

Faith in the Future

Commemorative Magazine • Edition 2, June 2021





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National Mass held to celebrate the bicentenary of Catholic education

A National Mass was celebrated simultaneously across Australia on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians on Monday 24 May 2021 to mark the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia.

National Catholic education executive director Jacinta Collins said the National Mass was a highlight of the bicentenary year.

"As a faith community, our National Mass to celebrate 200 years of Catholic education held significant meaning, particularly on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians - the Patroness of Australia," Jacinta said.

"The scale of Catholic education in Australia is unique in the world, serving over 777,000 students and employing over 100,000 staff," she said. "We are blessed to have the support of governments and our families that ensures we can make a Catholic education accessible to families in every major town and city, and in many regional, rural and remote parts of Australia."

Masses were held with school representation in most Cathedrals across Australia, as well as a number of individual parishes and

schools, with many Masses also live streamed for school communities and families.

The Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was attended by Her Excellency the Hon Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, and the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC representing the state opposition leader, Catholic education leaders, representatives of Religious Institutes and Ministerial PJPs and Catholic universities and colleges, Catholic school principals and parents associations, and staff and students from the 170 Sydney Catholic Schools.

Chair of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP said the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia invites us to remember the past with gratitude, be inspired by that story in the present, and look forward with faith in the future.

"But there must be no complacency: we must focus more than ever on 'the Catholic difference' including transmission



Sophia Kouknas from Domremy College, Five Dock sang the Responsorial Psalm. Photo: Giovanni Portelli.

of faith, on access and enrolments, and on educational opportunity and excellence," he shared in his homily.

"After two centuries of service, we in Catholic education are determined to make an even greater contribution to the lives of our young people, families, church and society, happy 200th birthday Catholic education," he said.

Archbishop of Melbourne Peter Comensoli led a celebration of Mass with more than 600 Catholic school students and teachers at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools executive director Jim Miles said students and staff representing the oldest continuing school in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, St Mary's School, Williamstown (established 1842), and the newest, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Werribee (established 2021), participated in the Mass.

Representative students from across the Diocese of Ballarat attended Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat, which was celebrated by Very Rev Kevin Maloney Vicar General.



Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP with students from St Luke's Primary, Revesby. Photo: Giovanni Portelli.



Bishop of Townsville Tim Harris DD cuts a 200 years cake with students, Catholic education and school staff.

Catholic Education Ballarat executive director Tom Sexton said the diocese was delighted to be able to gather together to celebrate such an important milestone in Catholic education in Australia.

"We have enjoyed welcoming so many representative students and staff to today's Mass, some of whom have travelled significant distances across the diocese to join us," said Tom.

In the Diocese of Wollongong students from 45 Catholic schools across the Macarthur, Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands gathered as one community of faith

at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral in Fairy Meadow for Mass celebrated by Bishop of Wollongong Brian Mascord.

Director of schools Peter Hill said it was an opportunity to reflect on the important work of Catholic education, and remember the intergenerational contributions that today's schools continue to build on.

"Since the very first Catholic school was established in NSW in 1820, countless children and young people have benefited from the dedication and commitment of faith-filled staff in our Catholic schools," he said.

Schools in the Diocese of Armidale gathered to celebrate the National Mass and the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards.

Armidale's director of schools Chris Smyth said the Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipients have modelled the Catholic values and principles that underpin our communities.

"This year is extra special because not only are we thanking those who contribute to Catholic education in our Diocese, we are also celebrating over 200 years of Catholic schools educating millions of young people and today educating one in five Australian students," Chris said.

Townsville Catholic Education executive director Jacqui Francis said all schools were invited to send representatives from their school communities to attend the Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"The anniversary of Catholic education in Australia will bring our school communities and families together in joyous liturgical celebrations in our Townsville community as well as our Southern and Western school communities," said Jacqui.

Students from Catholic schools across Rockhampton, Yeppoon,



Mass was held at Mercy Regional College, Camperdown in the Diocese of Ballarat.



Murruprtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School and Xavier Catholic College, Bathurst Island celebrated the National Mass.

