



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

#### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The wording of this document has been adapted from the heritage assessment compiled in 1999 by Kelsall Binet Architects and Kris Bizzaca, historian, with reference to 'Sacred Heart Church, Mary Street Highgate Conservation Plan', prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Parish of Sacred Heart Highgate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth in July 2004, with amendments and/or additions by Office of Heritage staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.5.3.2 Founding Australian religious institutions
- 6.2 Establishing schools

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion
- 402 Education & science

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is significant for its aesthetic characteristics as a substantial and well-composed collection of ecclesiastical buildings of varying stylistic idioms that date from c.1900. The Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in particular is an excellent example of a large, well composed convent school building featuring elements from the Federation Free and Inter-War Gothic styles, and the Church is an excellent example of a substantial stone church in the Federation Gothic style. The simple, formally planned garden entry to the convent and Moreton Bay figs in the Mary Street forecourt of the Church add to the place's aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is a landmark in Harold and Mary Streets as a collection of early twentieth century structures of substantial scale and urban character in landscaped grounds with distinctive boundary walls. (Criterion 1.3)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.  
For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The buildings, grounds and boundary walls of *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* contribute substantially to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape and form a significant streetscape element on Mary and Harold Streets in Highgate, as well as being an important precinct of ecclesiastical buildings that date from c.1900. (Criteria 1.3 & 1.4)

The finely designed interior of the church is notable particularly the timber truss ceiling. (Criteria 1.2)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is representative of the development of the inner city suburbs north of the Perth railway line caused primarily by the mass immigration, which came as a result of the Western Australian gold rushes in the 1880s and 1890s. (Criterion 2.1)

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* was founded as a result of efforts from the late 1890s by local residents, supported by Bishop Matthew Gibney, to establish a Catholic Church and School in the area, and is representative of the development of Catholic Education in Western Australia from the 1890s largely due to the efforts of Bishop Gibney and his campaign to invite various teaching Orders to establish Catholic schools in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

The Church was one of the first Catholic churches in the State to implement changes resulting from liturgical practices recommended by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) including modifying the sanctuary to accommodate liturgical changes. (Criterion 2.2)

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is associated with the Order of Our Lady of the Missions. The Order arrived in Western Australia in October 1897 and established their first Australian branch and school at Mary Street, Highgate in that same year. The Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (1899; 1923; 1937) was the Head House for the Western Australian and Victorian branches of the Order. *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* illustrates the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions ongoing commitment to the education of children in Western Australia and to other forms of pastoral care. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

Sacred Heart Primary School is the only known example of a parish owned school located in the inner city, which dates from the early twentieth century and still functions for its intended purpose. (Criterion 2.2)

Constructed in 1923, the Chapel was the first in Australia dedicated to the 'Little Flower', the venerable Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus. (Criterion 2.2)

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* has associations with various individuals significant to the Sacred Heart parish, including Parish Priest Father Crowley. The place is also associated with past and present Sacred Heart students and teachers. (Criterion 2.3)

The 1906 Church, 1914 School and 1928 extensions to the Church were designed by architect Richard Dennehy, who was responsible for the design of many Catholic buildings in the early decades of the twentieth century. The original Monastery and School buildings were designed by Edgar Henderson, of the architectural firm, Henderson and Jeffries. The 1923, 1933 and 1937 additions to the Monastery and School, the 1954 extensions to the Church, and the 1938 Hall were designed by Edgar Le B Henderson, who was responsible for the design of many buildings for the Catholic Church in the 1920s and 1930s. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is likely to contain archaeological deposits with the potential to provide information about life within, and the workings of, a prominent ecclesiastical order dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. (Criterion 3.1)

### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is highly valued by the parish and school communities, including past and present clergy, parish members, school students and teachers. Its religious, educational, cultural and historic associations contribute to these communities' sense of place. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

As a large and complex example of a late nineteenth century Roman Catholic convent, *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* illustrates the distinctive way of life of a Christian religious order devoted to the education of children. This way of life is becoming less common. (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 School) has rarity value as an example of a parish-owned school located in the inner city, which dates from the early twentieth century and still functions for its intended purpose. The only other known example is Mercedes College, Victoria Avenue, Perth (c. 1895). (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

The various components of *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* illustrate the principal characteristics of the Federation Free, Federation Gothic and Inter-War Gothic architectural styles. (Criterion 6.1)

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is representative of a church, convent (Monastery) and school built at the turn of the century and illustrates the principal characteristics and planning of this type of ecclesiastical complex, and the important role of the church in both education and spiritual life of children through the twentieth century. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Generally *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* is in good condition and shows few signs of physical deterioration. However, there is some variation in the condition of the various component buildings and wings.

The Church is in good condition. There is evidence of minor deterioration to stonework as the result of salts in the ground moisture and some deterioration to lead roof flashings adjacent to parapet walls of the roof. Gutters on the eastern elevation have failed, external joinery is in only fair condition, and the frames of a number of stained glass leadlight windows have deteriorated.

The Church Hall is in very good condition for its current function, as an archival storage area.

#### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* has a moderate to high degree of integrity because the school and church are still used for their original intended purposes but the convent is no longer in use either by the Order or as a residential facility. The western portion of the convent has been adapted for use as offices and the remainder has been incorporated into the school. The Church Hall has been converted into an archival storage area.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* has a high degree of authenticity generally. Most of the early fabric of the place is largely intact. Only minor modifications have been made and no loss of original fabric has resulted from these changes. These modifications can easily be reversed.

In the monastery part of the main building changes have included the subdivision of some rooms with stud framed partitions, the installation of hand basins in some cells, refitting of bathrooms and kitchens and the installation of a lift. In the school wing, these changes include the construction of the new steel-framed access verandah and the modification of window openings.

The Sacred Heart Primary School is assessed as having a low degree of authenticity. The building has been comprehensively remodelled internally and most door and window openings have also been altered; timber windows have been replaced with aluminium sliders.

The Church has a moderate degree of authenticity. The original design for the church was not completed in 1906 and subsequent work was carried out in 1928 with the addition of the sanctuary and in 1954 with the construction of the Lady Chapel. The sanctuary was further altered in 1966 in response to liturgical changes recommended by the Second Vatican Council. Other changes resulting from the requirements of the parish have included replacement of the choir loft and construction of the inner porch.

The conversion of the Church Hall into an archive storage area, although ensuring the building continues to be used for an appropriate function, has had some impact on its authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Kristy Bizzaca, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Gena Binet and Alan Kelsall of Kelsall Binet Architects.

Additional information relating to Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Church Hall has been taken from 'Sacred Heart Church, Mary Street Highgate Conservation Plan', prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Parish of Sacred Heart Highgate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth in July 2004. An update to the physical evidence was completed by Stephen Carrick of Stephen Carrick Architects Pty Ltd in December 2011.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* comprises Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1906, 1928, 1954) and Church Hall (1938), the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (1899; 1923; 1933; 1937), Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 School), forecourt and Moreton Bay figs to the Church, gardens, shelters, and boundary walls. Incorporated in the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are: the Administration Wing (1899); the Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933); the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923); the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933); the Auxiliary Wing (1937); and the Service Wing (1899). The place is located at 40-62 Mary Street, Highgate and is bounded by Mary Street to the south and Harold Street to the north. A 1971 School Block, a Hostel (1977/1978), and the former Laundry Block (1937) were demolished in 2003.

#### **The Establishment of a Roman Catholic Presence at Highgate**

The establishment of a Roman Catholic presence in Highgate Hill dates from 1891 when Bishop Matthew Gibney supervised the subdivision of the Church's land known as 'Mount Heart Estate'. Located on a prominent rise, the estate comprised of a number of residential lots and was bounded by Mary and Margaret (now Harold) Streets, and Beaufort and Lincoln (now William) Streets. Bishop Gibney identified approximately two acres at the centre of the estate for use as a church and school to serve the growing Catholic population of the developing suburb. The two acres were called 'Alacoque Square' after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St Margaret Mary Alacoque.<sup>1</sup>

Matthew Gibney (1835-1925), born in Ireland in November 1835, arrived in Perth in 1863; the same year that he was ordained. In 1873 he was appointed vicar-general to Bishop Martin Griver, in 1868 Gibney opened the Catholic Girls' Orphanage [St Joseph's Orphanage] in Perth run by the Sister's of Mercy, and in 1872 the Catholic Orphanage for Boys [St Vincent's Boys' Orphanage] at Subiaco administered by the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Gibney briefly headed east in the 1880s, his presence in Victoria coinciding with the siege at Glenrowan and, after tending to the wounded Kelly, hearing his confession and giving him the last rites, he attempted to minister to the remainder of the gang by entering the then burning hotel but it was too late. Gibney returned to Perth and resumed his work being appointed as coadjutor bishop of Perth in November 1886. However, as this corresponded with Griver's death he never acted in the

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<sup>1</sup> Ker, M. H., 'Children of the Same God', Sacred Heart Primary School, 1997, pp. 1 – 4; The Record, 10 July 1897; The Record, 17 July 1897.

position automatically becoming Bishop. Gibney was consecrated bishop in 1887. Following a number of poor financial decisions Gibney was asked to stand down and he resigned on 14 May 1910. He went into seclusion but just before his death, in June 1925, he received a papal benediction.<sup>2</sup>

On 6 July 1897, Superior General Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary of the Congregation of Our Lady of Missions<sup>3</sup> stopped at Perth enroute to an inspection of various missions established by the Sisters in New Zealand. Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary had been invited by Gibney to visit Perth with a view to establishing a branch of the teaching order in Western Australia. The invitation was as a result of Bishop Gibney's campaign to establish Catholic schools for his Diocese.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Beginnings of Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate**

Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary visited 'Alacoque Square' where a temporary Church of the Sacred Heart had been erected.<sup>5</sup> The original church building, a timber-framed iron-clad structure always considered temporary, was improved and ornamented by the local Catholic community.<sup>6</sup> When leaving the colony several days later, Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary intimated that she would be accepting the Bishop's proposal to establish a school at the Highgate Hill site. This announcement was made at Sunday Mass held at the Church of the Sacred Heart on 13 July 1897.<sup>7</sup>

Five Sisters were chosen from the Order of Our Lady of the Missions at Christchurch to establish the mission in Perth. These were Mother Mary St Genevieve, Mother Mary St Martina, Sister Mary St Eudoxie, Sister Mary St Irene and Sister Mary St Gregory. The Sisters arrived in Albany on 9 October 1897 and had reached Perth by 12 October 1897. The Sisters initially boarded with Mother St Martina's cousin and influential businessman and politician Timothy Quinlan MLA as well as at the Convent of St John of God. From here, the Sisters moved to a residence in Vincent Street that had been given to the Order by Bishop Gibney.<sup>8</sup>

The Sisters opened the Sacred Heart School on 25 October 1897.<sup>9</sup> The branch at Highgate Hill was to be the first established by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Australia.

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- <sup>2</sup> V. E. Callaghan, 'Gibney, Matthew (1835 - 1925)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 8, Melbourne University Press, 1981, pp 649-651; some additional information/clarification of these details was also provided to the Office of Heritage by Sister Frances Stibi (16/11/2011), Archivist, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth.
- <sup>3</sup> Notre Dame Des Missions - Our Lady of the Missions - was founded by French woman Euphrasie Barbier in 1861. One of the first branches established by the Order was at Napier, New Zealand in 1864. By 1897, the Order had branches in India and thirteen branches in New Zealand. The Record, 10 July 1897; The Record, 17 July 1897.
- <sup>4</sup> Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 6; Fry, A., United for Mission: Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions, 1997, pp. 4 – 5.
- <sup>5</sup> The Record, 17 July 1897.
- <sup>6</sup> 'Sacred Heart Church, Mary Street Highgate Conservation Plan', prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Parish of Sacred Heart Highgate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth in July 2004., p.13
- <sup>7</sup> The Record, 17 July 1897.
- <sup>8</sup> Fry, A., op. cit., pp. 3 – 7; The Record, 16 October 1897.
- <sup>9</sup> The Record, 16 October 1897; The Record, 22 July 1971.

