

INTERESTING INFORMATION CONCERNING
THE SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL, BENDIGO

The original building was designed in 1895 by the architects, Messrs. Reed, Smart and Tappin of Melbourne. That building was opened in September, 1901. The same firm of architects is responsible for the second stage of the work which was commenced in January, 1954, and it is anticipated will be completed in the latter half of 1976.

Skilled stone masons have come from overseas for the special purpose of working on the completion of the Cathedral.

The exterior of the building is of Geelong sandstone and Harcourt granite - the same was used in the original Cathedral, thus there is only a very slight difference in the colour of the old and the new building.

This early English Gothic Cathedral will have a tower and spire which weighs some thousands of tons. The spire which will be topped by a 10 ft. cross will rise 282 ft. from the floor of the Cathedral. The original stained glass window, which is on the west side of the building, was made in Birmingham, England, and is situated above the entrance to the Cathedral.

Lovely figured marble has been imported from Vincenzo and Via Reggio, Italy for the floor of the Cathedral, and Sicilian Pearl marble has been used for the walls of the four chapels which feature Western red cedar and yellow pine timbers in the ceiling. Australian blackwood panelling is a feature of the transept which has 12 attractively carved shields which are symbols of the 12 apostles.

The internal height of the Cathedral from floor level to ceiling is 80 ft. (The poppet legs at the Central Deborah are 70 ft., so they could comfortably fit inside the building with 10 ft. to spare).

Two exquisite large tapestries will be hung in the sanctuary in this lovely building. They have been specially designed and worked by Mrs. Carrington and are a symbolic link with Bendigo.

ST PAULS BENDIGO. (Myers St)

The National Trust citation for this building is as follows.

"Nave 1868 and Tower 1873 only. Nave notable for unusual ceiling with metal and timber overlay members.

Tower notable for early brick and bold Gothic-influenced design and containing spiral staircase and eight bells."

The church was opened on 12th Nov 1868, and a new chancel sanctuary & transepts were added on 22nd Oct 1927.

Architect Robert A. Love.

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