Gracemere, Gladstone and Biloela gathered at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton to celebrate Mass with Bishop Michael McCarthy. Many staff, students and families from Catholic schools and parishes in regional and rural centres across the diocese also tuned into the livestream to celebrate the significant milestone.

Catholic education diocesan director Leesa Jeffcoat said the National Mass was a great opportunity to celebrate the gift that Catholic education has been to Australia for the past 200 years and to honour all who have been a part of the Catholic education story.

Western Australian Catholic students, school staff, and guests attended a National Mass in all four

dioceses, celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral Perth, Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral Broome, St Francis Xavier Cathedral Geraldton, and St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury.

Catholic Education Western Australia executive director, Dr Debra Sayce, said that the Mass enabled students and staff to reflect on their place in a broader, connected community of faith.

"Catholic schools have been learning communities where families from all places and cultures have found an education that they value for their children," Debra said. "And Catholic schools have always recognised that we work alongside parents and families, with the support of parishes, in the shared work of

educating the children and young people of Australia."

In Tasmania, a National Mass was held at St Mary's Cathedral Hobart with school representatives in attendance.

In South Australia, more than 550 students and staff from Catholic schools celebrated the National Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, with many school communities across regional areas joining the celebration via livestream.

The Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison provided a written and video message of congratulations for the occasion.

"Over 200 years, your schools, preschools and now universities, have transformed Australia through the millions of lives you have influenced," the Prime Minister wrote.

"On this anniversary, we remember all who have been part of this heritage, including Fr Therry and Australia's first saint, Mary of the Cross. We recall on this anniversary, the good days and the bad, the successes and disappointments; joys and sufferings; as well as the faith and community that has enabled Catholic education to make this significant contribution to our national life.

"In doing so, we also recognise the clergy, religious, lay men and women, parents and parishes who have contributed so much." ●



Prime Minister Scott Morrison recorded a special video message for the National Mass.

Saint Mary MacKillop's contribution to Australian Catholic education

Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop, has had a profound and lasting impact on Catholic education in Australia. Throughout her life, Mary accomplished great things.

Mary began working as a teacher in 1861 in the regional town of Penola, South Australia. Mary met Fr Julian Tenison Woods and in 1866 they founded a school, St Joseph's in an old stable.

Both Mary and Fr Woods wanted to ensure all children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds whose families could not afford the costs of schooling, would receive an education.

In 1866, Mary also founded the Sisters of St Joseph, and over time the order took charge of Catholic schools across the district and a number of Josephite schools were founded which offered all children a free education. Throughout the 19th century, Mary and the Josephite Sisters went on to found schools across South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand.



Penola school house in South Australia.
Source: ABC South East SA, Bec Whetham

Mary MacKillop has motivated many to live humbly and to assist those in need within the community. The legacy and work of Mary MacKillop, and the ongoing work of the Sisters of St Joseph, can be seen across the many Catholic schools around Australia founded or inspired by their work.

Mary MacKillop continues to provide inspiration to Catholic leaders, educators and students across Australia who identify with her vision and spirit. ●



Mary MacKillop circa 1870.
Source: State Library of South Australia, B-23825



Mary MacKillop College,
Kensington South Australia

SOURCES:

Foale rsj, M, Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2021, [Background to the Foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph and the Establishment of the Woods/MacKillop System of Catholic Education](#), accessed 27 May 2021.

Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2021, [Mary MacKillop's Story](#), accessed 27 May 2021.

Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2021, [Our History](#), accessed 27 May 2021.

Students raise their voices



Students from Sacred Heart College Sorrento, filmed in iconic locations across Perth WA.

Catholic students from across the country joined together in a video performance of the national song 'Faith in the Future', to celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in Australia, which marks the anniversary of the first official Catholic school opened in Parramatta in October 1820.