Schooling was held in a corrugated iron shed that was also used as the parish church. By the end of 1897, the school had 140 students in attendance.<sup>10</sup> Plans were soon made to build a convent and school (Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) at the Highgate Hill site. However, construction of the convent and school was delayed by disagreements between the Order and Bishop Gibney about the design of the school buildings. The Bishop's visit to Rome in 1898 and Vicar General Father Anslem Bourke's refusal to agree to the Order's plans without the Bishop's consent caused further delays.<sup>11</sup>

On 18 September 1898, the foundation stone of the combined school and convent building (Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) was finally laid. Approximately 700 to 800 of the laity attended the ceremony including Sir John and Lady Margaret Forrest. Although the construction cost was estimated at £5,000, Sacred Heart School and Convent (Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) was built at a cost of approximately £3,000. The money for the construction of the building was raised by the local parish.<sup>12</sup>

On 22 January 1899, Sacred Heart School and Convent (Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) was opened with the Vicar General officiating over the ceremony and blessing of the building. Among those attending the opening ceremony were prominent Catholics and businessmen Timothy Quinlan and Michael Cavanagh. The architect of the building Edgar Henderson, of the firm Henderson and Jefferies, also attended the opening. The building was constructed by day labour employed by the Mother Prioress and this work was supervised by builder T. Moloney.<sup>13</sup>

It was reported that:

The building occupies a commanding site on the crown of the hill whence a widely spread view of the city and the surrounding country is obtained. The situation is extremely healthy and an abundance of air is one of the chief characteristics of the place. The grounds are extensive, affording within their surrounding fence of galvanised iron, spacious room for recreation purposes and gardening. The material is brick faced with stone, and the appearance of the block is stately and imposing – the religious character being well marked. The design of the building is partly Gothic, the old English style of architecture predominating. The structure is two stories high. On the ground floor there is a school-room, 60ft. by 30ft., exclusive of a stage 15ft. by 30ft. The lower floor also contains the chapels, parlours, waiting room, music-room, refectory, kitchen, etc. In the upper storey are a school for the boarders and another for the kindergarten, a dormitory, a community room, and cells for the nuns. The building is excellently appointed in every aspect.<sup>14</sup>

In February 1899, three more Sisters arrived from New Zealand to live and work at Sacred Heart. The first postulants were received at the Monastery<sup>15</sup> on 8 September 1902. In that same year, a school operated by the Order opened in Fremantle. In 1903, the first regional branch of the Order was established in

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10 Fry, A., op. cit., pp. 7 – 8.

11 Ker, M. H., op. cit., pp. 16 – 18.

12 The Record, 24 September 1898. It is thought that the cost of the building was lowered as a result of the original scheme being modified to exclude the chapel and the west wing.

13 The Record, 28 January 1899. E. J. Henderson also designed the Convent of St John of God, Subiaco (demolished) and several smaller residential and commercial projects.

14 Ibid; The Inquirer, 27 January 1899. Please note: At this stage, the building comprised the Administration Wing, the Classroom Wing and the Service Wing. The dormitories were located in the upper stories of both the Classroom and the Service Wings.

15 Please note that the Monastery was known historically as a convent.

Busselton at Villa Carlotta.<sup>16</sup> Sacred Heart Convent became the Head House for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions for Western Australia, and later Victoria.

The various schools at Sacred Heart included a Kindergarten and Primary School for both boys and girls and a High School and Boarding School for girls<sup>17</sup> (the High School started in the early 1900s). The teaching methods of the Order were proved by the success of the students in the final examinations. As Highgate Hill developed as a relatively prestigious area of Perth, the numbers of students at the school grew. As early as 1903 the Sisters considered the construction of the west wing of Sacred Heart, which had been proposed in the original plans. However, lack of funds at the time meant that this scheme was not carried out.<sup>18</sup>

In 1904, the Government Inspector of Schools wrote 'This Primary School is the weakest in the city'<sup>19</sup>; identifying the limited resources at the school. That same year two Sisters had died at Sacred Heart, one of whom had been a member of the original group to arrive in Western Australia. The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions worked hard to regain the footing of the Order and their school. This is evident in the report made by the Inspector in 1905:

This school is the best in the city. It owes this position to the unceasing care and watchfulness in supervision of the Reverend-Mother, who has been the real Sister-in-Charge, and the able assistance rendered by the Sister-of-Charge of Senior Standards.<sup>20</sup>

In 1905, 219 students were enrolled at the school with five Sisters teaching. The remaining Sisters either assisted with the workings of the School and/or with the teaching of the novitiates.<sup>21</sup>

Throughout this period Alacoque Square, the land on which *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* was built, remained in the joint ownership of Bishop Gibney and three members of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. On 17 May 1906, ownership of the property was transferred to the Sisters. At the same time, the Sisters also became the proprietors of Lots 35 and 36 of Perth Town Lots N146 and N147, which adjoined their land in Mary Street.<sup>22</sup>

Although the question of establishing a permanent church had been raised as early as mid-1899, it was not until 1904 that plans for a new church were formally undertaken, with Richard Dennehy as architect. Dennehy arrived in Western Australia from Victoria in the 1860s and by the turn of the twentieth century had established himself as a successful architect in Perth, designing a number of prominent buildings including the Home of the Good Shepherd in Leederville (now the Catholic Education Office). In March 1905, it was publicly announced that a new church was to be built, and the contract for construction was let in May of that year. The new church was officially opened by Bishop Gibney at a large

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16 Fry, A., op. cit., pp. 8 - 12.

17 The Record, 28 January 1899.

18 Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 20; The Record, 22 July 1971.

19 'Report of the Government Inspector of Schools', 1905 cited in Kerr, M., op. cit., p. 21.

20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.

22 Certificate of Title, Vol. CLXV, Fol. 145; Certificate of Title, Vol. LVII, Fol. 192. Since the establishment of the school at the turn of the century, studies had included such sports as 'calisthenics'. In the 1920s, the additional land, which had been purchased (fronting Harold Street), was turned into playing fields (the High School fields). Tennis and basketball courts were marked out on the fields.

ceremony on 24 February 1906.<sup>23</sup> The place was described in *The Record* at the time as follows:

The foundations are of cement concrete, while the base course consists of solid stone blocks one yard high. A large carving of the Sacred Heart in solid stone stands over the entrance door. The complete design provides for a building cruciform in shape, to include nave, transepts, chancel and sacristy, but the portion at present erected comprises the nave only, which is 72 ft long by 35 ft wide, exclusive of a temporary chancel and sacristy. Electric light is installed throughout. Special attention has been given to ventilation in addition to that provided for in the roof and at the eaves. All the windows open for their full length. The original contract was for £3,000, but during the progress of the work it was decided to add a temporary chancel and sacristy outside the stone building; also to erect the organ gallery. The additional works, together with the new seating etc. bring the expenditure up to about £4,000. The contractors, Messrs Ellis and Pitman, have given every satisfaction in carrying out the work for which Mr. R.J. Dennehy was the architect.<sup>24</sup>

For the next eight years, the finances of the parish were restricted as the community worked to pay off the debt incurred by the church's construction. The only changes to the building during this time were to add a stained glass window on the eastern side depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus.<sup>25</sup> The earlier church remained on the site and was used for social events, worship and education. It held approximately 200 people, a capacity too small for many parish events.<sup>26</sup>

The area of Highgate Hill continued to flourish and overcrowding at the school became an ongoing problem. Temporary pavilion classrooms were constructed in an attempt to provide a solution and classes were often held outside. By 1912, there were approximately 400 students at the school, 300 of these enrolled at Primary School level.<sup>27</sup>

Parish Priest Father Thomas Crowley and the Sisters of the Order realised that a permanent building would solve the problem of overcrowding. Father Crowley had just finished clearing the debt for the parish church constructed in 1906 and was unconcerned about incurring the cost for a new parish school building.<sup>28</sup> The 1897 church was at this time serving as classroom space for the overcrowded school.<sup>29</sup>

On 24 May 1914, the foundation stone for the Parish School was laid in a ceremony officiated by Archbishop Clune. The cost of construction of the brick building was £2,500. Mr. Dennehy was the architect for the school and Mr. Fairweather the builder.<sup>30</sup>

The School was officially opened on 20 October 1914 and classes commenced the next day. There was accommodation for five classes in the building. There

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23 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. pp.14-15.

24 *The Record*, 3 March 1906, as quoted in Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p.15.

25 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p. 15.

26 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p.17.

27 Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 20.

28 Ker, M. H., op. cit., pp. 20 – 24; *The Record*, 30 May 1914.

29 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p.17.

30 *The Record*, 30 May 1914; *The Record*, 24 October 1914. Dennehy also built Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (1906) and the Convent of the Good Shepherd, West Leederville (1903); both of which are substantial rock faced, limestone buildings in the Gothic and Romanesque styles typical for ecclesiastical buildings in that era. In contrast, the 1914 Primary School was designed in a more utilitarian manner and is similar to schools designed by the Public Works Department under the leadership of George Temple Poole.

were two main classrooms and two smaller rooms. An entrance hall led through to a wide verandah at the rear of the building. The motto 'Suffer Little Children to come unto me' was rendered over the entrance hall.<sup>31</sup> The east wing (the Classroom Wing) of *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* was still used as a Boarding School and a High School for Girls.

In 1919, lightning struck and destroyed the cross above the entrance to the church. Members of the parish moved quickly to repair the building.<sup>32</sup>

In 1923, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions realised their long held dream to erect their own chapel at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The Chapel was dedicated to the 'Little Flower', the venerable Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus. The Chapel was the first in Australia built in memory of the 'Little Flower'.<sup>33</sup> St. Therese was canonized a saint on May 17, 1925, by Pope Pius II. Therese loved flowers and saw herself as the little flower of Jesus.<sup>34</sup> Other additions were also built at the time, including the 'tower' at the front of the east wing of the building.

The building placed as it is on such an imposing sight, with such an imposing view of Perth and the hills far beyond and in all directions, has a fine majestic appearance. It is built of brick, and with what is known as "specials" to the principal fronts and returns. The facings and dressings of stucco, the windows and other features of the Oratory are of pressed cement. The work is carried out in the perpendicular style. The Oratory, which is more decorative than the rest, has been treated both in the exterior and the interior in a most effective manner. The niches on either side of the Sanctuary within the nave have enriched open plaster tracery canopies. The ceiling is groined in fibrous plaster, the angle mouldings of which strike off moulder capitals of tripled columns, carried down on the floor and terminated in the centre of the ceiling. The stalls of which there are two rows on either side of the Oratory, and the altar railing, are richly moulded French polished jarrah and banksia panels, executed by Ahern's Ltd., from detailed plans provided by the architect. The beautiful altar and chapel benches by Groth and Berry, are also most creditable examples of the joiner's art. At the back of the nave is a quiet gallery, entered from the corridor on the first floor, with panelled polished front. The electric lighting effects of the Oratory are very fine and impressive. The beautiful statues in the niches are lit up from invisible lights in the hoods of the canopies. The Tabernacle is also lit up in a similar manner. The unusually convenient planning of the rest of the building is a great feature shown throughout, for there is virtually not a foot of any unnecessary or waste space, and every convenience is provided on each floor. The ventilation also has been well and carefully attended to. The dormitories are spacious, bright and cheerful. An isolated infirmary, with special bathroom, dispensary, attendant's room, etc., is provided on the first floor. A hot water system is carried to all the bathrooms throughout, also to the dispensary.<sup>35</sup>

Gifts such as candlesticks, altar cloths and statues were received from members of the local parish and school community. The stained glass windows were also gifts from the children of Sacred Heart School. It is not known how much the new additions cost, although at the opening Archbishop Clune made 'an earnest appeal for funds to liquidate the enormous debt incurred'.<sup>36</sup> Concerts, a bazaar

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31 The Record, 24 October 1914.

