



*Our Lady
of Victories*

BOWEN HILLS Catholic Parish



Keep the BLUE CROSS shining
Spraw, aby niebieski krzyż
świecił na zawsze

MAJOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Capital works, major repairs, maintenance and mission

Planning for our future - A Centenary Project



A parish is where the Church lives.

How do we best support, protect and grow our parish?

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES parish is quickly advancing to its major centenary celebration on 26 April 2025, marking 100 years since the church was officially opened.

For some time now, the parish council has been seriously considering what needs to happen to enable this parish to flourish for the next 100 years.

One of the key practical considerations is the aging infrastructure across the site. Three buildings are 100 years old and the fourth is nearly 70 years. The entire site is heritage-listed, which provides protection but also a further layer of complexity. A vital factor in our planning is how to develop ongoing financial sustainability for this parish.

An inventory of necessary and/or desirable repairs and upgrades quickly show that the costs are beyond our normal operational budget.

Compounding this inventory, Brisbane City Council has issued the parish with a formal notice regarding the Boyd Street retaining wall, requiring us to work towards rectification of the wall on our property so the footpath can be fixed. Heavy rain has contributed to the slippage of the ground so the issue is becoming increasingly urgent.

A significant amount of work has gone into considering various possibilities to solve these problems. It has become clear to us that to get the best result for the parish, we should take a longer term holistic approach, rather than focus on short term reactive solutions.

As a way of starting to manage these issues strategically, we sought and obtained permission from the Archdiocese to open a **dedicated capital campaign account** which is exempt from the normal levies that are calculated on parish income.

This exemption will end on 30 June 2024 and will apply to funds raised up to the amount of **\$300,000**.

Every dollar from that \$300,000 will be directed toward initial costs of this project here at Bowen Hills.

Imagine the future

It is easy to imagine even multi-million dollar possibilities across the entire site. And it's good to dream big, set goals for various phases and see how far we can go to reach them.

For now, our immediate focus must be on protective measures for the church, stabilising the nearby retaining wall and developing a plan for ongoing renovation across the site in a structured fashion.

We propose to raise a first target of \$75,000 to undertake the vital geotechnical investigations, surveys and engineering design works regarding the Boyd Street retaining wall to enable detailed costings and options to be prepared for the parish community to consider.

There is also a continuing insurance claim process being undertaken to address leakages and timber damage on the church and presbytery roofs. Depending on the outcomes of that process, we may need to fund some or all of these repair works as well.

An iconic landmark deserves something special

Our Lady of Victories church is of *State significance*. It is the premier WWI memorial for Queensland Catholics. It was created to be a perpetual offering to God in reparation for the horrors of war; to be a place of memory for the fallen and a place of refuge for the suffering. Its Blue Cross shines as a symbol and beacon of hope, reminding all who see it, that the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the one true pathway to everlasting peace.

As custodians of a significant heritage site (not only for our parish but for all of Queensland) with important religious and multicultural stories, we are obligated to do the best we can to **protect, preserve and promote** this place for future generations so they can also enjoy its many benefits.

A Peace Memorial

At its opening, the church was called the White Temple of Peace, and it has lived up to this name. Our response to war is vigilant prayer and efforts, small and large, to work for peace – in the world, in our country and in families. In life's spiritual battles, Our Lady of Victories provides clarity, direction and refuge.

Turn a challenge into an opportunity!

Rather than just repairing a retaining wall, we have an exciting opportunity to leverage the significant heritage and cultural value of our site, creating an interpretive corridor that will enhance the church setting, benefit parishioners and visitors, engage and evangelise the community and ideally generate income.

A Pilgrimage in the City

Our church has a stunning location. Its proximity to the CBD and its spiritual depth already attract English and Polish-speaking people from all over Brisbane. This project will enable us to promote the parish to all Queenslanders as a premier pilgrimage destination close to the city.

What we're aiming for

- stabilisation of the retaining wall and site boundary
- a memorial wall, fence and landscaping
- interpretive corridor with opportunities for shade and seating to improve the amenity of the site
- enhanced disability/carparking access
- upgraded stair access from Boyd St to church level

