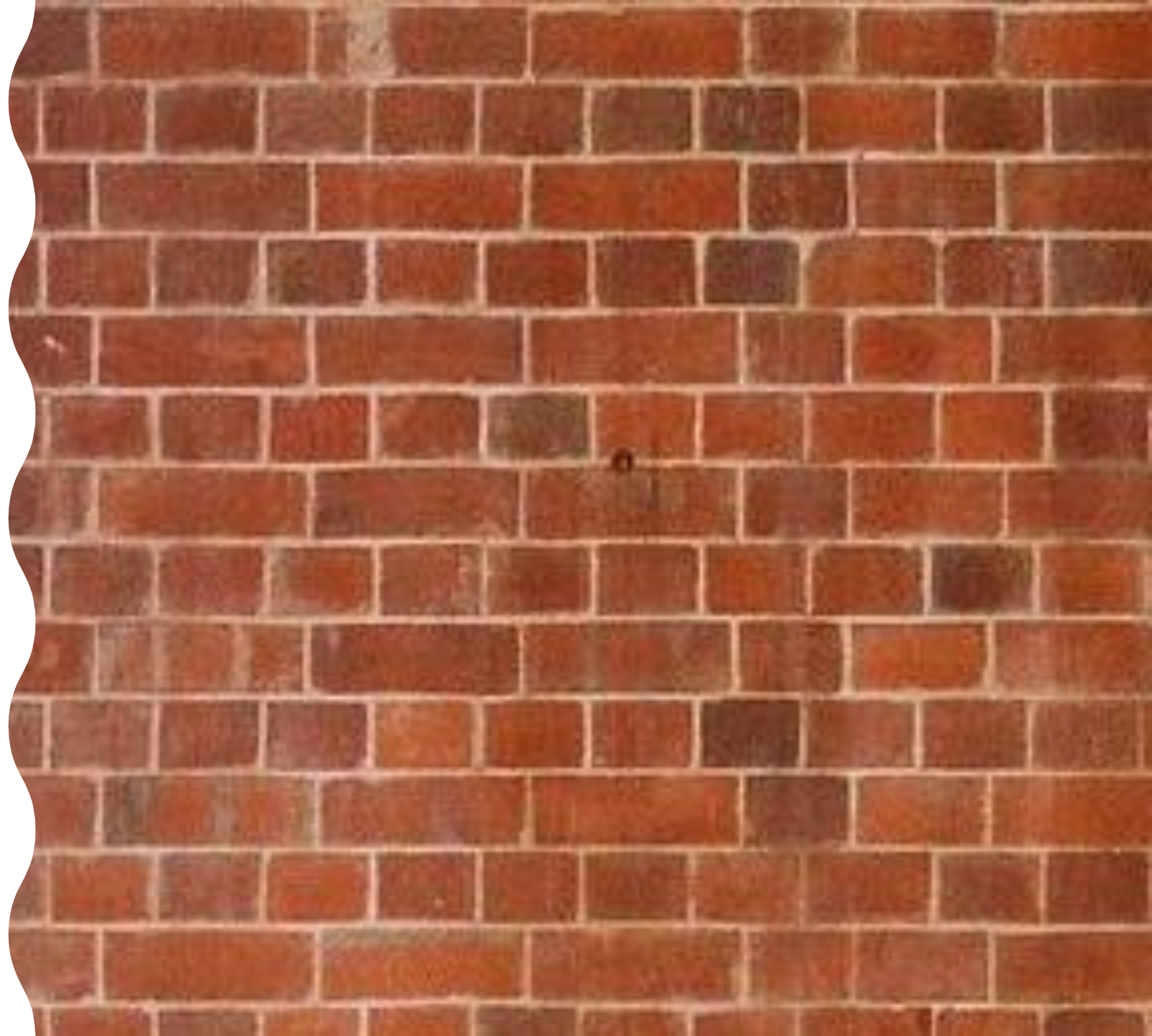
The older lapped, roughly
sawn timber contrasts with the
smoother sawn, tongue-in-
groove timber of the Cathedral
extension



New and Old Bricks

The clay pit that was used for the original bricks was reopened to produce the bricks for the extension so that the colour matched.

The original brickwork was English Bond with alternating rows of “headers” and “stretchers”, although this format was not continued in the extension.



Original Pews

There are several original pews that date back to St James Church. These have blacksmith forged nails. They are distinctive due to the crosses on the ends. Few survived Cyclone Leonta

Other pews date between 1902 and 1906. These have machined nails and braces added for support and the timber is much wider.



Newer Pews

There are a number of brass plaques on the 1960 pews that have been polished beyond recognition, acknowledging the donations of new pews when the Cathedral was extended. Prior to this chairs were used for most of the congregation.