32 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. pp.15-16.

33 The Record, 21 April 1923; The Record, 21 July 1923.

34 <http://catholicism.about.com/cs/saints/a/sttherese02.htm> 20/1/06

35 The Record, 21 July 1923. Please note: The 1923 additions included the Chapel/Refectory Wing, the Accommodation Wing and the southern extension of the Classroom Wing.

36 Ibid.

and various competitions were held throughout the year to raise money for the building fund.<sup>37</sup>

The architect who designed the 1923 additions was Edgar Le B. Henderson, the son of the place's original architect E. J. Henderson. Messrs. Singleton and Pitman were the builders.<sup>38</sup> E. Le B. Henderson also designed other buildings for the Catholic Church including: the Convent of Mercy, Victoria Park (1925); St Joseph's Church, Subiaco (1934); St Columba's Roman Catholic Church, South Perth (1936); Santa Maria Convent and Chapel, Attadale (1937, 1956); Home of the Good Shepherd Chapel, West Leederville (1938); and the St John of God Memorial Chapel, Subiaco (1956 – now demolished).

In 1928, the Church was extended according to original plans from 1906. Richard Dennehy was again involved as supervising architect for the project. A permanent chancel and sacristies replaced the temporary 1905-06 elements. The extensions close to doubled the size of the building, and were opened in July 1928. A portion of the 1897 church was demolished to accommodate the extensions. Stained glass windows for the new sanctuary were donated by local resident Susan McCafferty. Additional stained glass windows were added throughout the church over the next twenty years, although specific details of their installation have not been located.<sup>39</sup>

Branches and schools of the Order were also opened in various places throughout the State including Menzies, Wagin, Narrogin and Katanning and the first mission was established in Victoria.<sup>40</sup> The numbers of the Order's community continued to rise as a result of new arrivals to Western Australia and the increasing numbers of Australian-born postulants and Sisters. In the 1930s, a number of additions were completed at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* to accommodate the Sisters as well as the school community; the Boarding, High and Kindergarten Schools continued to use the 1899 building.

In 1933, another storey and verandah were added to the main building; the third floor was added to the Chapel and the Accommodation Wing. The next year two new rooms were constructed followed by the addition of two dormitories and a bathroom.<sup>41</sup> In 1937, a brick building (the Auxiliary Wing), which included a laundry and various storerooms, was erected to the rear of the east wing (it is thought that the Laundry also dates from this period).<sup>42</sup> Architect Edgar Le B. Henderson designed all of these additions to *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*.

In 1937, there were 603 students attending the school in Mary Street, Highgate Hill. Forty-six students were enrolled at Sacred Heart's Junior High School campus which had been established in Learoyd Street in 1929 and 185 students at the Intermediate School which had been opened in 1936. From 1936, the male students went from the Learoyd Street School to the Christian Brothers' School in Highgate (1936) and the girls to *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*. New

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37 The Record, July 1923 – January 1924.

38 The Record, 21 July 1923.

39 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. pp.16-17.

40 Fry, A., op. cit., pp. 15 – 21.

41 It is thought that these were added to the Service Wing (1899).

42 City of Perth Building Application Files: A531/33; A914/34; A994/34; D184/37.

Sacred Heart Schools also opened in Maylands and in Lord Street, Bassendean.<sup>43</sup>

The 1897 church was by this time in a poor condition, although still in use as a parish hall, including use by the Highgate Catholic Boy Scouts. Fundraising in 1937 raised money for a replacement hall, designed by Edgar Le B. Henderson. Builders for the project included Emmett McGann, a local resident. Tenders were called in June 1938, and the 1897 church was demolished soon afterwards. The new hall was opened on 23 October 1938. It quickly became one of the most popular Catholic venues in Perth, used for school and parish events, and by Catholic Tennis Association, Catholic Women's League, Young Catholic Workers and the Irish Club. During World War Two, the hall was used for many dances run by the League of Catholic Youth.<sup>44</sup>

During World War Two, some of students and boarders at Sacred Heart were evacuated to Moorine Rock. Ninety students and twelve Sisters stayed at a de-licensed hotel until it was deemed safe to return to Highgate Hill.<sup>45</sup>

### **Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate after World War II**

Student numbers at Sacred Heart School increased dramatically due to Post War immigration, with many new immigrants settling in the inner city areas. Overcrowding at the school was an added burden to the financial concerns of the Sisters, who were already overtaxed by the building campaigns that had occurred at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* and other school sites. Certificates of Title show that the land at Highgate was mortgaged at various times, in particular the land on which *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* was located.<sup>46</sup>

Additions were carried out to the Laundry in 1953. The work included the construction of a man servants room and storerooms.<sup>47</sup> In 1955, the kindergarten at the High School at Harold Street was demolished.<sup>48</sup>

The 1950s were a period in which devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary enjoyed a particular prominence, and in response the Highgate parish fundraised for the addition of a new Lady Chapel at the western side of the Church. The Chapel was opened on 25 March 1954, at which time it was noted as being a fine stone addition featuring a timbered ceiling and a six foot six inch wide relief sculpted Virgin and Child by artist Mr. Kohler. Edgar Le B. Henderson was again the architect for the project, with local residents F & C Russell employed as builders and Jack Guelfi as stonemason.<sup>49</sup>

Other changes to the Church in the 1950s and 1960s were the construction of an inner porch in 1957 and the addition of a pipe organ in 1965. In response to decisions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the sanctuary was modified to accommodate liturgical changes, including the removal of the altar rail, relocation of the tabernacle to behind the altar, and covering of multiple floor

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43 Ker, M. H., op. cit., pp. 37 – 38.

44 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. pp. 16-17.

45 Fry, A., op. cit., p. 30; The Record, 11-17 December 1980.

46 Ker, M.H., op. cit., pp. 39 – 44; Certificate of Title, Vol. CLXV, Fol. 145.

47 City of Perth Building Application Files: 1196/53.

48 Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 55.

49 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. pp.18-19.

levels with particle board. Sacred Heart was one of the first Catholic churches in the State to make changes in response to the Second Vatican Council <sup>50</sup>

In 1967, in an attempt to rationalise resources, the Primary School and the High School amalgamated to form Sacred Heart College.<sup>51</sup>

By 1967, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions realised that the boarding school facilities at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* were overtaxed and out of date. Plans were made to build a new convent and a boarding and day school on a sixteen acre site which the Sister's had purchased at Sorrento. The Minister for Education, the Hon. E. H. Lewis, MLA opened the Sorrento School in February 1968.<sup>52</sup>

In anticipation of the new facilities at Sorrento, boarders were no longer enrolled at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* from 1967. In 1970, fourth and fifth years (High School) were transferred from Highgate to Sorrento, leaving the first to third years at the Highgate School. Twenty-six of the Sisters went to live at the new Sorrento convent school, signalling a decrease in members of the Order at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*.<sup>53</sup>

As part of the Commonwealth Government's policy to establish library and science blocks at schools, a new school wing was opened at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* in July 1971. The overall cost of the new building was \$90,000, with \$36,000 funded by the Commonwealth Government. The extension comprised an assembly hall, a science laboratory, library, toilet block and undercroft area. The Commonwealth Government also made a contribution of books for the new library. The High School Hall, which had been located to the rear of the east wing of the main building (the Classroom Wing), was demolished to make way for the new building.<sup>54</sup>

At the Church, the original timber choir loft was found to be in dangerous condition and was replaced with a concrete loft in 1972. A choir had been active in the parish from its earliest years, and from the 1960s an Italian men's choir also practiced and performed at the Church.<sup>55</sup>

In 1977/1978, a number of works were carried out at the School and Convent, including the demolition of the existing timber verandah on the east wing of the main building (the Classroom Wing) and the installation of a steel framed replacement. The most significant works at this time was the construction of the Hostel, attached at a ground floor level to the west wing of the main building. The Hostel provided nursing help and care for frail, invalid and elderly members of the Order.<sup>56</sup>

During the 1970s, the financial situation of the Sisters Our Lady of the Missions worsened. It was some time before the Sorrento School began to pay its own

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50 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p.10.

51 Ibid, pp. 53 – 61; Fry, A., op. cit., p. 32. The rationalisation of the inner urban city church schools was common dating from the 1930s; for example, the Christian Brothers' moved their boarders from St George's Terrace to the new Aquinas College in the 1930s and other schools such as St Brigid's moved operations to the outer suburbs. The CBC School in Perth was demolished in the early 1960s.

52 The Record, 22 February 1968; The Record, 22 July 1971.

53 The Record, 22 February 1968; The Record, 22 July 1971.

54 The Record, 22 July 1961. The High School Hall (and other associated buildings) can be seen on the 1953 plan proposing additions to the Laundry.

55 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p.20.

56 City of Perth Building Application Files: 1010/77.

way, which was a burden on the Sisters' resources. It was hoped that the transfer of the fourth and fifth year students from Highgate to Sorrento would be an easy adjustment for students and their families. However, the travelling distance proved to be too much and numbers fell. These problems were added to by the operational costs of the Sister's other schools and the wages paid to the growing numbers of lay teachers and principals employed at these schools.<sup>57</sup>

In 1980, the WA Chapter of the Sisters of Our lady of the Missions decided to cease its secondary school operations at Highgate and at Fremantle.<sup>58</sup> The high school at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* closed at the end of the school year in 1980. To mark the closure of the high school section of the school more than 500 ex-students attended a celebration at the school. A mass was held in the Chapel and presentations and performances took place later in the school's yard.<sup>59</sup>

By 1980, Sacred Heart Primary School was the only parish primary school in the inner city that dated from the turn of the century and still functioned in its original purpose (St Brigid's in West Perth closed its primary school in 1977).<sup>60</sup>

The 1980s continued to bring change at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*. By this time, the Sisters had removed themselves from the operations of their schools and became increasingly concerned with pastoral care. The convent at Maylands became the Head House of the Order and many of the Sisters who had lived at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* moved to this convent. Sacred Heart Primary School consolidated its role despite the hugely significant changes in the functions at Highgate and its population grew as a result of migrants from South East Asia and the intake of boys in Years 5, 6 and 7.<sup>61</sup>

A wave of South East Asian migrants and refugees in the early 1980s brought many Vietnamese families into the Highgate area. For a decade, the Vietnamese Catholic community used Sacred Heart Church, with their own priest and a regular Vietnamese mass on Sundays. The Vietnamese social character of the parish is not reflected in the fabric of the buildings.<sup>62</sup>

In 1982, the roof, awnings and verandah at the Sacred Heart Primary School were renovated and portions replaced. At the same time, an existing classroom block to the rear of the primary school building was demolished. Other outbuildings shown were the shelter shed attached to the front of the primary school building and two shelter sheds in the school's yard and playing field.<sup>63</sup> Further significant alterations to the 1914 School building undertaken during the early 1980s were changes to all external openings and the fitting of replacement aluminium framed doors and windows of different size and fenestration. The original ceilings and cornices were removed and replaced with steel strip ceiling at a lower level. Original cabinetwork, electrical and plumbing services were also replaced.<sup>64</sup>

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57 Ker, M. H., op. cit., pp. 61 – 65.

