





# In Our Hands

Preserving Our Cathedral



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# A Legacy Worth Preserving

## In Our Hands – The Heart of Thurles

The Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles, is more than a building. It is a sacred space woven into the fabric of our lives – a place where many of us have celebrated life's most meaningful moments. Perhaps you were married here, said goodbye to a loved one, or lit a candle in quiet prayer. Even if you've never stepped inside, you've likely admired its striking towers and intricate stonework, standing tall in the heart of our town.

Modelled on the Cathedral of Pisa, and home to a tabernacle designed by Giacomina della Porta – a student of Michelangelo – the Cathedral is both an architectural treasure and a symbol of our shared heritage. It is a place where history, faith, and craft come together in stone, light and silence.



As we approach its 150th anniversary in 2029, we are reminded that this remarkable building has stood with us for generations. But time has taken its toll.

And now, we stand at a turning point. The future of the Cathedral is in our hands. This campaign is more than a fundraiser – it is an invitation to everyone who values faith, memory, and community to come together and ensure this treasured place stands strong for the generations still to come.

## The Challenge Ahead

Years of weather, wear, and time have left the Cathedral in urgent need of care. The roof must be fully replaced. Structural cracks have formed. Leaks and dampness are threatening the fabric of the building.

That's why we've developed the In Our Hands campaign – a community call to action for the people of Thurles, its hinterlands, the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, and the wider diaspora. Together, we can preserve this sacred space, protect its rich history, and ensure it continues to inspire for generations to come.



# A Home for Life's Milestones

For so many of us, the Cathedral has been a constant presence. It's where we've marked life's beginnings and endings – where children have been baptised, couples have exchanged marriage vows, and families have come together in times of sorrow and celebration.

Even those who may not attend regularly still feel a connection. The Cathedral belongs to all of us – a symbol of community, memory, and continuity.

When we step into the Cathedral, we enter a space that has held the hopes and prayers of generations. Its walls carry our collective story – of joy, of grief, of faith, of resilience. It is not only a sanctuary for the soul, but a mirror of who we are as a town.

Every aisle, every stone, every flicker of candlelight carries meaning. The sound of the organ, the waft of incense, the hush of reflection – all of these have shaped our experiences

and our memories. It is a place where time seems to pause, and where the most ordinary days are transformed by quiet moments of grace.

The Cathedral doesn't just serve individuals – it gathers us as a community. It is where we come together in strength and unity, whether in celebration or grief. It reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves – rooted in tradition, enriched by faith, and connected through generations.

Now, it is our turn to give back. By supporting this campaign, parishioners have an opportunity to protect something deeply personal – not just a structure, but a space that holds meaning and memory. A space that deserves to stand strong for the next 150 years.

This is more than restoration – it is a reaffirmation of what we value. A chance to honour all that the Cathedral has given us, and to ensure that its doors remain open for the generations yet to walk through them. Let this be our shared act of gratitude – and our gift to the future.













# Wherever You Are, You Belong

You may have moved away from Thurles – for work, for love, for adventure – but the Cathedral remains a connection to home. Its bells, its stones, its story are part of your story, too. The skyline hasn't changed – and neither has the sense of belonging it inspires.

Perhaps your parents or grandparents brought you here as a child. Maybe you return at Christmas, at Easter, or for family occasions. Or maybe you simply remember passing by, pausing in awe at its beauty. It may have been years since you stood inside its doors, but its presence has likely stayed with you – steady and strong, like home always is.

Now, wherever you are in the world, you have a chance to be part of something meaningful. The In Our Hands campaign invites everyone with a connection to Thurles – whether you live nearby or thousands of miles away – to help safeguard this beloved Cathedral for the future.

When you support this campaign, you're not just donating to a building. You're investing in your roots. You're keeping alive the place where generations before you prayed, sang, married, mourned, and celebrated. You are honouring the stories that came before yours – and ensuring that new ones can still be written.

By donating, you are sending a powerful message: that Thurles still matters, that your roots run deep, and that the stories held within this Cathedral still mean something to you. Even from afar, you can play a vital role in protecting a piece of home.

Whether you now live in Cork or Chicago, Sydney or Shannon, your connection to Thurles – and to the Cathedral – still runs strong. You are part of this story. And together, we can make sure this chapter ends not in loss, but in legacy.

This is your home. This is your heritage. This is your opportunity to ensure that future generations will also have a place to gather, reflect, and belong.





# The Future of the Cathedral is In Our Hands

The total amount required to fully preserve and protect Thurles Cathedral is approximately €2.5 million, to be raised over the course of the next four years. This figure reflects the scale and urgency of the work required to safeguard the structure, its interior, and its role as a living part of our town's story.

To date, our fundraising efforts have already seen great generosity from parishioners, community members, and friends near and far – and we are incredibly grateful for every single contribution received so far. But we are at a crucial juncture. The time to act is now.

We must increase momentum and raise awareness of what is at stake. Without sufficient funding, the deterioration will continue. And without intervention, this historic Cathedral – a building that has stood as a constant through generations – may not remain standing for future generations.

That is why we are asking you to consider supporting the “Donate a Slate” campaign today. Your support, whether large or small, can make a powerful difference. Purchase a full bundle of slates (4) with a once-off donation of €1,000 – a symbolic and practical way to help protect the Cathedral's roof and overall structure.

We fully recognise that this is a significant amount, and not everyone may be in a position to contribute it all at once. That's why we've made it possible to spread the donation over time, making it more accessible for those who wish to help.

By choosing to donate, you are becoming part of something bigger – a collective effort to honour the past, protect the present, and build a future where Thurles Cathedral continues to serve as a place of worship, heritage, and community. Every slate represents not just a physical safeguard, but a gesture of belief in the enduring value of this sacred space.





### **There are four easy ways to contribute:**

- **Purchase a full bundle of slates (4) with a once-off donation of €1,000.**
- **Spread the cost of a bundle with four annual payments of €250, allowing you to contribute at a pace that suits your finances.**
- **Buy a single slate for €250, offering a meaningful and more affordable option for those who want to be part of the effort.**
- **Make a donation of your choice, large or small – every euro counts, and every donation brings us one step closer to our goal.**

Every person who contributes, at any level, will receive a personalised certificate of appreciation, as a small token of our appreciation and a symbol of your commitment to preserving this sacred space.

We encourage you to make your donation online today by visiting **[www.inourhandsthurles.ie](http://www.inourhandsthurles.ie)** – it's fast, secure, and easy to use. You can also help spread the word and show your support by following our campaign on Facebook and Instagram **@inourhands.thurles**, and sharing it with friends and family who might also wish to support.

If you are unable to donate online, please don't hesitate to contact us directly through the Thurles Parish Office. We are happy to assist you by phone or email:

**T: 0504 22229 / 085 8819575**

**E: [parishcentre@thurlesparish.ie](mailto:parishcentre@thurlesparish.ie)**



“ This is about more than just a building – it’s about preserving a shared heritage, safeguarding a place of meaning, and ensuring that future generations can continue to gather under this sacred roof.

Together, we can do this. As a community, we hold the Cathedral’s future in our hands.

”

Kieran O'Reilly  
Archbishop of Cashel  
& Emly Archdiocese










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