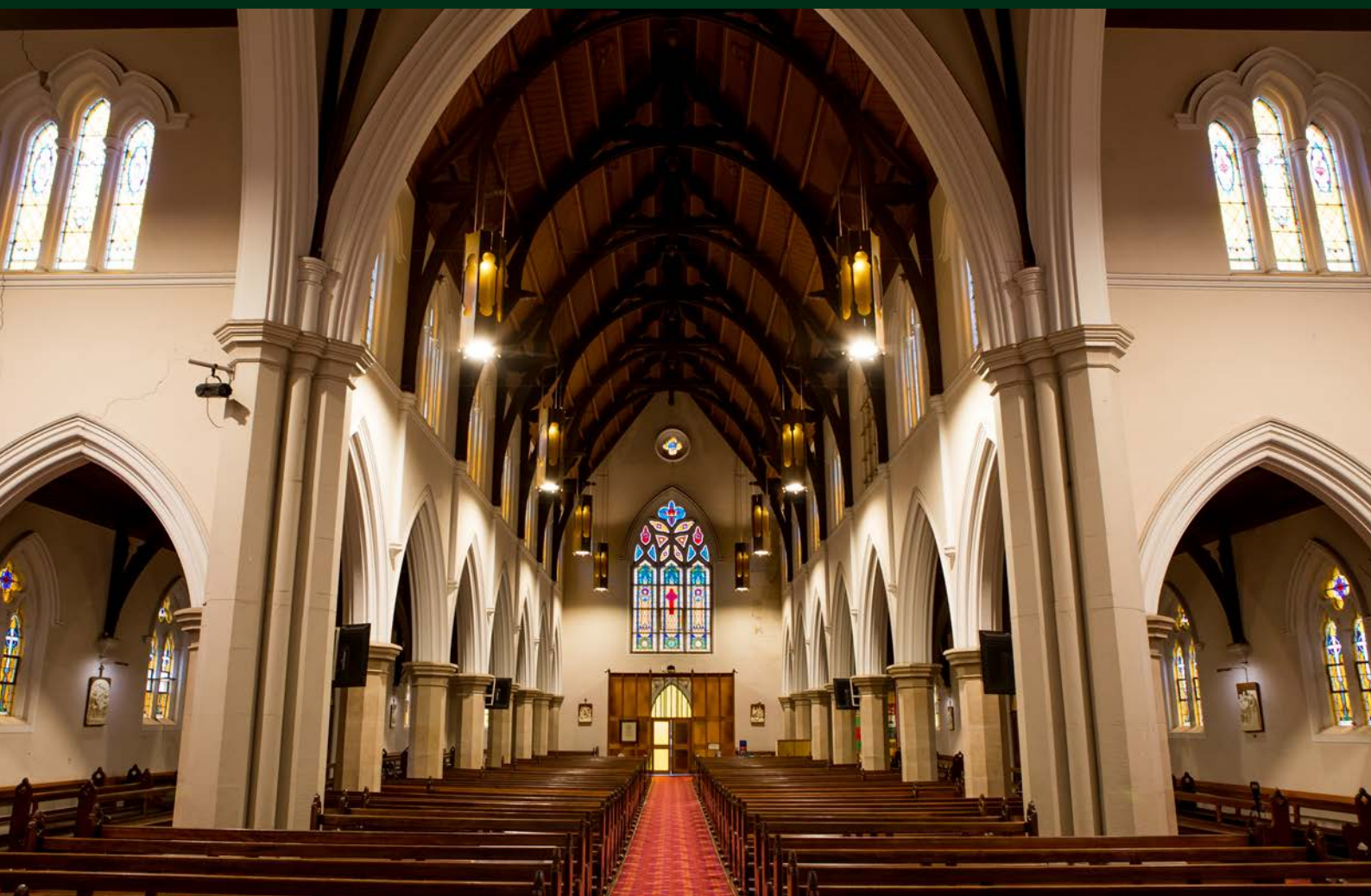
A Century of Light

PRESERVING THE
ICONIC WINDOWS OF
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Catholic Diocese of
TOOWOOMBA





BISHOP KEN HOWELL, BISHOP OF TOOWOOMBA

Welcome from Bishop Ken

“The place of our cathedral in the life and history of our diocese is significant. It remains the visible sign of our unity as a diocese and the place from which the bishop leads God’s holy people. The restoration works of recent months have brought this beautiful building to life, and it almost looks like new again. Those who know St Patrick’s well will realise that we still have much work to do on the inside to allow its true beauty to shine forth. One of the next major projects will be to work on all the windows that are seriously problematic at present. I hope that we can all have a sense of pride in our cathedral and do our part to support the works that are ahead.”