The 'Faith in the Future Australian Catholic Schools Version' features 370 students from 29 Catholic schools across Australia including remote,

regional and rural communities such as Our Lady Sacred Heart School Waiben (Thursday Island), St John's Catholic School Richmond in Tasmania, Sacred Heart College Sorrento in Western Australia, and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

"Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thursday Island was delighted to exhibit the rich colour and culture of northern Australia as part of the



Fr Rob Galea visited St John's Richmond to surprise students who took part in the video.

Schools featured in the video

- Aquinas Catholic College Menai, NSW
- Catherine McAuley Westmead, NSW
- Galilee Catholic Primary School Bondi, NSW
- Marist College Eastwood, NSW
- Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary Waterloo, NSW
- Our Lady of The Sacred Heart College Kensington, NSW
- Parramatta Marist High School Westmead, NSW
- St Canice's Katoomba, NSW
- St Columba's Catholic College Springwood, NSW
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Sutherland, NSW
- St Patrick's College Sutherland, NSW
- St Patrick's Primary Parramatta, NSW
- Holy Trinity School Inverell, NSW
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College Alice Springs, NT
- Holy Cross Primary School Trinity Park, QLD
- Our Lady Sacred Heart Thursday Island, QLD
- Ryan Catholic College Townsville, QLD
- St Stephen's Catholic College Mareeba, QLD
- St Mary's Catholic College Cairns, QLD
- Mary MacKillop Memorial School Penola, SA
- St John's Catholic School Richmond, TAS
- Loyola College Watsonia, VIC
- Notre Dame College Shepparton, VIC
- St Alipius Parish School Ballarat, VIC
- Genazzano FCJ College Kew, VIC
- Thomas Carr College Tarneit, VIC
- Sacred Heart College Sorrento, WA
- Aquinas College Salter Point, WA
- Mercy College Perth Koondoola, WA



Over 370 students from Catholic schools took part in the video.

video," said assistant principal David Graham.

"As the oldest Catholic School in Tasmania, St John's Catholic School wanted to share our joy through AUSLAN, knowing that to sing and express words enables students to fully engage," said principal Megan Richardson.

St Patrick's Primary and Parramatta Marist schools in the Diocese of Parramatta, who both have linkages to the first Catholic school opened on Hunter St Parramatta, participated in the video, as well as Mary MacKillop Memorial School Penola in South Australia, situated next to the schoolhouse that Australia's first saint Mary MacKillop founded.

"It was great seeing the wider Catholic community coming together in unity to celebrate 200 years of Catholic education and I was honoured to be a part of such a big event," said Year 12 Parramatta Marist High School student Jimmy Geagea.

National Catholic education executive director Jacinta Collins said

the bicentenary is an opportunity to celebrate the 1,755 Catholic school communities across the country.

"The students' joyful performance of the national song is a significant contribution to our celebrations," Jacinta said.

"The video highlights the diversity and breath of Catholic school communities across Australia and is an important opportunity to celebrate our students' gifts and talents.

The national song was composed by Fr Rob Galea, who currently serves in Sandhurst Diocese. He was featured in the video with students from Notre Dame College Shepparton in Victoria.

"The song encapsulates the importance of the 200 years of history, influencing and forming the culture of Australia," Fr Rob said. "200 Years of education is an incredible milestone and blessing."

The 'Faith in the Future Australian Catholic Schools Version' was premiered at the National Mass on 24 May 2021. ●

WATCH THE VIDEO

The national song recording, lyrics and chord sheets are available via the [200 years website](#).

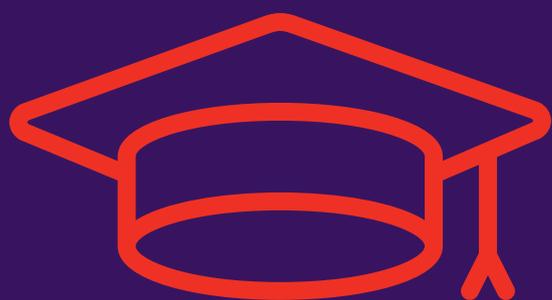


Danielle

STUDENT, MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS SAWTELL, TOORMINA DIOCESE OF LISMORE NSW

I love being in a Catholic school. One of my favourite parts of the day is when we pray together in class. Our teacher leads us and we reflect. I like to think that Jesus is walking with me every step of the way. ●

