

— A Special Publication recording the Restoration of St. Mel's Cathedral —

St. Mel's



Cathedral

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YEAR ENDING **2011**



Some of the new trial plasterwork undertaken at the archways above the pillars.

'Faithful to the Past – Building for the Future'

Throughout the year 2011 a great deal of thought and planning was invested by many people on the Cathedral Restoration Project. Diocesan Committees in consultation with the Design Team have advanced the plans for the internal design and improvement of facilities for the future.

Comprehensive investigation/trial works were undertaken throughout the summer months which will greatly inform the future restoration.

The refurbishment of statues and the entablature high up on the front façade was undertaken with the assistance of the Heritage Council. This piece of art depicts the granting of authority over the diocese to St. Mel by St. Patrick.

An Open Day was held in September last when over 3,000 people took the opportunity to visit the Cathedral and see for themselves the extent of the fire damage. Also on that day plans for the future

were on display at St. Mel's Cathedral Centre.

It is still hoped that the target of re-opening the Cathedral for Christmas of 2014 can be achieved. Through this special publication we wish to give you an overview of the many aspects of this complex, challenging and exciting restoration project.

"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart, and wait for the LORD" (Psalm 27:14)



Picture shows statue before and after repair works undertaken during the summer months.

Stained glass windows restored

The two well known stained glass windows designed by the famous Harry Clarke studio in Dublin which were destroyed in the fire have now been fully restored. The windows which were in place in the transepts almost fully disintegrated in the fire, but much of the glass survived and has been restored.

Abbey Stained Glass, at Kilmainham in Dublin have repaired the windows and they are now ready for installation once the building work is complete. The company had refurbished the windows in 1997 and had a detailed knowledge of the window's design. A number of other fan windows have also been repaired by the studio.

The work was completed at "significant" cost according to project committee chairperson Seamus Butler. The windows are now in storage and will remain there until the building work has progressed significantly. See page 13 for more on this story.

