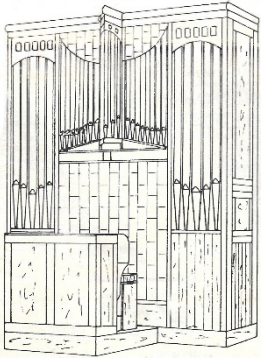


## The Pipe Organ of St Francis Xavier Cathedral



The 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Monsignor J.C. Hawes in 1976 was the catalyst for building a pipe organ in St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Geraldton. Fr Pocock conducted fundraising events and the organ was built by Perth builder, John Larner and was blessed and dedicated at Midnight Mass, Christmas Eve 1980 by Bishop Francis Xavier Thomas. The organ was further enhanced and completed with 960 pipes in 1994. The original organ now forms part of the current organ which has 1,328 pipes. It also has 2 consoles and they are all Bluetooth connected. It's possible to play tunes on the bells on the organ keyboard.

A detailed history of this organ can be found [here](#).

This story which relates to the original organ installed in 1918 was published in the W.A. Record (Perth, WA: 1888-1922) Saturday 28 September 1918, page 17  
**Geraldton**

The new Estey two-manual pedal organ which, when being hoisted into position in the new St Francis Xavier's Cathedral recently, was, through the breaking of the ropes, dropped a distance of 12 feet on to the concrete floor and damaged to so great an extent as to be generally considered beyond repair, has once again been placed in commission, through the unremitting zeal of Mr. Chas. Lupp, who, to his many other accomplishments in the musical world, has now set the seal of his genius by practically rebuilding the organ and placing the instrument in position at the cathedral in as good a condition as when it left the factory.

The craftsman on having pointed out to him the various portions of the woodwork which were so seriously damaged, is struck by the extreme care and beautiful fitting of the various new parts necessary for the rebuilding of the instrument, while the artistic sense of the musician is charmed with the sweet tones and perfect harmony which the trained mind of the musical genius whom we have in our town has rendered possible through the manipulation of the stops and reeds, etc., and their necessary groupings.

The delicate touch necessary to ensure the correct tones, the volume of sound produced by the use of the various stops with their ever-fluctuating cadences, was surely unsuspected in our midst.

The Cathedral authorities are to be congratulated that there was one amongst them who understood and appreciated the capabilities of Mr. Chas. Lupp, and who was thus able and willing to secure his services.

Local talent is not always given the chance it deserves. In the present instance, however, the call came, the response was prompt, and the result more than can be anticipated.

The thanks of the Catholic Community are due to Mr. Lupp for his untiring zeal, his special knowledge and the highly satisfactory and creditable way in which he has crowned his labours on their behalf.