

A Brief history of the Parish of Orange, NSW

In the **1840s** and **1850s** Mass and the Sacraments were celebrated at an Inn in Byng St and the old courthouse. Priests visited from Kings Plains (near Blayney) and Carcoar until the mid-**1860s** when Fr E. Athy became the first resident priest.

1859 - The first wooden church was built on the site of the present sanctuary of St Joseph's Church in Byng St.

1863 - The first Catholic school began in the church/school in Byng St. It was conducted by a layman.

1864 - Orange was created as a separate parish and included the villages of Molong, Cumnock, Yeoval, Cudal, Cargo, Millthorpe and Forest Reefs.

1866 - Bathurst was made a diocese and Bishop Matthew Quinn arrived from Ireland as the first bishop of a diocese extending from Bathurst to Bourke.

1869 - 4th April - The foundation stone of St Joseph's Church was laid.

1871 - 30th April - The Church was opened and blessed by Archbishop Polding of Sydney. This church was the present nave. The stained glass windows came from Europe. Pope Pius IX had named St Joseph as the Universal Patron of the Church in 1870.

1874 - The Sisters of St Joseph opened a convent and school in a stable at German Hill (Lidster) - site of present tennis courts. It closed in 1922.

1875 - 28th January - The Sisters of St Joseph established a convent and school at Borenore. This convent and school closed in 1963 due to small enrolments.

- 1876** - Saint Mary of The Cross MacKillop visited Orange in January to meet with the Sisters of St Joseph from German Hill and Borenore convents. They probably met in St Joseph's Church to discuss the crisis with the bishop over leadership.
- 1878 - 24th September.** - Seven Sisters of Mercy arrived from Bathurst to establish a convent and school in Summer St. (now the site of the Summer Centre). The boys attended infant's school with the Sisters and then moved to the lay teacher run boys' school located near where the old convent now stands in Byng St.
- 1880** - Fr Julian Edmund Tenison Woods was present at the blessing of the second convent cottage at Borenore - (which is still standing).
- 1890** - The first Patrician Brothers arrived to take over the boys' school in Byng St, and lived in the 'Morning Star Inn' (built about 1860) at 105 March St.
- 1893** - The Patrician Brothers established a boys' school in a new brick building which is now the ground level classrooms of Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School – Byng Street Campus (formerly Sacred Heart Infants School).
- 1898 - 12th February** - Blessing of the new sanctuary and transepts of St Joseph's Church with four visiting bishops present for the important occasion.
- 1914** - 'Croagh Patrick' (Patrick's Hill) purchased by the Catholic Church. 2,000 people and the town band attended the opening and blessing of the boys' school, Brothers' monastery and Novitiate for training new Brothers.
- 1916** - St. Brendan's Church, Mullion Creek was created from a moved shearers' hut donated by the Dalton family.
- 1918** - A new presbytery built in Byng Street.

- 1924** - 'Galgally House' at 60 Byng St bought as a residence for the priests.
The Sisters of Mercy moved from the Summer St Convent and school to the former Presbytery, now their convent, and on the 7th September Santa Maria College opened in the Brothers boys' school next door.
- 1924** - The Patrician Brothers leave Orange, Bathurst and Dubbo schools at the direction of Bishop O'Farrell CM who had a dispute with them over their teaching methods. Some Brothers remained at Croagh Patrick until late 1928.
- 1926** - St. Mary's Church opened in East Orange on the corner of Bathurst Road and Edward Streets. The Daughters of Charity arrive to teach school in the church building and they live in the house on the corner of Endsleigh Ave & Kite St.
- 1927** - St Mary's School is opened beside the church in East Orange.
- 1928** - The first four De La Salle Brothers arrive by train and establish their boys' school and live in the former convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Summer St.
- 1928 - December** - Croagh Patrick boys' orphanage is opened by the Daughters of Charity in the former residence and novitiate of the Patrician Brothers.
- 1948 - 19th April** - John Kenna dies. He was a great benefactor of the parish. His estate is left for building of Kenna Hall and maintenance of St Joseph's Church.
- 1952** - Holy Family Infants' School, Glenroi opened by the Sisters of Mercy.
- 1956 - February** - St Mary's Parish is created by dividing the town along the railway line as parish border. Mullion Creek becomes part of St Mary's Parish.
- 1964** - Holy Family Church opened and blessed in Glenroi.

1966 - 1st May - The new Santa Maria Girls' College opened in Hill St, transferring the secondary students from the present Sacred Heart buildings where the girls' high school had been for 44 years.

1969 - The Daughters of Charity leave Orange and the Sisters of Mercy take over Croagh Patrick Boys Orphanage and St Mary's Primary School.

1972 - Blessing of the 'new' Hill Street Presbytery and Kenna Hall.

1977 - May - The first section of James Sheahan Catholic High School opened in Anson St with boys and furniture relocated from De La Salle College.

1980 - James Sheahan Catholic High School becomes a co-educational school with the enrolment of girls from Santa Maria College, which had closed at the end of 1979.

The De La Salle College site in Summer St is sold to pay for the new high school developments.

1980 - St Joseph's Primary School opens in the former Santa Maria College in Hill St.

De La Salle Brothers and Sisters of Mercy were on the original staffs of James Sheahan Catholic High School and St Joseph's Primary School.

1984 - 19th April - Bishop Patrick Dougherty dedicates the re-furbished sanctuary of St Joseph's Church. The refurbishments were inspired by the liturgical changes that came out of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). The marble altar brought from Rome in 1884 altar was placed in the centre of the Sanctuary and a new matching marble lectern was added to the Sanctuary, a sign of the harmony between the Word and the Sacrament.

- 1988 - March** - The first classroom block of a 4 stage development of the new St Mary's School is blessed and opened.
- 1988 - June** - The new St Mary's Church and Presbytery is blessed and opened.
- 1998** - The last three De La Salle Brothers leave Orange after 70 years of ministry in Catholic education.
- 1999** - Holy Family School, Glenroi is closed and sold.
- 2001 - 11th March** - the two parishes which were created in 1956 amalgamate as the Parish of St Mary & St Joseph, Orange.
- 2012** - Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School comes into existence - the result of the amalgamation of the former Sacred Heart Infants School and St Joseph's Primary School.