

MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH
INNISFAIL



Restoration Appeal





A SYMBOL OF FAITH AND HOPE

Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church, in Innisfail Far North Queensland, is the physical symbol of our Catholic faith and plays a major role in the lives of many from the southern region of the Diocese of Cairns.



Since the construction of this church in 1926, people have come to this church to pray together in times of rejoicing, and in times of sadness, anxiety and hope. The building's past is inextricably linked to the history of the farming communities who pioneered this land.

Strategically placed upon the hill overlooking the river, it is a critical feature and attraction to the township of Innisfail.



Our church Mother of Good Counsel, through the lives it touches, is the soul of our township and we owe it to the pioneering Catholics and local community who built it to ensure their legacy is preserved for future generations.

For the parishioners of the Cassowary Coast Region, Mother of Good Counsel, has been, and continues to be, the place where they are baptised, enter the sacramental life in Jesus, are married and where mourned the loss of their loved ones.



MORE THAN A BUILDING

Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church stands tall and proud as a visible inspiration to our commitment to **Living Catholic** - a way of life and an identity that underpins who we are as Christians.

To the wider community, the church has stood as a symbol of resilience through hardship and diversity, and through all the natural disasters sent its way. It may often come off second best, but it is still standing today as a symbol of our faith.

The **Living Catholic** identity gives support and encouragement to the wide variety of activities and good works of the Catholic community encompassing:

- **Catholic Charities, Caritas and Catholic Mission:** reaching out to those in need and delivering programs for human development and self-reliance.
- **Our Catholic schools:** provide a rich educational experience and a nurturing faith-filled environment that prepares students to contribute to society in a meaningful way.
- **State School Religious Instruction:** extending our faith-filled teachings to Catholic children in state primary schools.
- **Parishes:** the lifeblood of the Church, focused on family-centered, caring communities inspired by the presence of the Eucharist in their lives.
- **Pastoral Care:** home, hospital and aged care visits to provide to the holistic needs of those unable to make it to mass, or suffering through a personal crisis event.
- **Catholic-inspired agencies:** such as St Vincent de Paul Society, SSRL, Ignite Youth



Thursday
Exodus
Exodus 14:1-15:21
 A reading from the book of Joshua
 The Lord said to Joshua, "The morning after the Lord God will send you across the Jordan to the Amorites. I will begin to drive them out before you, as I did the Amorites of Canaan. You shall pass the Jordan with all the people, and you shall strike the Amorites and Hittites, and the Canaanites and Perizzites, and the Hivites and Jebusites, and you shall bring them down to the Jordan. And when you have struck them, you shall say to them, 'The Lord has driven you out before me.'"

Then Joshua said to the people, "The Lord has said to me, 'I will begin to drive the Amorites out before you. You shall pass the Jordan with all the people, and you shall strike the Amorites and Hittites, and the Canaanites and Perizzites, and the Hivites and Jebusites, and you shall bring them down to the Jordan. And when you have struck them, you shall say to them, 'The Lord has driven you out before me.'"

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This is the word of the Lord.
 Responsorial Psalm

- 1 *When Israel came forth from Egypt,
 Jacob's sons from an alien people,
 Judah became the Lord's temple,
 Israel became his kingdom.*

OUR HERITAGE

1ST CHURCH

1891 – 1906

In June of 1891 The first Catholic church, on a hilltop facing Owen Street, was blessed and opened by Bishop Hutchinson.

Dedicated to Mother of Good Counsel, a title under which Mary, the Mother of God, had been honoured for centuries. In 1906 a cyclone caused such damage to the church that it was beyond repair.



2ND CHURCH

1906 – 1918

The second Mother of Good Counsel Church, larger than the first, was rebuilt on the same site as its destroyed predecessor. The building was built re-enforced so as to provide additional resilience against future cyclones. Sadly, on Sunday evening, March 10, 1918, the worst cyclone in Innisfail's history annihilated the town. In the aftermath, the silky oak church, though still recognisable, lay in a heap on its side.

