

ST JAMES' CHURCH, KING STREET, SYDNEY

MEDIA BRIEF

COMMEMORATION OF SYDNEY'S HOMELESS SUNDAY 29 JULY 2018 AT 1PM



Photo by Chris Shain of Images for Business

This Sunday 29 July a new statue will be unveiled in Sydney, not in honour of the, famous, powerful or rich but in recognition of the homeless people of this city. The sculpture is located in the grounds of St James' Church, King Street, Sydney, an area where many homeless people live, and is known as the 'Homeless Jesus' statue.

It is cast in bronze and depicts a person sleeping on a park bench. The body is covered in a blanket, but on closer inspection it can be seen that the exposed hands and feet show the marks of nails from crucifixion. It is only then that the observer realises that it is Jesus sleeping on the bench.

The Homeless Jesus statue is part of an international movement that seeks to draw attention to the reality of homelessness in our cities. It is to be found in many locations around the world, including the Vatican; Toronto, Canada; Washington DC, Chicago, Charleston, Austin and Detroit in the USA; London, UK; Dublin, Ireland; Chennai, India; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Krakow, Poland; and Madrid, Spain.

The artist, Canadian Tim Schmalz, has taken inspiration from the words of Jesus:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25: 35-36)

Rector of St James' Church, the Reverend Andrew Sempell, said: "The statue draws attention to the presence of marginalised people living in our community and confronts us with the need to show compassion. By presenting Jesus as one of the marginalised we are reminded of the principle that all people are 'created in the image of God', and therefore that all humanity is of one blood".

The statue is located next to the North Porch entry to the church, opposite the Supreme Court. Members of the public are invited to the unveiling and dedication of the statue on Sunday 29 July at 1pm.

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