The timber used for the 1960 pews is also much thinner





*The Harvey Sutton Family
Cloncurry*

St. Anne's
School

*In thanksgiving for the Life & Work of
Sister Frances SSA in NQ
From the Brisbane O.G.A.*

*The Lord Family
Nelia*

*thanksgiving for the Life & Work of
Sister Frances SSA in NQ
From the Brisbane O.G.A.*

*St. Johns
Cairns*

Mrs Alberta Green
In Memory of
David Green

EPNS

*In thanksgiving for the Life & Work of
Sister Frances SSA in NQ
From the Brisbane O.G.A.*

STC SIL

*In thanksgiving for the Life & Work of
Sister Frances SSA in NQ
From the Brisbane O.G.A.*

STC SIL

*The
Tung Yep Family*

STC SIL

*In Memory
of
Samuel & Florence Wakeford*

EPNS

*In thanksgiving for the Life & Work of
Sister Vernon Mary SSA in NQ
From the O.G.A & Friends*

STC SIL

The West Nave towards the Main Door

Looking back towards the West Door the most noticeable feature is a large mosaic panel above the entry doors.



West Door Mosaic “Flight into Egypt”

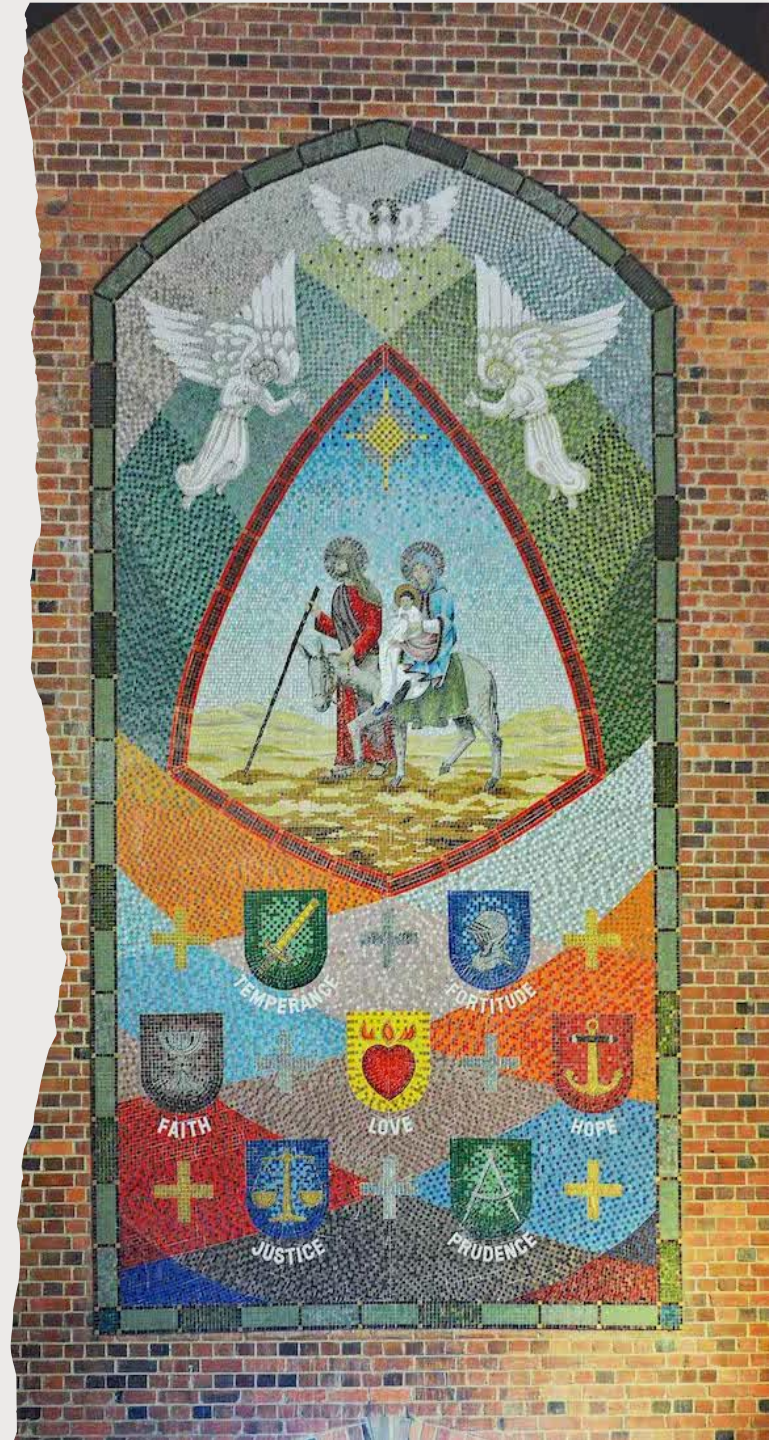
The mosaic depicts Joseph and Mary carrying the child Jesus on a donkey, with attendant angels and the Dove of the Holy Spirit uppermost.

The theme reflects the journey into the unknown of the early settlers and commemorates the contribution of pioneer women in the settlement of North Queensland.

Below are seven shields with symbols portraying Temperance, Fortitude, Faith, Love, Hope, Justice and Prudence.

The Doris May Rollinson Memorial mosaic above the West Door was designed and installed by Stan Moses. The mosaic was a gift from Mrs F. Culley, the sister of Doris May Rollinson

The Mosaic is by Stan Moses



Cathedral Consecration

The Consecration Points around the Cathedral are crosses fleuroned on the quillons and in the shape of the blood red sword of martyrdom.

The Cathedral could not be consecrated until 1978 as the Bishop advised that *“the difference between the funds received and the contract price of the building was £22,000”*