PROJECT

Overview

As we approach the centenary celebrations of St Patrick's Cathedral in 2029, an extensive restoration journey is well underway to ensure this iconic structure remains a cherished part of our community's heritage. The restoration work, which began in earnest in 2020, has already made significant strides. Crucial foundation repairs have been completed to address building movement, alongside the installation of an irrigation system designed to preserve soil moisture. The exterior has been meticulously cleaned, and pointing repairs using lime-based mortar have ensured the integrity of the original structure. Additionally, reinstated dormers have improved roof ventilation, highlighting our commitment to preserving the cathedral's architectural beauty for future generations.

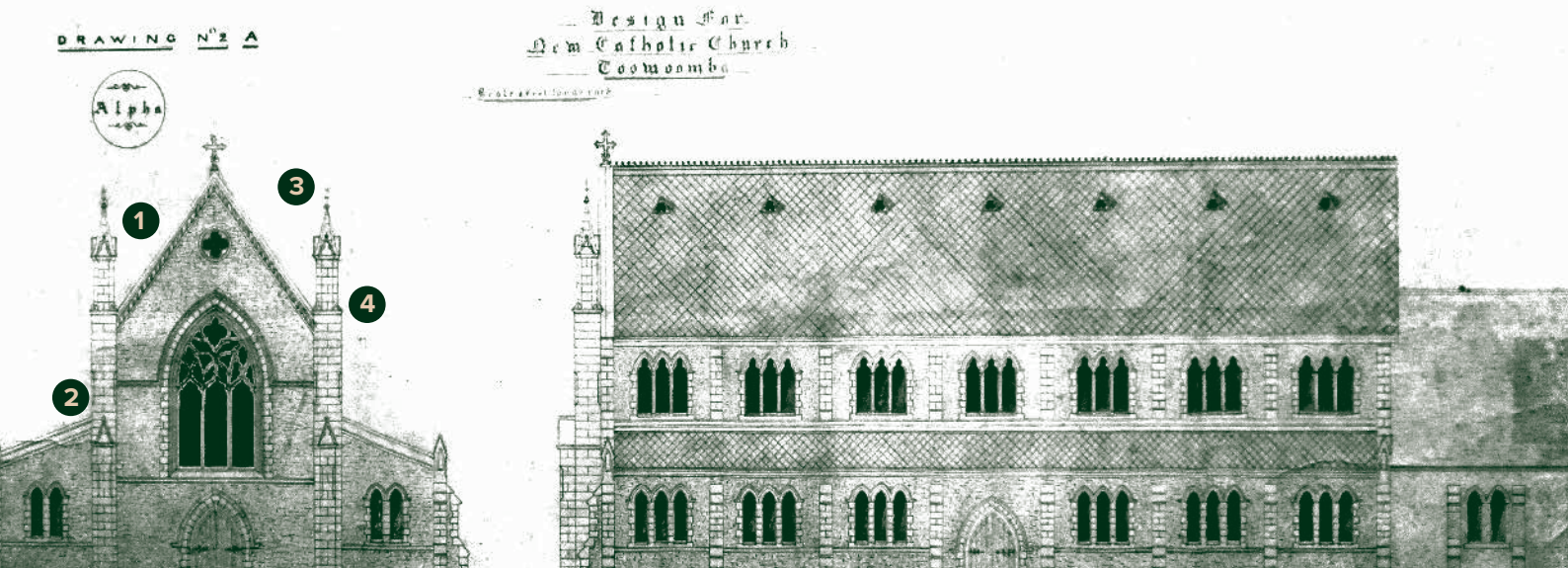
Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the next phase of the restoration project, which will focus on the cathedral's magnificent 172.89 m^2 stained glass windows. This meticulous work, estimated to cost $2.2 million, will be carried out by skilled artisans dedicated to restoring these windows to their former glory. This phase of restoration not only preserves the artistry of the leadlight but also adds to the narrative of St Patrick's Cathedral, enriching its legacy as we prepare to celebrate its centenary.