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Bicentenary celebrations across Australia



From top, left to right: 1. Student procession at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral in Fairy Meadow, Wollongong. 2. Holy Rosary students with Catholic Education Tasmania executive director Dr Gerard Gaskin at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart. 3. Student readers at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide. 4. A student reader from St Lawrence's Primary, Bluff Point at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Geraldton. 5. St Joseph College students with Bishop Robert McGuckin at St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba. 6. Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP and Her Excellency the Hon Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney (photo by Giovanni Portelli).



From top, left to right: 1. Bishop of Sandhurst Shane Mackinlay, former directors Adrian Sexton and Denis Higgins and current executive director Paul Desmond cut a 200 years cake. 2. Sr Patty Andrew OSU, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP and Sr Venera Nicolosi OSU at Catholic Education Parramatta's 200 years civic reception. 3. Students from St Mary of the Angels Primary, Guyra in the Diocese of Armidale with 200 years lapel pins and prayer cards. 4. Archbishop of Melbourne Peter Comensoli celebrated Mass for more than 600 Catholic school students and staff at St Patrick's Cathedral. 5. A National Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. 6. St Francis of Assisi Primary students at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney (photo by Giovanni Portelli).



From top, left to right: 1. Students and staff from Warlawurru Catholic School Red Hill, Lundja Community in Western Australia. 2. Students with their 200 years banner at Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg. 3. Students celebrate in historical dress at St Catherine Labouré, Gympie. 4. Students from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School, Merbein in the Diocese of Ballarat.

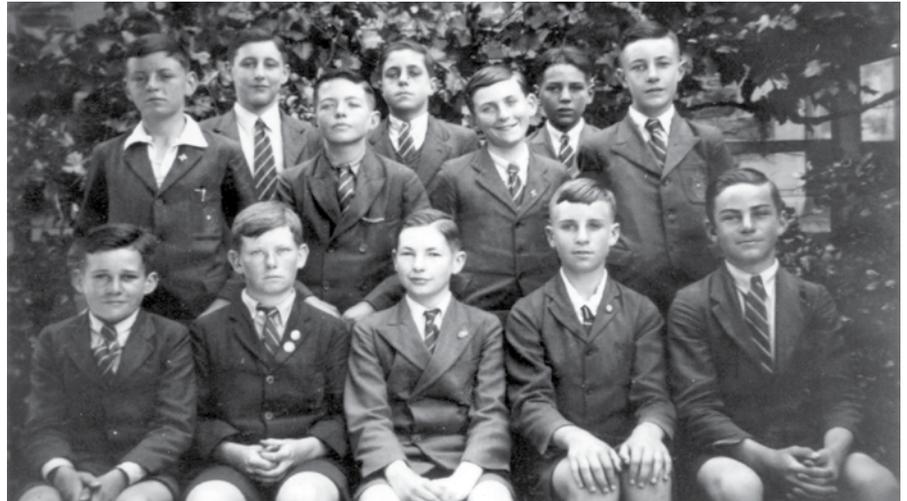
The first religious orders to establish Catholic schools in Australia

In their pastoral letter to mark the 200th anniversary of Catholic education in Australia, the Catholic Bishops of Australia recorded their gratitude for the extraordinary contribution of the religious institutes to education in Australia. This contribution will be highlighted over the four editions of this commemorative magazine.

Christian Brothers

In 1843, the Irish Christian Brothers first arrived in Sydney at the invitation of Archbishop Polding, but left in 1848. The Christian Brothers returned to Australia in 1868, arriving in Melbourne at the invitation of Bishop James Goold, they were Brothers P A Treacy, D F Bodkin, J B Lynch and P J Nolan.

In 1869, the Brothers began teaching at a small primary school behind St Francis' Church in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. In 1871, Parade College, in Melbourne was founded by the Brothers with over 100 students enrolled.



Christian Brothers College, Adelaide students in 1943.