58 Fry, A., op. cit., p. 51.

59 The Record, 11 – 17 December 1980.

60 Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 66.

61 Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 65 - 67; Site Inspection, 12 July 1999.

62 Sacred Heart Conservation Plan op. cit. p.20.

63 City of Perth Building Application Files: 549/82.

64 Letter from Philip McAllister Architect Pty Ltd to HCWA dated 22 August 2000.

Alterations and renovations were carried out at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in 1987 at an estimated cost of \$180,000. The lift shaft<sup>65</sup> was extended to the second floor, alterations occurred to a toilet block on the ground floor and a bathroom on the first floor, new wash basins were installed in three bedrooms on the first floor, a second floor bedroom was converted to a bathroom, and a laundry of the ground floor (near the hostel) was converted to a bedroom. A store in one of the outbuildings was altered for use as a laundry. Portion of the existing roof was also replaced at this time. Architectural firm Casella Edgar & Wade designed the works.<sup>66</sup>

In the late 1980s, Sacred Heart Primary School took over the Classroom Wing and the 1971 School Block. These areas of *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* had remained empty since the closure of the High School in 1980.<sup>67</sup> It was probably at this time that the science laboratory was converted for use as a classroom.

In 1991, works carried out to the Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 School) included the completion of a new pre-primary section and a new staff room. The additions were designed by John Edgar, of Casella Edgar & Wade Architects, and built by Doubkin Constructions.<sup>68</sup> On 20 June 1991, the new pre-primary section was blessed by Bishop Robert Healy and opened by Dr Peter Tannock, Director of Catholic Education. The work was undertaken with financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government and the Sacred Heart Parish and school community.<sup>69</sup>

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* celebrated its centenary on 25 October 1997. Over 207 Sisters have taught at the school since its establishment in 1899.<sup>70</sup> In its centenary year a history of Sacred Heart Primary School was written by Margaret Ker entitled 'Children of the Same God'.

New windows were added to the Lady Chapel in 1996.<sup>71</sup>

In 1996 and 1997, problems arose as a result of the future plans for the Sacred Heart Primary School. These problems were mainly associated with ownership: the Order owns the majority of the site and has leased the former High School buildings to the Sacred Heart Primary School; the Parish owns the 1914 School. An agreement reached between the school board, the Catholic Education Office and the Order meant that the School would be able to use these premises until 31 December 2000, with the understanding that the Order would attempt to sell the land after this date. Some of the reasons for this decision were the drain on resources of the near empty Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the changing policy in aged care, which has meant that the bedrooms in the hostel now require ensembles.<sup>72</sup>

The school community and the local parish have proven a commitment to maintaining the Sacred Heart Primary School at its current location and

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65 During the 1980s, a lift was installed to the east of the main staircase. Several rooms, including two storerooms and a bathroom, were stripped to form the lift shaft and the walls were strengthened.

66 City of Perth Building Application Files: 456/87.

67 Ker, M. H., op. cit., p. 66.

68 City of Perth Building Application Files: 0488/90.

69 Site Inspection, 21 July 1999.

70 Fry, A., op. cit., p. 57.

71 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.20.

72 Ker, M. H., op. cit., pp. 71 – 74; Site Inspection, 12 July 1999.

alternative plans continue to be made as a result of this support. One such plan is the transfer of ownership of the entire property to the Sacred Heart Parish, the Sacred Heart Primary School and the Archdiocese. This would allow the School to occupy those parts of the building which were originally used for education purposes, allowing the Archdiocese to use the remainder of the building as offices. In November 1999, negotiations were still under way.<sup>73</sup>

In July 1999, when the place was assessed for entry into the State Register of Heritage Places, twelve Sisters lived at the Highgate convent, with the majority situated in the hostel.<sup>74</sup> Sacred Heart Primary School continued to function at Mary Street, Highgate. The School continued to use the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923), the 1971 School Block and the 1914 Primary School. Original interconnecting doors in the convent and school still existed, although access between the two no longer occurred.<sup>75</sup> There were 247 students from pre-primary to Year 7 at Sacred Heart Primary School and a teaching staff of twenty-one.<sup>76</sup>

In November 2000, the School and Convent were entered in the State Register of Heritage Places.

The Order sold the place to the Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Office in early 2001. Following discussions that reduced the curtilage to exclude playing fields along Harold Street (now residential housing), the School and Convent's entry in the State Register of Heritage Places was made permanent in August 2001.<sup>77</sup> The sisters vacated the site at the end of 2001.<sup>78</sup>

Modifications to the sanctuary of the Church were completed in September 2001. The tabernacle was relocated to a niche east of the altar, replacing a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, and construction of steps below this niche.<sup>79</sup>

In 2002, plans were drawn to extend the primary school into the former convent at both levels, and to convert the western end of the convent buildings for use as Archdiocesan offices. These plans included the demolition of the 1970s high school building, single-storey 1930s classroom (former dining room) and laundry outbuildings to the north of the school and the single-storey 1970s hostel to the west of the convent. Some unstable sections of the perimeter walls were also to be removed to provide a drive-through drop-off area at the front of the school. The northern section of the convent, being the former kitchen and first floor dining room, were to be converted into a covered assembly area, retaining the external form but removing ground and first floor structures. The large interior space at the second floor of the western wing was to be partitioned into offices.<sup>80</sup> These plans were implemented in 2003.<sup>81</sup>

In 2004, the place is in use as a primary school, with the western wing occupied by the Archdiocesan offices. The church and hall continue to function for their original purposes.

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73 Ibid; Phone Conversation with Ian Ker, 11 November 1999.

74 Site Inspection, 12 July 1999.

75 Site Inspection, 12 & 21 July 1999.

76 Information provided by Geoff Daniel, Principal, Sacred Heart Primary School, 26 November 1999.

77 HCWA file P2181.

78 Clare Schulz, phonecall to Sacred Heart Primary School, 8 November 2004.

79 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.20.

80 HCWA file P2181.

81 Clare Schulz, phonecall to Sacred Heart Primary School, 8 November 2004.

In June 2005 the redevelopment project for Sacred Heart School and Convent by Philip McAllister Architect Pty Ltd, Palace Homes & Construction Pty Ltd and Colgan Industries Pty Ltd received a commendation in the Royal Institute of Architects Heritage Council Conservation Awards.

In October 2005 the Register Committee resolved that the *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*, an expansion of the Registered curtilage of the Sacred Heart Convent and School to incorporate Sacred Heart Church and Hall, should progress to the Register. The new draft assessment documentation was prepared using information from the 2004 Conservation Plan for the Church and Hall and a physical update was commissioned.

In September 2007 the Office of Heritage received plans for the conversion of the Church Hall into an archival storage facility for the Church. The works were supported.

An update of the physical condition of the place, for the amended assessment documentation, was completed in December 2010.

### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate* comprises Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1906, 1928, 1954) and Church Hall (1938), the former Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (1899; 1923; 1933; 1937), Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 School), forecourt and Moreton Bay Fig trees to the Church, gardens, shelters, and boundary walls. Incorporated in the former Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are: the Administration Wing (1899); the Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933); the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923); the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933); the Auxiliary Wing (1937); and the Service Wing (1899). The place is a complex of ecclesiastical buildings of different age, style, construction and height, which is situated on a large rectilinear site in Highgate. Mary Street bounds the street in the south and Harold Street in the north. A high brick wall encloses both the former monastery and school sites. This boundary wall (1923), plus the interconnectedness and arrangement of the buildings, specifically gives the former monastery and school the appearance of a single complex.

The former monastery is now used by two separate institutions. The Catholic Pastoral Centre of Our Lady of the Missions use the western sections of the former monastery while the sections east of the Chapel are fully incorporated as the Sacred Heart Primary School.

Works to the 1914 Primary School Building were undertaken in 2000/2001. As part of a major capital works programme in 2003 the 1971 School Block, a Hostel (1977/1978), and the former Laundry Block (1937) were demolished. The 2003 works involved adaptation and conservation works to the Monastery. The Church and Church Hall did not form part of either works contract.

For a more detailed discussion of the physical evidence relating to Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Church Hall refer to 'Sacred Heart Church, Mary Street Highgate Conservation Plan', prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Parish of Sacred Heart Highgate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth in July 2004, pp. 31-41. An update of the physical description, completed in December 2010, is incorporated below.

### ***Siting***

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and former Church Hall are situated on the western portion of the site, the buildings and gardens of the former Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are situated on the central portion of the site and the 1914 school building, playgrounds and playing fields of the Sacred Heart Primary School on the eastern portion. All buildings address Mary Street, except for the former Church Hall, which faces Harold Street.

There are no clearly defined boundaries separating the various institutions, and shared buildings still have interconnecting doors. A high brick wall encloses the former monastery and the 1914 school. This boundary wall, plus the interconnectedness and arrangement of the buildings, gives the former monastery and school the appearance of a single complex. The high brick wall to the school and former monastery is an important feature in both Mary and Harold Streets.

Mary Street is characterised by modest single-storey brick and limestone cottages and terrace houses from the turn of the century. The street also contains a few small, two-storey blocks of flats from the mid-twentieth century. The avenue of mature *Ficus* sp. trees lining the full length of the street is a significant aesthetic feature of Mary Street. The wall enclosing the school and former monastery on this elevation is decorative in character; it is constructed from face brickwork with a run rendered coping and has piers with rendered capping. The school and former monastery buildings are of a much larger and more urban scale than the rest of the street and, combined with the high enclosing wall and Church, form an important aesthetic landmark.

Harold Street is more open and modern in character than Mary Street. The street trees in Harold Street are *Melaleucas*, but do not form an important aesthetic element as does the avenue in Mary Street. The wall bounding the school and former monastery on Harold Street is a plain face brick wall. The former Church Hall has a zero setback to Harold Street.

To the western portion of the site is Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1906), a substantial limestone Federation Gothic building. Together the monastery, church and school form a precinct of substantial, early twentieth century ecclesiastical buildings. The Church Hall, constructed in 1938, is a rectangular building located immediately behind the church and addresses Harold Street. To the west of the site, at 64 Mary Street, is the Presbytery and Parish Centre. The single-storey house has Victorian Italianate details with an asymmetrical façade. This building is not included in the curtilage as it was not built as a presbytery but was purchased in more recent years.

### ***Relationship of building(s) on site***

There are a number of buildings that form part of this assessment. To assist the physical evidence discussion, and for ease of reference, each building or wing has been given a number and has been named after its most important function. The numbering system is cross referenced to the site plan and the buildings are numbered from west to east. The school and former monastery have evolved over a period of time resulting in a complex composition of buildings of diverse style and construction. The former monastery is referred to as the Main Block in the documentation.

The buildings or wings are numbered as follows:

1. Sacred Heart Catholic Church
2. Church Hall (The Archive of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth)
3. Accommodation Wing (Main Block - Catholic Pastoral Centre)
4. Auxiliary Wing (Main Block - Catholic Pastoral Centre)
5. Chapel/Refectory (Main Block - Catholic Pastoral Centre)
6. Administration Wing (Main Block- Sacred Heart Primary School)
7. Service Wing (Main Block - Sacred Heart Primary School)
8. Classroom Wing (Main Block - Sacred Heart Primary School)
9. Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 school building)
10. Hostel (1977/1978) - demolished
11. Former Laundry Block (1937) - demolished
12. Classroom - demolished
13. School Block (1971) - demolished

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church is a limestone and tile building. To the rear (north) of the church is the Church Hall, a single-storey painted and rendered brick building with a tiled roof.<sup>82</sup> In December 2010 the Church Hall houses The Archive of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth.