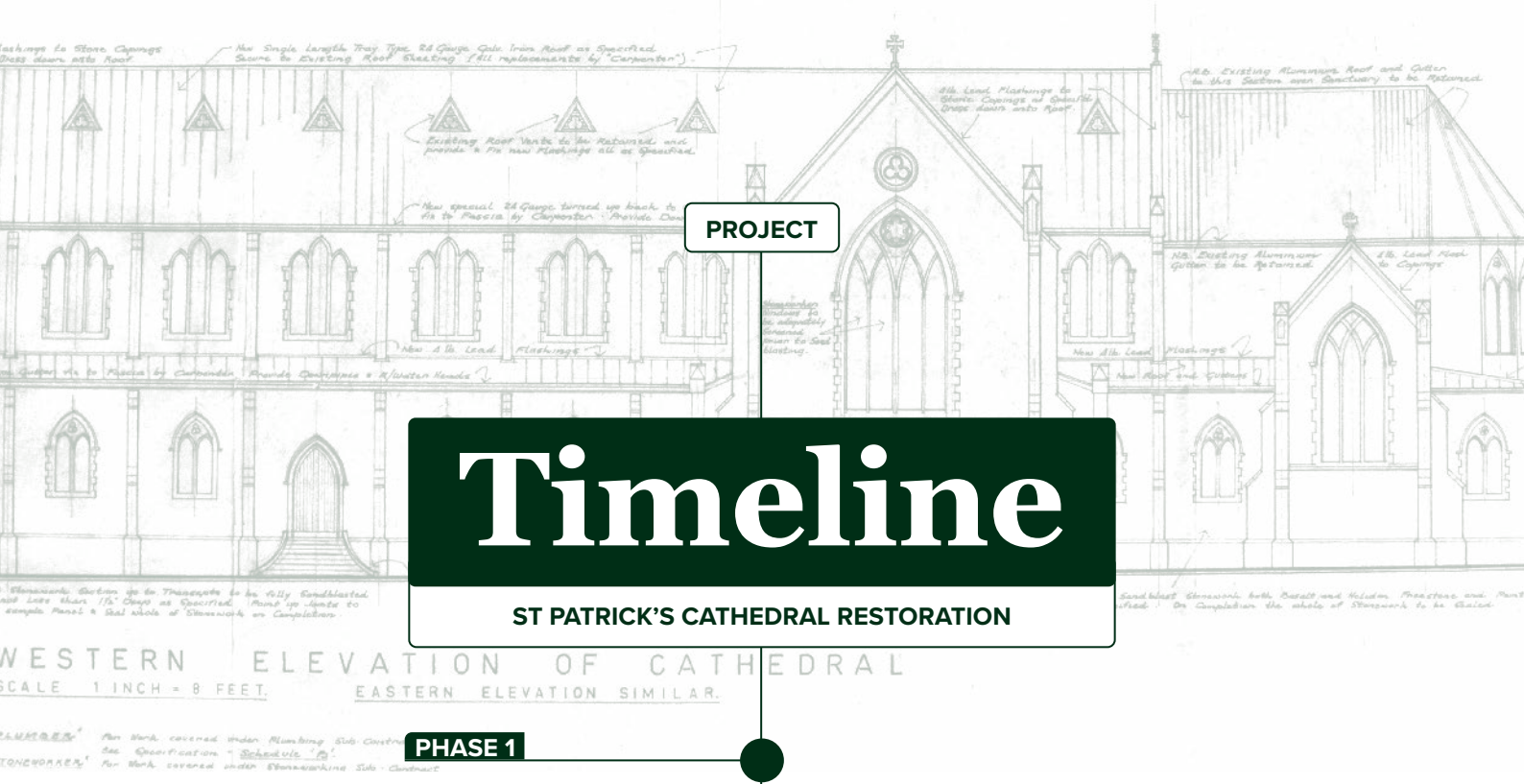
1 **Neo-Gothic (Gothic Revival) design.** A form of architecture used during the Revival Age starting in the 1800s, which emulates traditional Gothic Architecture popular in Europe in the 13th to 15th century.