Over the next 35 years, Br Treacy responded to invitations from Bishops to establish schools across the dioceses of Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, and Perth in Australia and Dunedin in New Zealand.

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) was formed by the Christian Brothers in 2007 which continues the work of education and is responsible for the governance

of over 50 schools throughout Australia.

EREA executive director Dr Craig Wattam said those original Christian Brothers arrived on our shores and endured tremendous struggle and hardship.

"They taught classes of up to 100 students in a single room, they had little training, and they often survived on the donations of food and other necessities from generous Catholics in their neighbourhood," he said.

"This year we celebrate the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia, we also celebrate the 150th anniversary of our oldest Edmund Rice school, Parade College."

"The Christian Brothers and our Edmund Rice schools around this nation form an integral part of the story of Catholic schooling in Australia," he said.

"Many of our schools have been in existence for well over 100 years, and yet many of our schools are still in their infancy."



Newest EREA school, St Mary's College, East St Kilda.

“Today we reaffirm our commitment to providing an education that liberates,” he said. “Our contribution to the fabric of Catholic education is significant, enduring, and meaningful.”

Today over 39,000 students are being educated in 54 schools with the charisma of Blessed Edmund Rice. ●

SOURCES:

Edmund Rice Education Australia, 2021, accessed 16 June 2021.

Parade College, 2020, *Our Heritage*, accessed 16 June 2021.

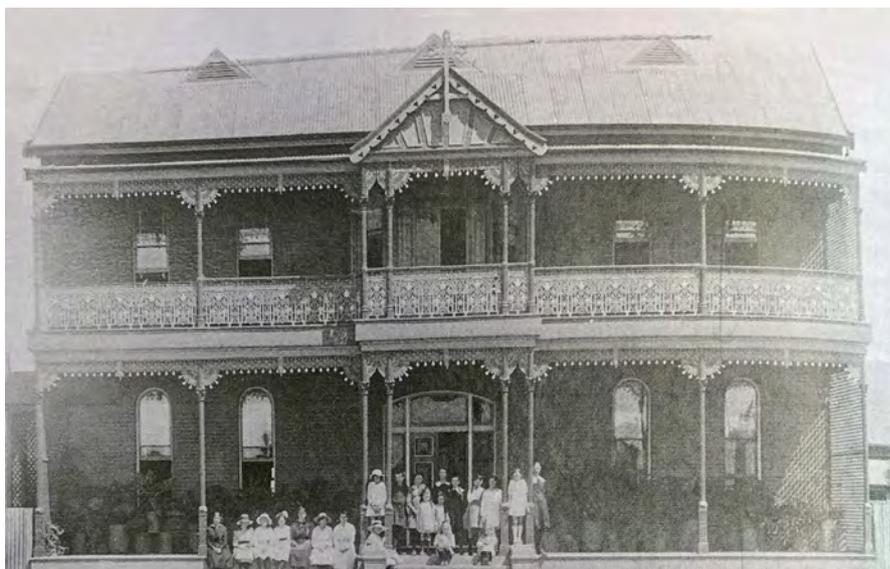
St Pius X College Chatswood, 2021, *Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice*, accessed 16 June 2021.

Williams, M. D., 2012, *Big Brother The Amazing Influence that the Christian Brothers have had on Education in Australia*, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Launceston, accessed 16 June 2021.

Wattam, C. 2021, *Celebrating two hundred years of Catholic education in Australia*, EREA Executive Director's Message - March 2021, viewed 16 June 2021.

Mercy Sisters

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Australia in January 1846, and in that same month the first Mercy School in Australia was opened by Mother Ursula Frayne and the Perth founding Sisters of Mercy, with one student in attendance. Today, Mercedes College continues to operate at the original 1848 Perth convent site as a ministry of Mercy Education Ltd.



Convent School Cobar, NSW c1884. Source: *Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea*.

Mother Ursula and two sisters travelled to Melbourne in 1857, and shortly after arriving they opened Our Immaculate Lady of Mercy School Academy in Fitzroy with six pupils.