The Main Block consists of six interconnected wings, three of which are predominantly used by the Catholic Pastoral Centre and three that are used by the Sacred Heart Primary School. The main entry to the Main Block is set in the centre of the front façade of the central wing, the Administration Wing. The Administration Wing is a rectangular block and its long axis is orientated east-west, parallel with Mary Street. To the west of the Administration Wing is the three-storey Chapel/Refectory Wing and to the east is the two-storey Classroom Wing. The long axis of the Chapel/Refectory Wing and the Classroom Wing both run north-south and together with the Administration Wing they enclose the Entry Courtyard. The Classroom Wing is occupied by the school and is entered from the school grounds in the east as well as the Entry Courtyard. To the west of the Chapel/Refectory Wing is the three-storey Accommodation Wing and directly behind this is the four-storey Auxiliary Wing. The Service Wing runs parallel with the Administration Wing. A link between the Service Wing and the Administration Wing bisects the space between the two buildings and forms two small courtyards.

The Entry Courtyard is an almost square, formally planned garden that is enclosed on three sides by buildings and on the fourth side by the high brick wall fronting Mary Street. A concrete path leads from the front gate across this courtyard to the formal entry door of the Main Block. The wrought iron front gate has the title 'Our Lady of the Missions' within the arch head. In the centre of the courtyard is a statue of Jesus with the motto 'Sacred Heart of Jesus I Place My Trust in Thee' on the plinth. The courtyard is planted with lawn and has an edge of garden beds with perennials, annuals and shrubs. On either side of the statue are heart shaped garden beds planted with roses. The courtyard garden beds are defined by a hard edge of bricks laid on the diagonal.

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<sup>82</sup> Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.31.

West of the Main Block, on the site boundary, the single-storey Hostel was located prior to its demolition in 2003. There was only a small strip of space between this building and the adjacent Accommodation Wing (3) and a short access corridor connecting the two buildings.

In the southwest corner of the site is the Marian Grotto, an outdoor shrine. The grotto is constructed from blocks of rusticated limestone and contains a niche with a statue of the Virgin Mary. Most of the grotto structure is covered with ivy and it has been planted with ferns and succulents. On the lawn in front of the grotto is a statue of St. Bernadette kneeling in contemplation.

The former monastery garden was located in the northwest corner of the site. This area is now a carpark, entered from Harold Street, servicing the Catholic Pastoral Centre and the Primary School. Prior to its demolition in 2003, the Laundry Block was located on the Harold Street boundary of the site, on the eastern edge of the former garden.

East of the Laundry Block was the single-storey Classroom and the two-storey 1971 School Block, both of which were also demolished in 2003. These two buildings were roughly located on the north-south axis of the Classroom Wing in the Main Block and together they marked the western edge of the school grounds.

The single-storey 1914 School is located to the east of the Main Block. On the Mary Street elevation of the 1914 School is a driveway and car parking area. A hardstand and grass playground area is located immediately north of the 1914 School. Beyond the playgrounds, at a lower level, is an open grassed playing field that extends north to the Harold Street boundary of the site. There are cricket nets at the eastern end. Adjacent to the eastern site boundary, fronting Harold Street, is residential development.

## **1. SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church was constructed in 1906 and was extended in 1928 and 1954.<sup>83</sup>

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

The church is set back from the Mary Street boundary behind a stone and iron railing fence. The forecourt to the south of the church is paved with concrete paving slabs, with brick edged garden beds around the perimeter and two round brick edged beds containing mature Moreton Bay Fig trees to the centre. The slabs extend along the sides of the church to the rear of the church to a narrow walkway located between the hall and the church. A bitumen driveway to the west of the church extends from Mary Street through to Harold Street.<sup>84</sup>

The church exhibits features typical of the Federation Gothic style of architecture<sup>85</sup> and is constructed of limestone blocks with a steeply pitched tiled gabled roof behind gabled parapets. Two sacristies are located to the east and west of the altar. The 1928 addition was the construction of the sanctuary and the

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<sup>83</sup> Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.31.

<sup>84</sup> Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.31.

<sup>85</sup> Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.31.

two sacristies. The 1954 addition was the lady chapel to the west and in 1972 the timber choir loft was replaced with a concrete structure.<sup>86</sup>

The external walls are limestone blocks with a pillow cut ashlar effect. The base of the walls are a rough faced limestone block plinth. The stone has a smooth cut finish surrounding the window and door openings and the corners. There is red coloured tuck-pointing and various decorative elements including string courses. There are stone buttresses marking the structural bays on the east and west elevations.<sup>87</sup> There is a foundation stone to the south elevation and a stone plaque to the north elevation. There is evidence of stone repairs and re-pointing to the west elevation of the church.

The roof has terracotta (autumn blend) tiles and the gable ends are pillow faced limestone with a smooth cut limestone capping. There are masonry crosses at the apex of the north and south gables. Gutters are half round and the downpipes are rectangular in profile.<sup>88</sup>

The entry door has a pair of timber panelled doors with large decorative iron hinges. There is a timber paneled section above in a lancet shape. The front (south) elevation has a set of three lancet shaped windows. The configuration consists of a central lancet leadlight window with two shorter lancet leadlight windows flanking the central one. The rear (north) elevation has a similar arrangement of windows. The side walls (east and west) are divided into eight structural bays with a lancet window to each of the six bays each side. Some of the windows have coloured stained glass while others have clear glass leadlight. The windows to the chapel extension to the west contain eight lancet shaped windows, five with stained glass and three with plain glass leadlight.<sup>89</sup>

### ***Internal layout and details***

The church has a typical ecclesiastical floor plan with a large central nave running in a north south direction with a raised altar at the northern end.<sup>90</sup>

#### **Floor and Walls**

The floor to the entrance foyer is tiled, carpet to the nave, choir loft and chapel. The walls to the nave and altar have a render and paint finish with scored block joints. The walls are painted to dado height and there is a masonry dado. A rendered line continues over the lancet shaped windows. There is also a picture rail that continues over the lancet windows.<sup>91</sup>

#### **Ceiling**

The ceiling to the entrance foyer is the underside of a concrete slab to the choir loft above. The roof structure to the nave consists of seven highly decorative timber trusses that are supported on rendered masonry wall brackets. The ceiling is tongue and grooved boarding and the cornice is decorative timber,

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86 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.34.

87 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.35.

88 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.36.

89 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.36.

90 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.34.

91 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.37.

incorporating wall vents.<sup>92</sup> The altar ceiling is rendered. The chapel has small timber trusses and the ceiling is lined with tongue and grooved boarding.<sup>93</sup>

There are two fonts to the entrance foyer. Both are marble with ceramic tiles.<sup>94</sup>

#### Choir Loft

A metal framed open tread stair leads from the entrance foyer to the choir loft. There is a metal framed gate and balustrade to the stairs. The choir loft has an organ to the western end. The balustrading to the loft is solid timber.<sup>95</sup>

#### Nave

There are 21 timber pews on each side of the central aisle to the nave. There are framed pictures depicting the 12 Stations of the Cross hung on the side walls. Confessional boxes to the eastern and western sides of the church are located in an arched niche to each side of the nave and have decorative carved timber panelling and three doors.<sup>96</sup> Fluorescent lights are mounted on the cornice.

#### Altar

The altar platform is raised four steps from the nave floor. There is a white marble altar. The High Altar is set against the north wall and there are four steps leading up to the marble surrounded brass urn. A crucifix is located high above the arched opening to the altar and an electric eternal flame is mounted on the wall.<sup>97</sup>

## 2. CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall, constructed in 1938, is a rectangular building with an entrance porch and is located immediately behind the church and addresses Harold Street.

Works to the church hall for adaptation to The Archive of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth were undertaken c.2007.<sup>98</sup>

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

The church hall is constructed of rendered and painted brick walls and a tiled half gabled roof.<sup>99</sup> The hall exhibits some basic features from the Inter War period of architecture. The entrance to the building is from Harold Street through an entrance porch. There is a face brick plinth to the Harold Street elevation and four brick steps to the entrance.

### ***Internal layout and details***

Internally, the hall has three large rooms and three smaller rooms. The larger rooms are used for archive purposes. To the east is a raised stage area with steps leading from the main floor level. The room to the west contains a compactus and the centre room is used for archive storage and research. The smaller rooms are a kitchen to the southwest corner, toilets to the south and a

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92 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.37.

93 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.38.

94 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.39.

95 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.39.

96 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.39.

97 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.39.

98 Site inspection 1/12/10, Stephen Carrick and Clare Menck, Advised by Archivist Sister Frances Stibi

99 Sacred Heart Church Conservation Plan, July 2004, op. cit. p.40.

separate room to the southeast corner. The room to the southeast corner is accessed externally and is not accessed internally from the main building. All the lower level wall vents air vents are covered and the higher level vents have been retained.<sup>100</sup>

Generally the interior has a vinyl covered timber floor, an acoustic panel ceiling, fluorescent lighting and air conditioning. Apart from the stage area, there is little evidence of the former use as a church hall.<sup>101</sup>

### **3. ACCOMMODATION WING (1923; 1933)**

The three-storey Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933) is roughly rectangular shaped in plan with a projecting wing at the rear and forms the most westerly wing of the complex.

#### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

This face brick building with rendered window dressings and detail has been composed in the Inter War Gothic Style (1915 - 1940). A three-storey masonry colonnade with segmental pointed arches inspired by Tudor style architecture dominates the south façade. The colonnade is divided into three bays and it has an arcade at ground, first and second floors. Decorative corbels spring from the sides of the columns of the upper arcade to support the concrete beam that supports the second floor balcony. The columns and arch heads are rendered. The first and second floors have solid masonry balustrades with rendered decoration. The floors are concrete.

The colonnade has a sparsely decorated parapet that conceals the roof behind. The parapet is divided into three panels by rendered string courses and mouldings, each panel is decorated with a centrally placed, simple rendered shield shape. Four rendered pinnacles top the parapet. The render and brickwork are unpainted. The steeply pitched terracotta tile roof joins into the roof of the adjacent Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933) at its eastern end and terminates at its western end against a parapeted gable. On the southern side the roof is concealed by a parapet and on the northern side it extends in a broken back form over the rear verandah and has a standard eaves detail.

The south wall of the building that is sheltered by the colonnade is also unpainted, face brick with rendered dressings. The centrally located entry door on the ground floor has a segmental pointed arch head and a pair of 2 pane, 1 panel timber doors with a glazed fanlight above. There are a pair of windows located on either side of this door that have 2 pane double hung sash windows with a 2 pane fanlight above. A masonry transom separates the lower sash and the fanlight. On the upper floors, centrally located double doors provide access to the colonnaded verandahs. The doors have plain flat arches.

The western façade of this wing has a gable roof hidden behind a brick parapet. This wall is plain face brickwork with no decorative elements. The window openings have been arranged in a utilitarian fashion with little appearance of planned composition. The windows have simple rendered sills. There is evidence of former openings that are now infilled with brick. There is also evidence of brick headers indicating the location of former openings.

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100 Site inspection 1/12/10, Stephen Carrick and Clare Menck

101 Site inspection 1/12/10, Stephen Carrick and Clare Menck

At the rear of the building, a narrow wing extends north and abuts the four-storey Auxiliary Wing (1937). An 'L' shaped timber verandah runs across the northern façade of the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933) and then around the eastern façade of the projecting wing. A timber staircase, which provides access from the verandahs of the three-storey Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933) to the four-storey Auxiliary Wing (1937), is fixed against the east wall of the projecting wing of the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933). The upper floors of the verandahs of the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933) have timber floors and simple balustrades with square section balusters set at close centres. Part of the ground floor verandah is enclosed with brickwork; this appears to be original or an early addition.