2 **James Marks** was chosen as the architect, winning a competition to design the church. His work is prominent throughout Toowoomba, including Bishop's House.

3 **Blue stone basalt** from Corporation quarry.

4 **Helidon sandstone** from Murphy's Creek quarry.





PROJECT

Timeline

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL RESTORATION

PHASE 1

COMPLETED, CURRENT AND PLANNING TASKS

Floor leveling works
Completed – monitoring ongoing

Works to external stone
Completed late 2024

Repair and repaint roof and add new dormer windows
Completed late 2024

Scoping Study
Completed February 2025

PHASE 2

WINDOW AND DOOR WORKS

Window repair, replacement & conservation
Design 2025; begin works in 2025; window replacement works 2026-2028

Door repairs and replacement
Commence 2025
Complete end of 2025

PHASE 3

MASTER PLANNING & SITE WORKS

Masterplan
Complete end of 2025

External shade structure
Complete end of 2026

PHASE 4

INTERNAL WORKS

Repair plaster
Complete end of 2026

Lighting upgrade
Design 2025, complete end 2026

Upgrade airlocks
Design 2025; complete end 2026

PHASE 5

ONGOING CONSERVATION

Collate, consolidate and finalise new Conservation Management Plan (CMP)
2025-2027

Conservation Maintenance Schedules
2027-2028

Please note tasks that impact the immediate use of the Cathedral or may lead to further deterioration have been prioritised, along with those that can be completed quickly. This approach ensures that subsequent refurbishment works can proceed smoothly. The Diocese aims to have all proposed works finished by the end of 2028 in preparation for the Centenary celebrations of the Diocese in 2029.