Mother Ursula Frayne was the first principal, and this school (now known as The Academy of Mary Immaculate) still exists on the original site and

remains the oldest Catholic girls' school in Victoria.

In May 1861, Ellen Whitty (Mother Mary Vincent Whitty) and her five companions arrived in Brisbane at the invitation of Bishop James Quinn bringing the first Sisters of Mercy to Queensland. That year, the Sisters founded All Hallows' School,



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Tasmania



the first secondary school for girls established in Queensland. Mother Mary Vincent Whitty became the school's first principal and the Sisters began teaching in the Dean's cottage next to St Stephen's Cathedral. All Hallows' School marked 160 years of education in 2021.

In 1865, the North Sydney Mercies established a presence in Sydney under the leadership of Elizabeth McQuoin (Mother Mary Ignatius). The Sisters began teaching children and their first 'school' was the crypt under St Patrick's Church in The Rocks, Sydney.

In 1866, the Bathurst Sisters of Mercy commenced classes for about 90 girls in spare classrooms at St Patrick's School for boys.

The North Sydney Sisters established a day and boarding school for girls in 1875, eventually the convent and college were named Monte Sant' Angelo and the convent became the Mother House and Novitiate for the North Sydney Mercies.

In 1880, the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Adelaide from Argentina via London and wasted no time in opening a school at Angus Street in Adelaide in South Australia. This school, now known as St Aloysius College, still operates today as a ministry of Mercy Education Ltd.

In February 1884, Sisters of Mercy from the Bathurst Congregation opened a low-cost primary and



Students Xavier College, Kew circa 1901c.



Convent School Cobar, NSW c1884. Source: Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

infants' school in Cobar in the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes.

In 1888, the West Perth Congregation opened their first school at St Brigid's Convent, Western Australia. St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie and Aranmore College, Leederville still operate today.

Sisters of Mercy from Callan, Kilkenny arrived in Parramatta in 1888, opening a primary school on 10 December 1888 with 55 students.

In January 1889, the Sisters of Mercy at Parramatta opened a secondary school with seven girls. Over the next 20 years, the Sisters established a further 11 schools from Woolloomooloo to North Parramatta, in addition to St Michael's boy's orphanage in Baulkham Hills and St Brigid's girl's orphanage in Ryde.

Mercy Education Ltd was established in 2011 and sponsors 13 schools in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Many schools and colleges across Australia owe their heritage to the Sisters of Mercy and many maintain strong Mercy links as members of the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association. ●

SOURCES:
 All Hallows' School Brisbane, 2020, Sisters of Mercy, accessed 16 June 2021.
 Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association, 2021, [Overview](#), accessed 16 June 2021.
 Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia & Papua New Guinea, 2021, [Our History](#), accessed 16 June 2021.
 Mercy Education Limited, 2021, [Who we are](#), accessed 16 June 2021.
 Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane Congregation, 2018, [Who we are](#), accessed 16 June 2021.
 Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney, 2021, [Our Story](#), accessed 16 June 2021.
 Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta, 2021, [Our Parramatta Story](#), accessed 16 June 2021.

Jesuits

The Jesuit Fathers arrived in Australia from Austria in 1848. The Society of Jesus established their first school in 1856 which was the first Catholic boys school in South Australia, St Aloysius' College Sevenhill, which closed 30 years later.

In 1864, Irish Jesuits arrived in Melbourne with a strong commitment to providing Catholic education.

The Society of Jesus worked to establish a number of schools across Australia as both the works of the Society and at other times in partnership with local dioceses.

St Patrick's Jesuit College in East Melbourne was founded in 1854 by Bishop of Melbourne James Goold, who, in 1864, invited the Jesuit Fathers to take control of the diocesan school which they did until the school's closure in 1968.

Fr Joseph Dalton SJ established three Jesuit schools in Australia in three successive years, these were: Xavier College, Kew in 1878 in Melbourne, St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point in 1879 and Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview in 1880, both in Sydney. These three schools continue to provide Jesuit education to students.