### ***Internal layout and details***

#### **Ground Floor**

The ground floor plan is largely symmetrically arranged. The entry door is centrally located in the front façade and opens into the Entry Hall that leads to the Stairwell with a grandly proportioned staircase. There is a room placed on either side of the Entry Hall and another to the west of the Stairwell, these are offices and workrooms. The room on the eastern side of the stairwell has been refitted to take a lift and plant room.

#### **Typical Room**

The rooms and their finishes and fixtures are well constructed but plain. The timber floors have been covered with carpet and the plaster ceilings have no cornices or ceiling roses. The walls are plastered brick and have cast plaster wall vents. An unusual feature of this wing is the run plaster skirtings with a separate timber quad moulding, compared to the moulded timber skirtings found elsewhere. The windows are 4 and 2 pane timber double hung sashes with 2 pane fanlights above. All rooms have a 4 panel timber door with a 2 pane fanlight over. Most doors seem to have original hardware. Some rooms have a fireplace with a varnished, turned timber surround and tiled hearth. The 2003 office fit out included school house light fittings, cornice level uplighting, air conditioning and carpet to the timber floor.

#### **Stairwell**

The east-west corridor that runs through the Administration Wing (1899) and the Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933) continues through the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933) and opens into the Stairwell.

The first flight of the stair is centrally located and leads to the half landing then two flights, one on each side of the first, turn back and lead to the next floor. On the ground floor, the staircase is completely surrounded by open corridor and the area under the half landing has been enclosed with panelled timber to form a store. The detailing of the staircase is simple but shows the influence of L'Art Nouveau forms particularly in the newel posts that have square incised L'Art Nouveau motifs and an acorn type top. The balustrade is composed of simple square section balusters and a moulded timber hand rail.

#### **First Floor**

The room on the southern (front) side of the first floor is one large room that is used as a meeting room. A fireplace with a large timber surround and panelled overpiece and a tiled hearth is located in the northeast corner.

The room west of the staircase is used as a storeroom and the rooms in the projecting wing are offices and meeting rooms for associated Catholic community and service groups.

#### Second Floor

The first and ground floors have higher ceilings than those on the second floor. All of the internal doors still have fanlights. Three rooms, which open onto the verandah, are located on the southern side of this floor. The room west of the staircase has been converted into a bathroom. The rooms in the projecting wing are an office and a storeroom.

#### ***Subsequent alterations***

The major alterations carried out to this building occurred in 1933 when a second floor and the front colonnaded verandah were added. The new floor contained mainly Cells for the Nuns. Subsequently, minor modifications were undertaken including the partitioning of a large first floor room into several smaller Cells and the enclosure of the western end of the front (south) balcony. The partitioning of the large first floor room and the enclosure of the balcony were both removed in the 2003 works program.

During the 1980s, a lift was installed to the east of the main staircase. Several rooms, including two storerooms and a bathroom, were stripped to form the lift shaft and the walls were strengthened. A second floor bedroom was also converted to a bathroom to replace the one that had been removed when the lift was installed. These rooms were adapted to a service room and a cleaners store in the 2003 works program.

#### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date***

This wing appears to be in good condition.

#### **4. AUXILIARY WING (1937)**

The four-storey Auxiliary Wing (1937) is rectangular in plan and is attached to the rear (north) of the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933). Initially, it contained a variety of service rooms and other auxiliary uses. This wing is now used as meeting rooms for associated Catholic community and service groups.

#### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

This building is a utilitarian structure of the early twentieth century; the design has not been influenced by any particular style. The Auxiliary Wing (1937) is an unpainted face brick building with simple rendered window sills and terracotta wall vents. The roof is a low-pitched, corrugated iron clad, skillion roof with no eaves. The windows are generally 4 pane double hung sashes except for four 10 pane casement sashes that are located on the ground floor of the east façade, and three 2 pane double hung sashes that are located directly above the casements. There is a single-storey brick and corrugated steel hipped roofed building connected at the northern end. This building contains male and female toilets. Air conditioning equipment is housed on a platform on the roof. There is an external open store connected to the east of this building.

#### ***Internal layout and details***

The rooms of this building are reached by staircases, which lead from the rear balcony of the Accommodation Wing (1923; 1933). Each floor, except for the

ground floor, contains one room. Part of the ground floor is entered from the west, the other area is entered from the south. Documentary evidence suggests that the rooms in this wing were used for a variety of purposes including laundry, bathrooms, workrooms and temporary accommodation. The top floor was nicknamed 'the Matchbox'.<sup>102</sup> The rooms are currently used as meeting rooms.

Generally the utilitarian finishes are the same throughout this wing. The floors are timber tongue and grooved boards with carpet and simple rectangular timber skirtings and the walls are plastered brick with cast plaster wall vents. The fibrous plaster ceilings have plain cove cornices and no roses or other decoration. The windows are 4 pane timber double hung and the doors are 5 panel Inter War style high waisted timber doors. The fit out from 2003 includes wall mounted air conditioning units, suspended school house light fittings and cable duct to the skirting.

### ***Subsequent alterations***

Alterations to the Auxiliary Wing (1937) include new toilets to the ground floor, the fit out of new meeting rooms and a new galvanised steel fire escape stair with galvanised checkerplate treads and galvanised steel balustrade.

### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date***

This wing appears to be in good condition.

## **5. CHAPEL/REFECTORY WING (1923; 1933)**

The three-storey Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933) is roughly rectangular in plan and forms the mid-western wing of the Main Block.

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

This face brick building with rendered banding and detail has been composed in the Inter War Gothic Style. The main body of this building is a three-storey rectangular volume. It has a steeply pitched terracotta tile roof that terminates at its north end against a parapeted gable that is surmounted by a masonry cross, and at its southern end with a hipped roof with a gambrel with a timber roof vent. On the east and west sides of the building there are narrow eaves enclosed with timber battens. The section of this rectangular volume that protrudes south beyond the rest of the complex is divided into two bays. Buttresses, each with three rendered offsets, define these bays. On the first floor of each of these bays is a large perpendicular style tracery window with rendered dressings and on the floor above is a simple lancet window with a double hung sash and fixed fanlight. In the south wall of this rectangular volume there are three lancet windows set at second floor level.

At the southern end of this three-storey section is a two-storey section that contains the Sanctuary. The terracotta tile roof is steeply pitched and hipped in form with a cross mounted on its apex and corbelled eaves. In plan, the Sanctuary is five sided and is shaped like half an octagon. There are single-storey wings protruding from the east and west facades of the Sanctuary and on the corners of the building there are stepped buttresses with rendered offsets. At first floor level in the southwest, south and southeast façades of the Sanctuary there are tracery windows.

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<sup>102</sup> Site Inspection, 12 July 1999.

Attached to the western side of the Sanctuary is the single-storey Sacristy and Store. The Sacristy has a steeply pitched terracotta tile roof that terminates at the western end with a parapeted gable with a lancet timber louvered vent with rendered dressings. The Priests enter the Chapel through an external door on the western side of the Sacristy. A small flight of steps leads to this door. The door opening has a rendered lintel and dressings. North of the Sacristy there is a store. This room has a low lean-to roof hidden behind a parapet and two small high level windows with rendered dressings.

Attached to the eastern side of the Sanctuary is the Side Chapel. The Side Chapel is symmetrical with the Sacristy and has an external door to the north.

The exterior of the northern half of the Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933) is far more utilitarian than the front facade. Only the window-sills are rendered and the heads of the windows have a plain brick flat arch. Most of the windows are 4 pane double hung sash windows with 2 pane fanlights, except for a few smaller plain double hung sash windows and the large windows to the Refectory on the ground floor. Each of the Refectory windows is composed of three 10 pane casement sashes with three 4 pane fanlights above. The plumbing is run on the outside of the building.

### ***Internal layout and details***

This wing contains many of the important community rooms in the former monastery including the Chapel, the Refectory, the Infirmary and the Noviciate. The long axis of this building runs north-south but the building is bisected by a corridor that runs east-west and aligns with the central corridor in the Administration Wing (1899).

On the ground floor the Chapel is located on the northern side of the central east-west corridor and the Refectory on the southern side.

On the first floor of this building the central corridor provides access to the gallery of the Chapel. On the southern side of the corridor is the former Infirmary. This room is now the seminar room. The corridor here is slightly wider to accommodate a narrow flight of stairs that provides access to the Chapel Gallery from the former dormitories and former cells on the floor above. The timber staircase is of utilitarian construction with simple square newel post and balusters. In the corridors on the first and second floors there are simple timber fretwork valances marking the junction between this wing and the adjoining corridors of the adjacent wings.

The second floor of the building has a much lower ceiling height than the other floors. To the south of the central corridor are offices and to the north is the former Noviciate, now offices.

#### **Chapel – Ground Floor**

The Chapel is double volume with a first floor level gallery at the rear. The Chapel is entered from the east-west corridor through two panelled timber lancet doors.

The Nave is divided into four bays by shafted pilasters. The southern three bays have tracery windows with decorative hood moulding with foliated bosses and the northern bay contains the Gallery. The sills of the windows are well above head height and the tracery appears to be of pressed cement. At the southern end of the Nave there is a flat arch that leads onto the Sanctuary. The arch has shafted pilasters and a decorative hood moulding with foliated bosses. On either side of

the Sanctuary arch are niches with highly decorative plaster tracery canopies. The eastern niche contains a statue of Jesus and the western niche a statue of the Virgin Mary. Fixed to the east and west walls of the Nave are timber stalls with high timber backs with carved tracery. The stalls are divided into seats by fixed armrests. The stalls appear to be the original Jarrah and Banksia timber panel stalls described in the Documentary Evidence. (The second row of stalls also described in the Documentary Evidence has at some stage been removed.) Timber pews are in a single row and they face the Sanctuary in the south.

The fibrous plaster ceiling of the Nave attempts to simulate groined vaulting and it has ribs that spring from the tops of the capitals of the pilasters and interconnect in the centre of the ceiling. There are cast plaster ceiling vents at the junctions of these ribs. The fact that there is another floor above the Nave of the Chapel is unusual. This ceiling is a false ceiling that is not dictated by the shape of a roof above.

The Gallery is of timber construction and is supported by two shafted masonry pillars. The floor of the Gallery is timber tongue and grooved boards and the underside is plaster lined. The Gallery is fitted with fixed timber stalls decorated with timber tracery. The balcony rail is timber panelled with timber tracery.

The plan of the Sanctuary is the shape of half an octagon. The floor of the Sanctuary is four steps higher than that of the Nave. The ceiling above is slightly lower than the Nave and the ribs of the fibrous plaster ceiling meet in a central apex. This ceiling follows the shape of the roof above. The Sanctuary has four tracery windows with decorative hood moulding with foliated bosses. Like the Nave, the sills of these windows are above head height. The south wall of the Sanctuary has a large crucifix rather than a window and below it a niche containing the Tabernacle.

This Chapel has obviously been modified according to the recommendations of the Second Vatican Council as the Altar Rail mentioned in the Documentary Evidence has been removed and the Altar itself now stands at the front of the Sanctuary facing the congregation. The Altar is marble.

#### Former Refectory (Seminar Room) – Ground Floor

The former Refectory is a large square, single-storey room, which is well lit by large windows in the northern half of the room. Like the rest of the former monastery the room is generous and well constructed but utilitarian in its finishes and decoration. Complex moulded timber skirtings line the walls and the timber floor has been covered with carpet. The plastered brick walls have a run recessed bead detail at dado height and tongue and grooved vertical timber boards below the dado. The ceiling is set out in a grid pattern with exposed rectangular air conditioning ducting and recessed sections of acoustic tiles. There is no cornice. There appears to be no early or original furniture or fittings in the former Refectory.

