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Ready for its close-up



Image: Getty Images

The three-year renovation of St Patrick's Cathedral on Manhattan's 5th Avenue is nearing completion, just in time for a papal visit on 24 September. The \$177m (€157m) refurbishment was overseen by architect Jeffrey Murphy. The work removed decades of grime, gave new lustre to the stained-glass windows and hooked up the building's heating system to a geothermal well. Even the old organ pipes have had a tune-up. "St Patrick's Cathedral helped put New York City on the map as a centre for world-class architecture in the late 1800s," says Murphy. "It remains one of the most important landmarks in the city. With this conservation project, it can once again be seen in all its glory."