From 1898 to 1902, the Jesuits also ran Stella Maris in Darwin and in 1938, the Jesuits established St

Louis School in Perth. St Louis School was transferred to the Archdiocese of Perth in 1971 and in 1976, the school amalgamated with Loreto Osborne to form a new co-educational school, John XXIII College. This new school began in 1977 with Jesuit priest Fr Daven Day SJ as its founding headmaster. It remains affiliated with both the Jesuits and the Loreto sisters.

Later, Saint Ignatius' College in Adelaide was established in 1951, and the most recent Jesuit-owned school is Redfern Jarjum College, established in 2013. This is a co-educational primary school for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in inner Sydney.

In addition, there are a number of 'Companion Schools', both systemic and independent Catholic schools, who want to remain congruent with the Ignatian vision, spirituality and pedagogical paradigm associated with Jesuit education. Jesuit Education Australia supports the schools in this commitment.



Principal Matt Smith and students from Redfern Jarjum College 2020.

These schools are John XXIII College, Mt Claremont WA, Loyola College, Watsonia VIC, Saint Ignatius' College, Geelong VIC, Xavier Catholic College, Hervey Bay QLD, and Xavier Catholic College, Ballina NSW.

Jesuit Education Australia (JEA) was established in 2017 to provide strategic oversight and governance of the educational ministry of the Society of Jesus in Australia. The education

ministry includes Jesuit involvement in tertiary education, academic research, university colleges and university chaplaincies, including Newman College and Jesuit College of Spirituality, both in Victoria. ●

SOURCES:

Australian Province of the Society of Jesus, 2020, [Education](#), accessed 16 June 2021.

Jesuit Education Australia, 2020, [Our Story](#), accessed 16 June 2021.

Jesuit Education Australia, 2020, [A History of Jesuit Education in Australia](#), accessed 16 June 2021.

St Aloysius' College, 2021, [Jesuit Schools in Australia](#), accessed 16 June 2021.

St Patrick's College SJ, [History](#), accessed 16 June 2021.



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Biographical Dictionary of Catholic Educators

A new book has been published by Coventry Press featuring 30 biographies of Catholic educators spanning the 200 year history of Catholic education.

Not Forgotten, Australian Catholic Educators 1820-2020 is edited by Seamus O'Grady and Anne Benjamin and is part of a larger project, the Biographical Dictionary of Australian Catholic Educators which was created to keep alive the stories of the people of Catholic education in Australia, and to inspire current and future teachers and leaders in Catholic schools.

This book ensures that the story of those who forged Catholic education in Australia are not only not forgotten, but are honoured appropriately, in a way which can inform and influence new generations of Catholic educators.

Following are brief extracts of three educators from the book.

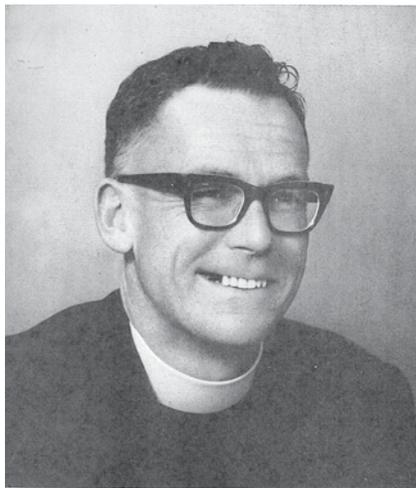


Ellen Hogan (Sr M Gabriel op)
1842-1915

Founder of an education system for the Catholic deaf
Elizabeth Hellwig op

In July 1875, a tiny Irish woman disembarked in Sydney from the *Ellora*. Ellen Hogan, known as Sr Mary Gabriel, was deaf, but despite her disability, or perhaps because of it, this

indomitable lady, then aged 31, was destined for an uncommon greatness. She is remembered with reverence and deep affection as the founder of an education system for the Catholic deaf that would become internationally renowned. She spoke no words, but the power of her communication skills and her ability to hand these on to young people who lived in the then separate world of the 'deaf and dumb', were her gift. Furthermore Sr M Gabriel broke down barriers with hearing people to such an extent that she readily obtained the patronage necessary to create a viable, life-giving institution for those who could not 'speak' for themselves... ●



William John Graham msc
(Fr Bill Graham msc) (1912-1966)

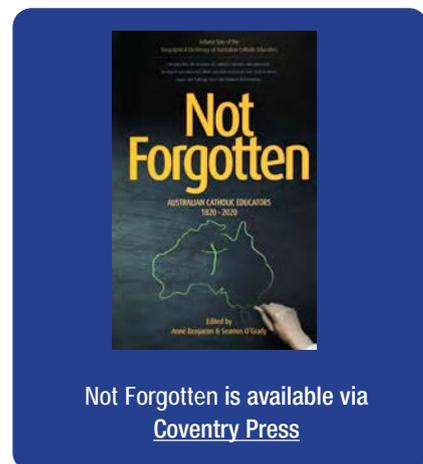
Priest, sportsman, teacher and sports master
Seamus O'Grady with
James Littleton msc

Known to his confreres as Bill, William John Graham was one of the most vibrant personalities ever involved in MSC Education. His untimely death at the age of 54 from a road accident in 1966 robbed students and past students of Downlands College, Toowoomba, of a priest, father and friend. ●



Veronica Therese Ryan (Sr Veronica Ryan rsj) (1936 – 2008)
Walking with Indigenous Australians
Mary Cresp rsj

In 1974, Veronica volunteered for ministry in the Kimberley where the Sisters of St Joseph ran schools in a number of centres. As principal at Kununurra, and against opposition from the white population, she employed Aboriginal teacher-aides, tutoring and enrolling them in formal study courses in anticipation of the time when, as she wrote in a letter in 1976, 'a suitable training program will be devised whereby Aboriginal people will become qualified teachers'. ●



Not Forgotten is available via
Coventry Press

What's happening around Australia

Across the country, local events are being held in state, territory, diocesan and school communities to celebrate the 200 Years of Catholic education in Australia.

25 - 31 JULY 2021 Queensland Catholic Education Week

Catholic schools across Queensland will be celebrating Catholic Education Week with the theme, A Spirited Tomorrow. ●



St Ignatius' College Junior School, Norwood

8 - 15 AUGUST 2021 Family Week

Parents and carers are the primary educators of their children and are

crucial partners in each student's learning journey.

Family Week is an opportunity for Catholic school communities to recognise and celebrate the partnership and important contribution of families in Catholic education. School communities are invited to participate in this week.

[Download resources from the 200 years website.](#) ●



27 OCTOBER 2021 Virtual Symposium

The National Catholic Education Commission will host its second virtual symposium to mark World Teachers Day (29 October). The symposium will focus on some of the themes presented in the Australian Catholic Bishops pastoral letter, *200 Years Young*. ●



Patrick McGrath

PRINCIPAL CATHOLIC IDENTITY OFFICER,
CATHOLIC EDUCATION ARCHDIOCESE OF
CANBERRA & GOULBURN

I have had the enormous blessing of being immersed in the world of Catholic education for almost 60 years. My primary education was conducted by the Sisters of Mercy and secondary school was influenced by the Christian Brothers. They taught me the notion of building community and selfless service that drew me into the vocation of teaching. We must never lose sight of the fact that the Mission of Catholic education is part of the Mission of the Church. ●

Access the full events calendar via the www.200years.catholic.edu.au

Explore the resources on the 200 years website

There are a number of resources available via the 200 years website to support school and diocesan communities to celebrate the bicentenary of Catholic education including:

- National Prayer
- 'Faith in the Future' National Song
- 'Faith in the Future Australian Student Version' video
- Suggested events and activities
- Templates, branding materials and so much more...

Add your own story of Catholic education to the growing collection of personal reflections from educators, leaders, students and alumni. Contributions to the photo/video gallery and timeline on the website are also welcome. Add your school's historical or modern-day photos.

The website will be updated with new resources regularly, so school communities are encouraged to revisit the site often to support their local celebrations and activities.



St Francis of Assisi Primary, Paddington

For more resources visit www.200years.catholic.edu.au



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