#### The former Infirmary (Offices) – First Floor

The former Infirmary on the first floor above the former Refectory consists of three offices, two office stores, kitchenette and two toilets. These rooms have carpet to the offices and vinyl to the kitchenette and toilets. There are moulded timber skirtings and plain lath and plaster ceilings with no cornice. The windows are generous in size, they have a 4 pane double hung sash with a 2 pane fanlight above. The utility rooms and hallway have small double hung sash windows.

### The former Noviciate (Offices) – Second Floor

The Noviciate was the accommodation provided for novice nuns, but is now used as offices. This room is unusual in that it has a pressed tin ceiling, otherwise it is finished in a similar manner to the other rooms in the monastery. The room is well lit by windows in the northern half of the room. These windows are 4 pane double hung sashes with a 2 pane fanlights above. This room has a door that provides access to the verandah of the adjacent Accommodation Wing (1899).

This area contains a foyer area and five separate offices. The office fit out has timber tongue and grooved boards and pin boards to the lower half of the office partitions. The upper half of the partition is clear glazed to allow the pressed tin ceiling to be seen.

### The former Cells (Offices) – Second Floor

The southern half of the second floor of the Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923; 1933) is divided by a central corridor that runs north-south. (This area lies above the Chapel and was constructed in 1933.) There are four offices, two meeting rooms, library and a kitchenette. There is a stained glass lancet window at the southern end of the corridor and at the northern end there is a simple timber valance that marks the junction between the two corridors. There are four rooms on the eastern side of the corridor and four rooms on the western side. The rooms have unadorned plastered walls, plain lath and plaster ceilings and a single window and a 4 panel timber door. The rooms that are former cells have lancet windows with a double hung sash and a fixed light in the apex of the window. The two rooms at the southern end of the wing have an extra window that is glazed with stained glass.

### ***Subsequent alterations***

Following the Second Vatican Council minor modifications were made to the Chapel, the most major change being the relocation of the Altar from the rear wall of the Sanctuary to the front to face the congregation.

### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date***

This wing appears to be in good condition.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION WING (1899)**

The Administration Wing (1899), a two-storey rectangular building, forms the southern wing of the Main Block.

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

This face brick building with rendered banding and detail has been composed in the Federation Free Classical Style. The front façade has a two-storey arcade with round arches and a balustrade of masonry balusters. In the centre of the façade is a projecting entry bay that has a flat arch at ground level and a room above with two narrow windows flanking a niche with a statue of the Virgin and Child. A pediment that is flanked by bartsans and topped by a cross surmounts the central bay. The main entry door has a stained glass panel as well as stained glass sidelights and fanlight. The other windows in this façade are simple double hung sash windows.

The corrugated iron roof is partly concealed behind a parapet with balusters which match the balustrade of the balcony below. The roof has a decorative timber bellcote with a shingle roof and several metal, vented gablets. The brick chimneys have decorative corbelled caps and are unpainted.

The rear (north) wall of the Administration Wing (1899) is purely utilitarian in composition and construction. The walls are unpainted face brickwork laid in Flemish bond and only the simple windowsills are rendered. Unlike the front façade, there is no parapet concealing the roof but rather a simple eaves detail with timber battens fixed to the underside and an ogee profile gutter. All windows are timber double hung sash windows with metal wall vents set in the brickwork above them. This wall forms the south wall of the two courtyards formed in the space between the Administration Wing (1899) and the Service Wing (1899).

### ***Internal layout and details***

The Administration Wing (1899) is rectangular in plan and both floors have a central corridor running the length of the long axis.

#### **Ground Floor**

On the ground floor, the main entry to the former monastery complex leads into a small Entry Hall. The Entry Hall has a substantial compound moulded timber skirting and a carpeted floor of timber construction. The walls are painted and plastered and the ceiling lath and plaster. There are 4 panel timber doors leading into the semi-public rooms and a pair of half-glazed, panelled timber double doors leading into the private area. The double doors are glazed with stained glass bearing the order's insignia and above them is a semi-circular stained glass fanlight. In the corner of the room beside this door is a niche with a projecting base and canopy of masonry with run render mouldings. The niche contains a statue of Jesus.

The Office to the west of the Entry Hall is typical of the rooms throughout the monastery in that the internal finishes and fixtures are well constructed but simple. It has a substantial compound moulded timber skirting and the timber floor is covered with carpet. The walls are painted and plastered and the lath and plaster ceiling has no cornice or ceiling rose. The fireplace has a plain timber surround with a simple panelled over piece surmounted by a timber mantle piece.

Compared to the other rooms in the former monastery, the offices to the east of the Entry Hall, exhibit an unusual degree of decoration. Both of these rooms have cast plaster ceiling roses and run plaster cornices and one office contains a particularly fine fireplace surround. The fireplace surround and overpiece has turned timberwork, panelling and decorative timber mouldings and is larger and more decorative than those used elsewhere. The firebox and hearth are lined with 'L'Art Nouveau' style tiles. The documentary evidence suggests that these rooms were used by guests to the former monastery such as the priest's who came to perform confession or officiate at Holy Communion and other special occasions in the religious calendar.

The double doors that lead from the Entry Hall into the private areas of the monastery open directly onto a central corridor that runs the full length of the east-west axis of the building and the stairwell that provides access to the upper floor of the building. Like the Entry Hall, the corridor and stairwell have simple but well constructed finishes. Carpet covers the treads of the timber staircase. The newel post at the bottom of the staircase is turned from a substantial piece of

timber and is surmounted by a turned timber ball. The moulded timber handrail is also generously proportioned, as are the turned timber balusters of the balustrade. A stainless steel handrail has been added to the timber handrail. The space under the base of the stair up to the first landing is enclosed with timber panelling to form a storage cupboard. A door under the landing leads out to a covered link that provides access to the Service Wing (1899) and the internal courtyards between the two buildings.

There are substantial rooms on either side of the Stairwell. The room to the west is a staff room and to the east reception and a sick bay. Both these rooms are finished in a similar manner as the Entry Hall. The 2003 fit out includes a carpet floor, school house suspended light fittings, cornice uplighting and office furniture and fixtures. This fit out is consistent throughout the offices, classrooms and meetings rooms in the 2003 adaptation works. The sick bay is a separate room that has light weight partition walls with glazing to the upper half of the partition walls.

#### First Floor

Like the ground floor, the upper floor has a central corridor that runs the length of the east-west axis of the building and is also finished in the same manner. To the north of the corridor are a uniform shop and two offices. To the south of the corridor is a meeting room, office and a store. Opposite the stairwell a second corridor leads to the front balcony. The front balcony has a timber tongue and grooved board floor and a ripple iron ceiling. The floor is on two levels at the eastern end and to the balcony side of the balustrade is a steel-framed modern balustrade with acrylic glass panels to approximately 1200mm high. There is a partly enclosed store in the centre of the balcony.

The rooms to the west of the stairwell appear to be original. They have moulded timber skirtings that are slightly smaller than those used elsewhere in this wing and the timber floors are covered in carpet. None of these rooms have cornices or ceiling roses. There is a fireplace to the southwest office. There are timber double hung sash windows.

The room to the east of the stairwell is a classroom. The floor level rises from the corridor to the classroom. The painted, plastered brick walls have complex moulded skirting like those used in the central corridors. There are timber double hung windows, four windows to the south and two to the north. There is an original fireplace and timber cupboards to the southeast corner of the classroom. The classroom has carpet, school house light fittings, air conditioning registers and suspended ceiling fans.

#### ***Subsequent alterations***

The Administration Wing (1899) has undergone several minor alterations to suit the changing requirements of new uses. On the first floor, the former cells (bedrooms for the Nuns) have been adapted for offices and meeting rooms and the large area to the east, which was previously subdivided for Cells, has been adapted as a classroom. The Cells were lightweight partition walls and not part of the original construction.

#### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date***

This wing appears to be in good condition.

## **7. SERVICE WING (1899)**

The two-storey Service Wing (1899) is rectangular shaped in plan and forms the north wall of the internal service courtyard. This courtyard is bounded on the east by the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923), on the south by the Administration Wing (1899), and on the west by the Chapel/Refectory Wing (1923). This wing was modified in the 2003 major works program.

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

This building is a utilitarian structure of the early twentieth century; the design has not been influenced by any particular style. It would appear that this building has evolved over time with the timber framed upper floor extension being constructed some time after the brick part of the building.

The ground floor of the Service Wing (1899) is constructed from face brickwork in stretcher bond with rendered window sills. The window openings have flat arch heads and double hung sashes.

A timber framed weatherboard section is located on the first floor, at the western end of the building. The verandah structure, to the first floor, has been retained and is supported by a large steel truss and steel columns. A series of external ramps at the eastern end of the wing connect the ground and first floors.

A steel framed and steel roofed covered area is connected to the north elevation of the service wing.

The low pitched, hipped roof is clad with corrugated metal sheeting. This wing has a face brick chimney with corbelled cap.

### ***Internal layout and details***

The ground floor of the Service Wing (1899) houses the canteen and toilets at the western end. At the eastern end is an office, store and access hallway. The canteen has a modern kitchen fit out with a service counter in the eastern elevation and is accessed from the seminar room in the adjacent Chapel/Refectory. The office, store and access hallway have all been adapted and upgraded as part of the 2003 works. The fit out is consistent with these works.

The first floor is externally accessed from the 2003 ramp on the north and from internal timber stairs at the western and eastern end. The western end is accessed from the Administration Wing and there are four rooms that are accessed from a small lobby at the top of the stairs. One room is a WC that was upgraded in the 2003 works and the other three rooms did not form part of the contract works. These three rooms contain fittings and fixtures from previous uses and are in a fair to poor condition.

One room has retained its original shelves and cupboards (understood to be referred to as the former Box Room). This room has vinyl on timber boards, timber skirting to all four internal elevations and lath and plaster ceilings. Another two rooms are accessed from the former Box Room. These rooms have been formed by enclosing the verandah to the Service Wing with weatherboards and timber casement windows. One of these rooms is a shower room with five shower cubicles and a room that contains many early timber cupboards and fittings. There are also free standing marble vanity benches with stainless steel sinks. The walls are not lined internally and the ceiling rafters are exposed revealing the timber boards lining the underside of the roof cladding.

The rooms and access hallway at the eastern end of the first floor are accessed from the northern verandah. There is a toilet and a small school room. The school room has a low timber bench to the south wall, fireplace to the northeast corner, carpet and school house light fittings.

### ***Subsequent alterations***

The alterations to the Service Wing (1899) have included the enclosure of the first floor verandah to the western end, canteen/kitchen fit out and works associated with the 2003 adaptation. The other significant changes have included a series of ramps from the ground to the first floor and a covered area.

### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date***

The section of the Service Wing (1899) that formed part of the 2003 works is in good condition. The western end of the first floor is in fair to poor condition with some cracking evident.

## **8. CLASSROOM WING (1899; 1923)**

The two-storey Classroom Wing (1899; 1923) is rectangular in plan and forms the eastern wing of the Main Block. The front (south) section of the wing is a later addition.

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

The walls of the building are of stretcher bond brickwork construction with a rusticated limestone plinth. The steeply pitched corrugated iron roof terminates at its north and south ends against parapeted gables. The apex of the south gable is capped by a steel cross.

The south façade, part of the later southern addition, is a two-storey block of brick and render construction that is composed with a stepped buttressed tower at each corner. The towers are topped by rendered balustrading. An engaged portico is set centrally within the wall between the two corner towers. The portico houses a double door with sidelights and fanlight set below a segmental arch that supports a rendered pediment. The double door is contained by engaged faceted piers. Above this entrance door, on the first floor, is an arcade running between the two corner towers. The tower contains semi-circular headed arched windows similar to the arches in the arcade. These arches have been enclosed with aluminium framed fixed glass windows.

