

The Development Of Windsor Parish

Dr Polding opened St Matthew's on 21st October 1840, assisted by Rev. Ullathorne. By 1842 he was able to report that St Matthew's was completed. Also in use at that time was St Gregory's at Kurrajong and the Chapel of Our Lady of Loreto ten miles up from St Joseph's, Macdonald River.

Fr. Therry was stationed at Windsor for about 9 months in 1847. Before leaving the district in 1848, he requested that a church be built in Richmond to accommodate the spiritual needs of the people. Ten years later the foundation stone was laid and the first Mass at St Monica's, Richmond, was celebrated on 4th May, 1859.

The three Parish Priests in quick succession were J. Grant, N.J. Coffey and P. Hallinan.

During Father Hallinan's 22 years as Parish Priest the "great flood of 1867" caused hardship and loss to the parish, not only in the destruction of dwellings and crops, but in the loss of lives. This all time flood wrought havoc. All suitable church buildings were made available for refugees. Many people were taken off the tops of houses or trees. The Eather families were not so fortunate, for when the floodwaters washed the families off the rooftop of their house, the two wives and ten children drowned. Monuments in the Catholic cemetery stand in memory of this sad time.

In 1874 Fr J. Sheehy took charge of the parish and he asked that a convent be established to accommodate an order of nuns. **The Sisters of the Good Samaritan** opened a convent in an old house in George Street. Twelve months later a more suitable house was rented in Macquarie Street on the corner of Suffolk Street.

In 1878 the Sisters moved into the renovated presbytery, renamed St Joseph's Convent and blessed by Archbishop Vaughan. A new brick presbytery was erected to adjoin the Church.

In 1877 the western area of the Parish, which included Richmond and Kurrajong, separated and the new parish priest, Father P. Cassidy, was sent to Richmond.

St Matthew's