How we start

STAGE 1 - \$75,000

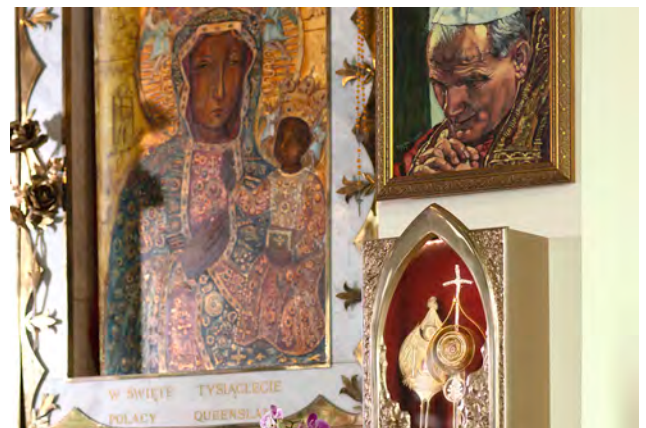
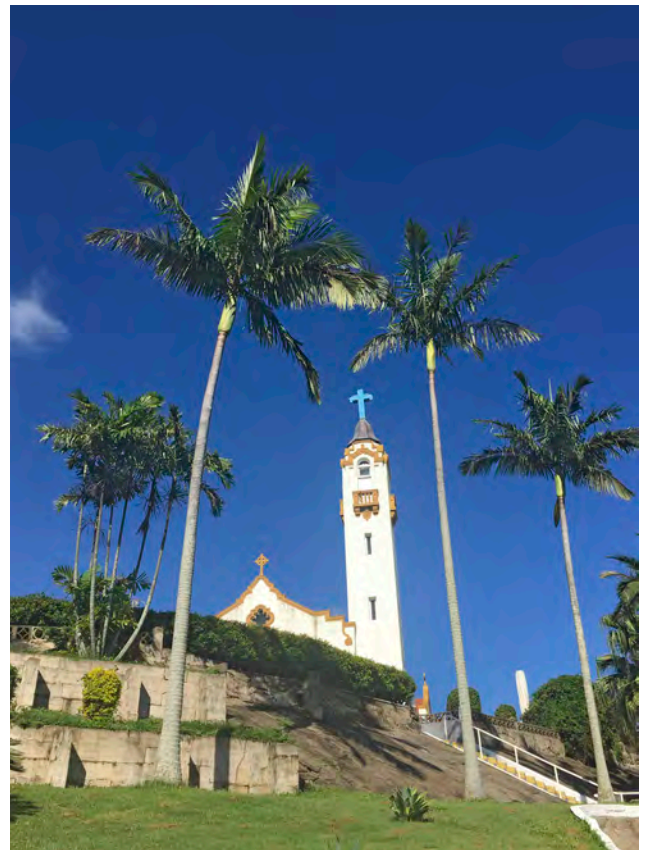
- Geotechnical investigative works and surveys
- Engineering assessments
- Initial design options with detailed cost estimates
- Community consultation / feedback
- Heritage consultancy and compliance
- Conservation Management Plan

How you can help

- pray
- use the bank details on the back page to donate
- support parish fundraising initiatives
- spread the word and encourage others to donate

We acknowledge the diverse range of professional skills across our parish family and appreciate suggestions and feedback. We encourage you to ask questions, discuss and suggest ideas collaboratively.

To kickstart the campaign, a parishioner has offered to donate \$5000 provided the community donates a matching \$5000 from today to the end of October 2022.



Fr Gregorz (Gregory) Gawel SCHR

PARISH PRIEST, BOWEN HILLS AND
CHAPLAIN OF THE POLISH COMMUNITY IN QUEENSLAND

Parish Council

BEATA APOLINARSKA-MROCZEK
ANDREW MROCZEK
ANNE-MAREE ALTHAUS
TREVOR O'ROURKE
ANTONY KITTOLI
STAN DEMONTE
MARGARET-MARY ALTHAUS

GOT QUESTIONS ?

Contact Anne-Maree Althaus
0468 723 724
olv.rsvp@gmail.com



Our Lady of Victories

BOWEN HILLS Catholic Parish

“You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”

2 Timothy 1:14

EFT donations may be made at any time to the Capital Campaign Account using the following details.

PLEASE Reference with your name or your Parish Supporter Code so that we can acknowledge your gift.

NB: Please contact the parish first for assistance if you wish to make over-the-counter transactions in a branch as the account details are different.

Account name:

Bowen Hills Parish – Capital Campaign Account

BSB: **064 - 786**

Account No: **100 027 670**

Talk to us if you'd like more information about how to support Our Lady of Victories with a major gift, bequest, donation to the endowment fund, or a fundraising contribution.

Direct Debit Request forms are available.

Please contact Anne-Maree to make donations by credit card machine when you come to Bowen Hills: 0468 723 724

Donations to the Capital Campaign account are not tax deductible, but every dollar will be used to fund the improvements at the parish.



Thank you!

Your gift will keep the Blue Cross shining.