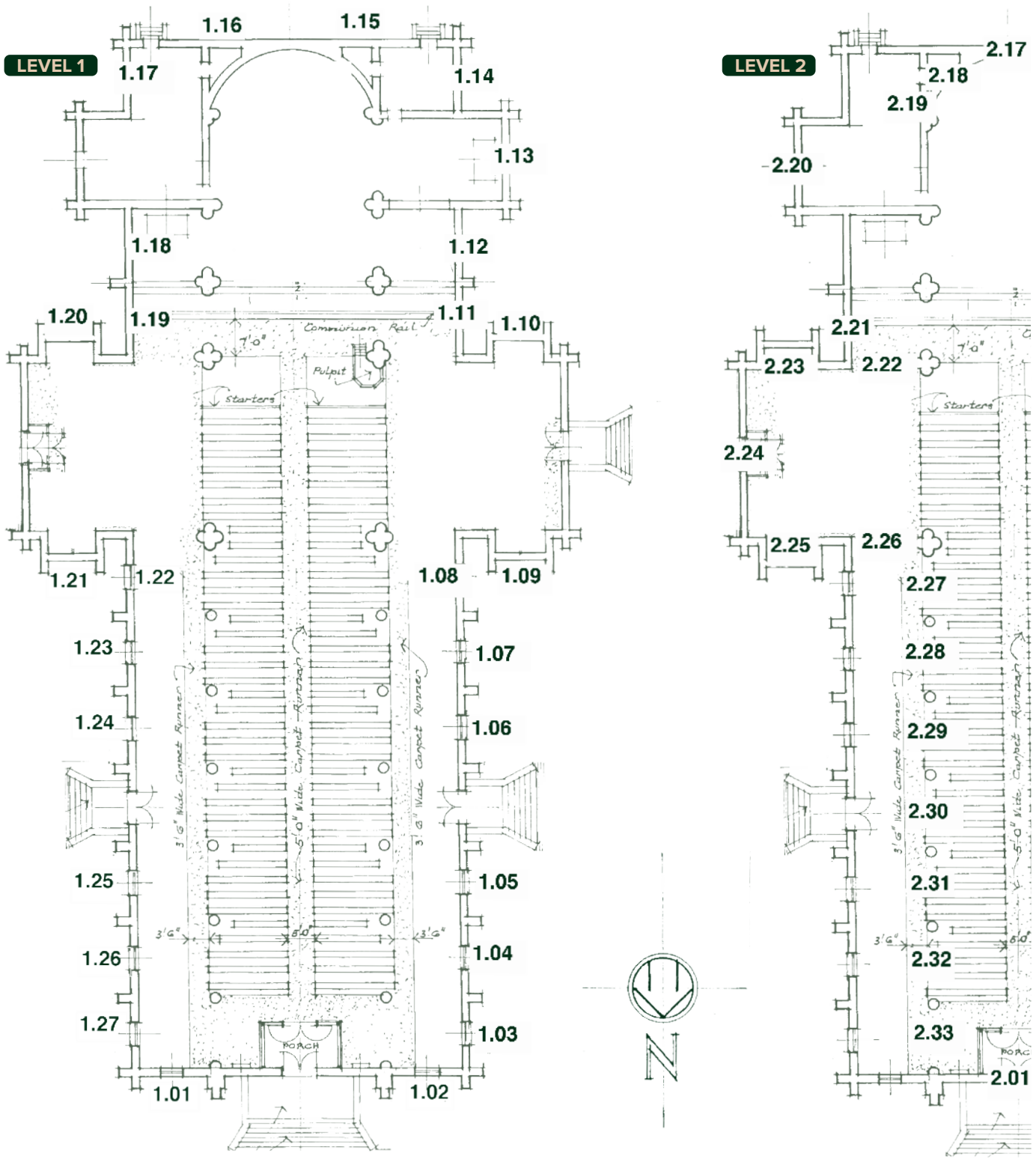
Windows

St Patrick's Cathedral is home to remarkable leadlight glass windows, with some dating back to the 1880s. While these beautiful windows hold significant historical value, most were replaced in the 1930s, and the restoration efforts from the 1980s have not stood the test of time due to challenges related to the quality of materials and vandalism. As a result, several windows now exhibit issues such as bowing, broken panes, and in some cases, are completely missing and boarded up.

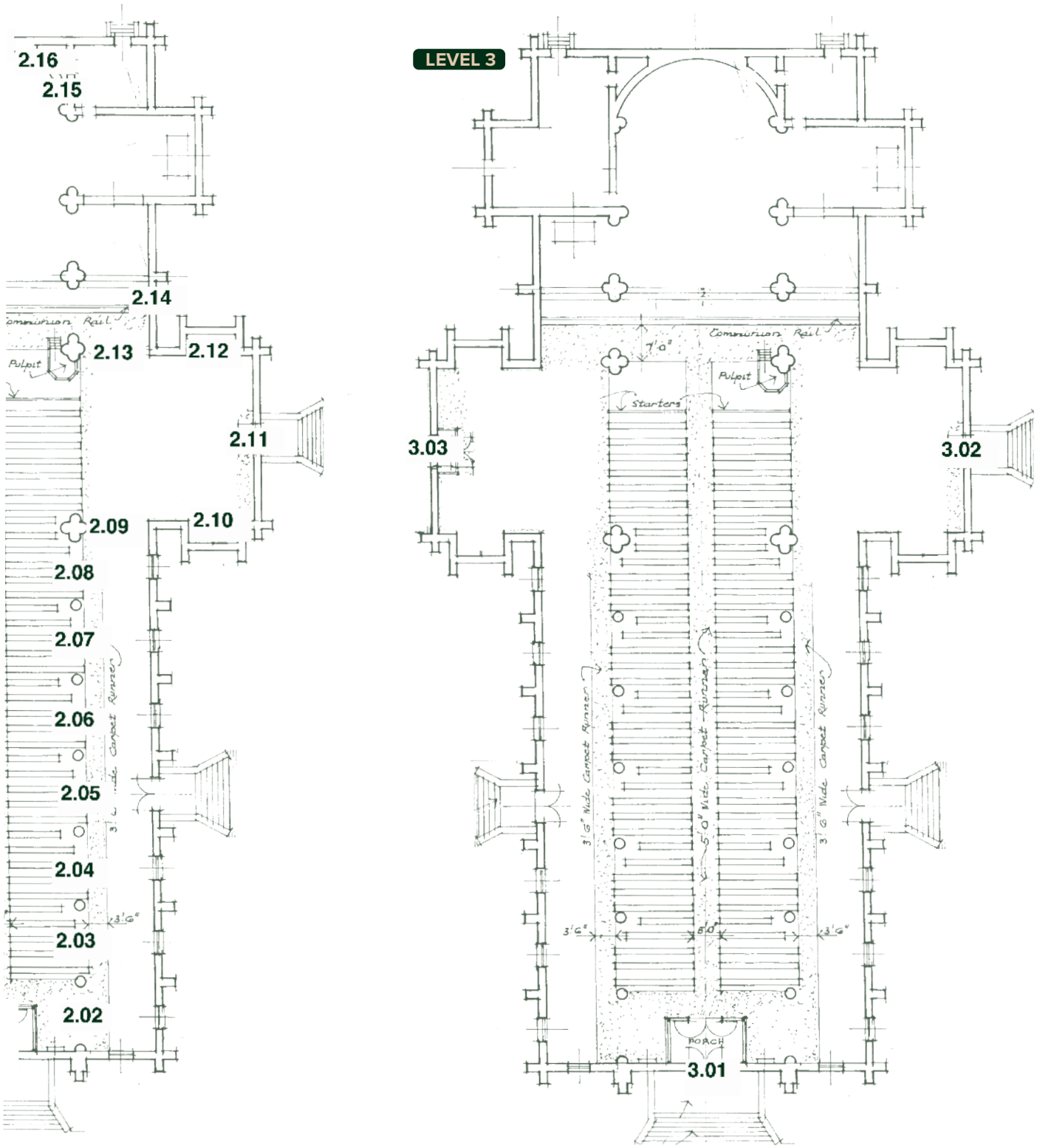
This deterioration has led to moisture ingress, impacting the Cathedral's interior. In light of this, the Diocese has made the strategic decision to replace most of the windows rather than conduct further repairs. This comprehensive replacement plan will adhere to the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, ensuring that all work meets regulatory standards and preserves the Cathedral's integrity for future generations.

Immediate action is essential to safeguard the building's interior and to prepare for the upcoming Centenary celebrations in 2029. During the restoration process, temporary acrylic windows may be installed to protect the Cathedral's aesthetic and ensure safety.

Plan of the window locations



The magnificent St Patrick's Cathedral windows span over three levels, each offering unique opportunities to honour loved ones. Each window is associated with a specified investment amount, and donors can pledge support with a tax-deductible donation spread over three financial years.





YOU SHALL ACCEPT GIFTS FOR ME FROM EVERY PERSON WHOSE HEART SO MOVES HIM (EXODUS 25:2)

Donor Acknowledgement

We are sincerely grateful for the generosity of our donors who are significantly impacting the preservation and enhancement of our beloved St Patrick's Cathedral.

As a sign of appreciation, each donor's name will be proudly displayed on a dedicated donor board within the Cathedral. Furthermore, these names will also be featured on a special Cathedral page on the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba website, ensuring that their contributions are physically and digitally recognised for future generations.

Legacy donors' names will also be transferred to these prominent locations, acknowledging their enduring commitment to the Cathedral's mission.

Thank you for joining us on this important journey to preserve our Cathedral's heritage!

Investment

WINDOW ID	PROPOSED DESIGN CHANGE*	SQUARE METRES	INVESTMENT OVER 3 FINANCIAL YEARS	TOTAL INVESTMENT
1.01	No	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.02	No	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.03	No	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.04	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.05	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.06	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.07	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.08	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.09	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.10	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.11	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.12	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.13	Yes	6.11	$25,000.00	$75,000.00
1.14	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.15	Yes	0.8	$3,516.67	$10,550.00
1.16	Yes	0.8	$3,516.67	$10,550.00
1.17	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.18	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.19	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.20	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.21	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.22	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.23	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.24	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.25	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.26	Yes	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
1.27	No	1.42	$9,000.00	$27,000.00
2.01	No	14.65	$37,666.67	$113,000.00
2.02	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.03	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.04	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.05	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00

2.06	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.07	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.08	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.09	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.10	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.11	Yes	13.16	$33,666.67	$101,000.00
2.12	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.13	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.14	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.15	No	2.62	$12,583.33	$37,750.00
2.16	No	2.62	$12,583.33	$37,750.00
2.17	No	2.62	$12,583.33	$37,750.00
2.18	No	2.62	$12,583.33	$37,750.00
2.19	No	2.62	$12,583.33	$37,750.00
2.20	No	2.33	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.21	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.22	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.23	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.24	Yes	13.16	$33,666.67	$101,000.00
2.25	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.26	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.27	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.28	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.29	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.30	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.31	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.32	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
2.33	No	3.06	$13,083.33	$39,250.00
3.01	No	0.42	$3,500.00	$10,500.00
3.02	No	0.42	$3,500.00	$10,500.00
3.03	No	0.42	$3,500.00	$10,500.00

Please note:
Tax-deductible donations are available in partnership with the National Trust Queensland.
* Change in window design subject to Heritage approval.

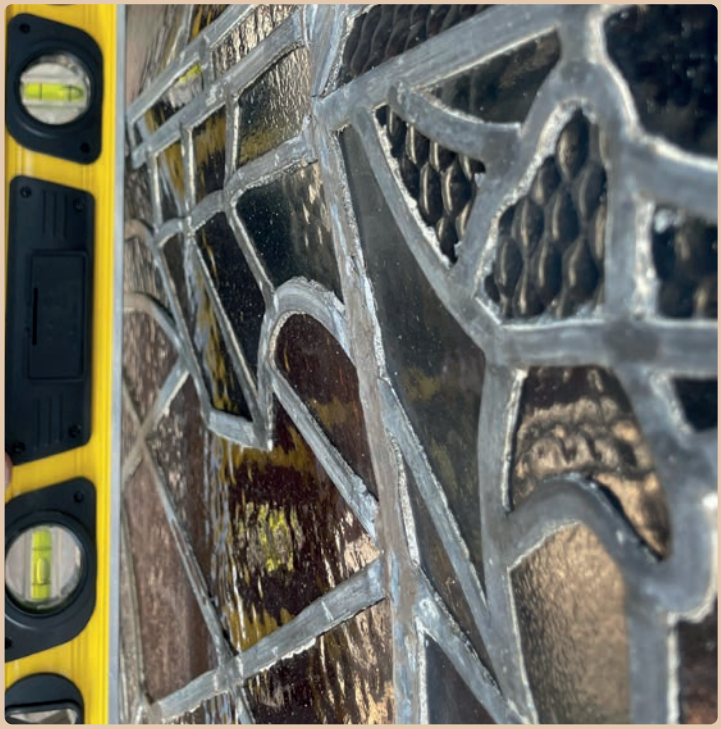
Restoring the Beauty

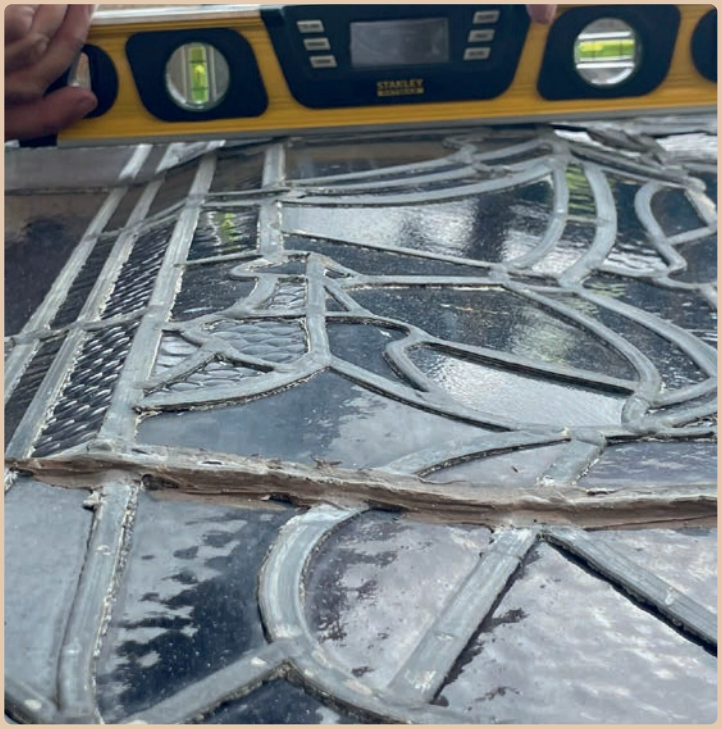
ESSENTIAL REPAIRS FOR LEADLIGHT WINDOWS

St Patrick's Cathedral Windows showing examples of damaged glass and bowing









You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

MATTHEW 5:14

Catholic Diocese of TOOWOOMBA

TO DISCUSS MAKING A GIFT PLEASE CONTACT:

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