The west façade of the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923) encloses the eastern side of the Entry Courtyard. Most of this façade dates from the later addition and is distinguishable by the change in construction and materials. The new section makes more use of rendered detail whereas the original has a limestone spandrel and sill and brick arches instead of rendered lintels.

The east façade of the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923) is sub-divided into a series of bays by projecting piers and pedimented buttresses. Each bay originally contained two windows. The present windows appear to be replacements and those on the ground floor have been formed into one large opening by the removal of the section of brick wall that separated the two windows. On the first floor similar adaptations have taken place to allow new doors to be inserted. The southern end of the east façade terminates at the corner tower of the front block. This tower and the first two bays of the façade are part of the later addition and,

as with the west façade, the different periods of construction are apparent from the use of different building materials.

A steel construction, upper-storey verandah runs the full length of the façade from the south tower to the stair at the northern end. The verandah is supported on rectangular hollow section steel struts.

The north façade of the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923) is a brick gabled end with an open verandah from the two-storey Service Wing (1899) extending the full width of the façade.

### ***Internal layout and details***

Sacred Heart Primary School currently uses all of the rooms in the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923). This wing is simply planned with the rooms on each floor being arranged in a lineal fashion with access doors opening onto the verandah that runs the full length of the eastern façade. Initially, access to the classrooms was either from a corridor to the west of the classrooms in the Administration Wing (1899) or, in the case of the later southern extension, from an internal staircase at the front of the building.

#### **Ground Floor**

The entrance hall within the 1923 extension houses a timber staircase with timber moulded balustrading, timber handrail, timber newel posts and timber treads. The timber treads are covered with vinyl. The timber handrail has a stainless steel handrail added to increase the overall handrail height. The stair leads to the formerly open arcade on the southern façade. There is timber panelling enclosing the area under the stair and pressed metal to the underside of the top flight of stairs. The entrance hall is not currently used as an entrance for the school. There are decorative 130mm x 130mm floor tiles and 100 x 75mm white wall tiles to dado height. A semi-circular blue capping tile defines the dado line.

The ground floor of the building has a classroom, a multi-purpose room and a library. A stage and a proscenium arch are located at the north end of the library. The structure of the floor above has been left partly exposed and it combines with moulded timber trims to form a grid into which are set the sheets of the ripple iron ceiling. All classrooms and school rooms have a similar fit out with carpet to floors, school house light fittings and suspended ceiling fans.

#### **First Floor**

The arcade to the southern façade is now enclosed by aluminium framed glass. The upper floor has four classrooms. The southernmost classroom is located within the extension and it has a pressed metal ceiling that follows the profile of the roof structure with raking sides and a flat central portion. The wall that separates this classroom from the earlier classrooms was originally the southern wall of the wing. The original external window has been retained and now serves as a high level internal glazed screen. The western wall contains two acrylic glass interpretation panels covering earlier wall finishes.

The roof of the building is supported on a series of timber hammer beam trusses. These roof trusses have been left partially exposed in the classrooms. The line of the ceiling follows the rake of the truss cord for a distance and has a flat central portion. The ripple iron ceiling is sub-divided into panels by the use of moulded timber trims. The panels are accentuated by alternating the direction of the corrugations of the sheets within each panel. Each room has timber fretwork

cornices, moulded architraves and skirtings. Timber panelled doors lead from the western side of each room.

### ***Subsequent alterations***

The major alteration to this wing was undertaken in 1923 when a large extension was constructed at the southern end of the building. This extension included two classrooms, a foyer, internal staircase and store. Since this time only minor alterations have been made to this wing.

The first floor has been divided to form four classrooms. Initially, access to the classrooms was either from a corridor to the west of the classrooms in the Administration Wing (1899). Later, a verandah was constructed on the east elevation to provide access to these rooms. At this time, some windows were converted to doors to provide access to the eastern verandah and others were enlarged by removing the central brick mullion between pairs of windows.

### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date.***

This wing appears to be in good condition.

## **9. SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL (1914 school building)**

This free standing, single-storey classroom block is situated approximately 20 metres east of the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923) of the Main Block. It has a roughly 'U' shaped plan with the axis of the longer central wing orientated east-west and the two smaller wings orientated north-south. The main car park entry gates to the school are located at Mary Street. The building contains pre-primary to the three central rooms, kindergarten to the east wing and year one classroom to the west wing.

### ***External form and style, and details of the building***

The Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 school building) has black tuck pointed, stretcher bond brickwork with a slightly projecting plinth with a chamfered sill detail. Elements such as sills and lintels are finished with render. The steeply pitched pre-painted corrugated steel sheeting roof of this building has gables to the north-south orientated wings and also to the slightly projecting bay set in the centre of the south façade.

On the southern façade, a bagged render has been applied to the central bay and the words 'Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me' has been formed in the render in the gable together with a bas relief image of the Virgin Mary. This bay also has a foundation stone bearing the date 1914 but the text is difficult to read as it has been painted over.

The aluminium framed awning windows are a recent addition. The rendered lintels above the windows are twelve brick courses deep.

On the north side of the building, the space enclosed by the 'U' of the building is covered by a steel pipe construction verandah. This verandah has been partly enclosed by the construction of two toilet blocks. The verandah has been extended to the north by the addition of a 2.5 metre wide, steel framed, curved fabric shade structure. The verandah has a concrete slab floor. The openings of the doorways that lead on to the rear verandah have been altered to create a lower head height. The original fanlights have been removed and they have been replaced by a panel of rendered brick.

### ***Internal layout and details***

The Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 school building) consists of three separate spaces. The central space (pre-primary) has pressed metal ceilings, suspended ceiling fans, school house light fittings, air conditioning, vinyl and carpet floor, aluminium windows to the south and modern timber windows and doors to the north. Classrooms to the east and the west have suspended modern ceilings, roof lights and a similar fit out to the central space. These classrooms are entered from the northern verandah. Documentary evidence suggests that the main entry to this building was originally located in the centre of the south façade and that the script and bas relief were originally above the main door.

### ***Subsequent alterations***

Minor modifications to the Sacred Heart Primary School (1914 school building) include the construction of two toilets on the north verandah and addition of a steel-framed shelter to the north of the verandah.

Major alterations include the relocation of the entry to the building and refurbishment of the interior. The original front door in the south façade has been replaced with a window and the building is now entered from the rear (north) verandah.

Door fanlights were bricked up as were the upper sections of windows. Timber framed windows were replaced with aluminium sliding sashes.

### ***Appearance and condition of the building to date***

The 1914 School is in good condition.

*The following elements are only briefly discussed as they are no longer extant (demolished 2003).*

### **10. HOSTEL (1977/1978)**

The free standing, single-storey Hostel (1977/1978) was 'C' shaped in plan and it wrapped around the western façade of the Accommodation Wing (1923). It was constructed from red, face brickwork and was a utilitarian structure of the late twentieth century. The design was domestic in scale and the style was typical of the low cost residential style of the 1970s.

This element was demolished in 2003.

### **11. FORMER LAUNDRY BLOCK (1937)**

The free standing, single-storey Laundry Block was 'L' shaped in plan, originally the entire building was used as a Laundry. The utilitarian structure had red face brick walls and the windows had rendered sills and lintels. The low pitched corrugated iron roof was concealed behind a parapet. Timber framed double hung sash windows and framed and braced tongue and grooved doors were used throughout.

This element was demolished in 2003.

### **12. CLASSROOM**

The single-storey Classroom was a single rectangular room that was located a few metres behind the Main Block and abutted the western wall of the 1971 School Block. It was a simple red face brick structure with a rectangular plan and

moderately steeply pitched gable roof that was clad with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting. The base of the walls had a rendered plinth. The timber- framed windows had double hung sashes.

This element was demolished in 2003.

### **13. SCHOOL BLOCK (1971)**

The two-storey 1971 School Block was a long lineal rectangular block, which was orientated north-south on almost the same line as that of the Classroom Wing (1899; 1923) of the Main Block. The northern end of this block abutted the Harold Street boundary of the site.

This building appeared to have been influenced by the Post War International Style. It was a concrete structural frame with panels of brickwork to the northern and southern facades and window walling to most of the eastern and western facades. The window walling was aluminium framed with clear glazed hopper windows with a pre-finished asbestos cement panel spandrel under. The roof was a low pitched, tiled gable roof.

This element was demolished in 2003.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the comparative information relating to Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Church Hall refer to 'Sacred Heart Church, Mary Street Highgate Conservation Plan', prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Parish of Sacred Heart Highgate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth in July 2004, pp. 20-21 and 66.

The main building at the former convent is typical of many convents constructed by different teaching orders in Western Australia at the turn of the century. These convents are generally two-storey buildings with a 'C' shaped plan. The central wing runs parallel to the street. The two side wings have gabled roofs and project forward from the central wing as a shallow bay. They also have a central bay with a gable roof that defines the front entry. The building generally has a timber verandah or masonry colonnade attached to the front façade and the courtyard formed at the rear of the convent has a simple timber verandah. The central wing of the building houses the administration and reception rooms on the ground floor and the nun's cells above. One side wing contains the schoolrooms on the ground floor and the student's dormitory above. The other side wing contains rooms such as the chapel, refectory and community room.

The façade of the former St Brigid's Convent in Leederville has much in common with that of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Administration Wing (1899) in particular. Overall St Brigid's is of a smaller scale and does not exhibit the ongoing modifications and additions, as is the case at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*.

Like *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*, Mercedes College started as a small school attached to a larger monastic house run by a teaching order. The Mercy Convent, designed by Cavanaugh and Cavanaugh, is a two-storey structure that is similar to St Brigid's Convent and the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Similar to *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*, this building is located on a walled site and has been extended as the order has grown and prospered. While Mercedes College and its grounds are considerably larger and

more complex than those at *Sacred Heart Catholic Group, Highgate*, the Mercy Convent buildings are on a smaller scale to the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The Redemptorist Monastery of St Peter and St Paul (1902), designed by Cavanaugh and Cavanaugh, is similar in scale to the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. However, this fine and imposing building has a much higher level of detailing, uses more expensive materials and finishes, and appears to have been built in one major phase of construction. Unlike the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart which fits in well with its urban setting, the spacious, landscaped grounds surrounded by a low garden fence at the Redemptorist Monastery give it the feeling of a large country house.

Of the buildings designed by Edgar Le B. Henderson for the Catholic Church, those that bear the greatest resemblance to his work at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are St Joseph's Church, Subiaco (1934) and the St John of God Memorial Chapel, Subiaco (1956). Both these buildings are carried out in the Inter War Gothic style and exhibit a free rather than academic approach to Gothic elements. They also have less complicated ornament than other eras and make use of new materials such as pre-cast concrete and fibrous cement sheet ceilings. While both of these buildings have more external detailing and modeling than the monastery, the interior of the chapel and that of St Joseph's Church have much in common. In particular they both use fibrous cements sheeting and mouldings to mimic stone fan vaulting. This illusion is taken further as the ceiling of St Joseph's is fixed to the underside of the hammer beam roof trusses and that at the chapel is constructed below the second floor of the monastery.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

Ker, M. H., 'Children of the Same God', Sacred Heart Primary School, 1997.

Fry, A., *United for Mission: Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions*, Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions, 1997.

*The Record*

'Sacred Heart Church, Mary Street Highgate Conservation Plan', prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Parish of Sacred Heart Highgate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth in July 2004.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research is required to ascertain why a convent and school is referred to as a 'monastery'.

Further research is required into construction dates.