3RD CHURCH

1928 – PRESENT

Immediately after the 1918 Cyclone, plans for a new church began. Neighbouring land was acquired, and fundraising began in 1922 for the new, and present, Mother of Good Counsel Church. Many fundraising events were held, and people went to extraordinary lengths to ensure no event was cancelled. Direct donations were received from the townsfolk, many of whom were not Catholic, and people gave extensively. In March 2006, Innisfail was yet again hit by major Cyclone Larry, damage was extensive, but repairable. Many millions of dollars later, thankfully from insurance, the church was repaired and renewed in 2009. This was the last major repair work undertaken on the church, until now.





A CALL FOR HELP

Mother of Good Counsel, Catholic Church, Innisfail holds a special place in the hearts of our community. It's not just a place of worship but a cultural and historical landmark that has been part of our town for generations. By undertaking this restoration project, we are preserving our heritage and ensuring that this beautiful church remains a welcoming and functional space for all. It's a symbol of resilience and community spirit in the face of devastation and a beacon of hope.



Today we seek the support of the wider Innisfail community in restoring our church, to ensure it stands for generations to come.

The church is one of the most significant demonstrations of our faith - from the small group of Irish/English/Italian immigrants who had the courage and foresight to build a captivating sacred space to withstand the forces of nature, from the magnanimous donations of time, talent and treasure from parishioners and the wider community.

It is a symbol of the presence of Jesus in our lives, the source of all the good works of the Church in our own community and throughout the world.

Please join me in giving to the Innisfail Mother of Good Counsel Church Restoration Appeal, it is our duty and responsibility to ensure the future of our faith for generations of Catholics to come.

Thank you for your support.



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

The restoration appeal for the Catholic Church in Innisfail is an essential initiative aimed at preserving and enhancing this cherished community landmark. It consists of three crucial phases:

Phase 1 focuses on addressing some residual damage from Cyclone Larry, and continued wear and tear. Major works include mould treatment, removal and repair of cracked concrete and render issues, waterproofing the bell towers as well as repainting the church. Now complete.

Phase 2 involves making improvements to the church's carpark. The current makeshift blue metal carpark needs upgrading to meet accessibility and regulatory requirements. Ensuring that our church's facilities are compliant and welcoming to all members of the community is a top priority. Due for completion first half of 2024.

Phase 3 focuses on enhancing the acoustic performance of the church. The removal of the fake interior roof, damaged by Cyclone Larry, left the church with a beautiful ceiling, but poor acoustic qualities. This phase aims to improve the audio experience for all visitors, enhancing the church's suitability for various events and gatherings. Due for completion second half of 2024.

Total project cost = \$650,000



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your gift can be a one-off donation or an ongoing contribution on a regular basis to suit your financial situation

How to Donate:

- **Electronic Funds Transfer / Direct Deposit:**
 - Bank: National Australia Bank
 - Account Name: Innisfail Church Restoration Fund
 - Account Number: 00001-5223 (must include the zero's)
 - BSB: 084-352
- **Payment by Cash/Cheque** - Envelopes labelled "Church Restoration" delivered to the Innisfail Parish Centre or weekend collection plate
- **Payment by Credit Card**
 - **In person:** Credit Card donations can be processed at the Innisfail Parish Centre
 - **Via Phone:** Call Innisfail Parish Centre on 07 4063 0650
 - **Via Mail:** Please complete the section at the bottom of this page and send to
Innisfail Church Restoration Appeal
PO Box 64, Innisfail QLD 4860
 - **Online:** Via GoFundMe
 - Go to <https://gofund.me/0b5ec703> or scan the QR code below



Contact: 90 Rankin Street, Innisfail Q 4860 | 07 4063 0650 | innisfail.parish@cairns.catholic.org.au

Office hours: Monday - Friday 10.30am - 2.30pm

DONATION: INNISFAIL CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL

Card type: Visa Mastercard American Express

Card Number:

Name on Card:

Expiry Date: CCV:

BEQUEST INFORMATION:

I/we would like to make a bequest in my/our Will to Innisfail Catholic Parish and would like further information.

Please contact me: