



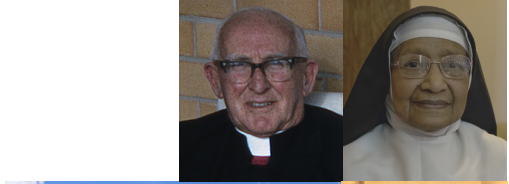
Foundation of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst 1874 - 2024



A TIMELINE



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE
DIOCESE OF SANDHURST 1874 - 2024

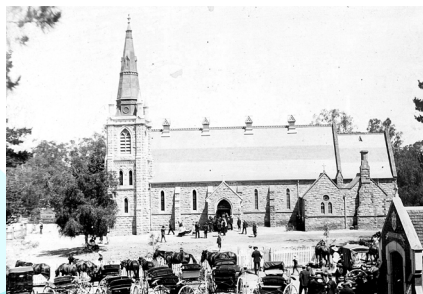
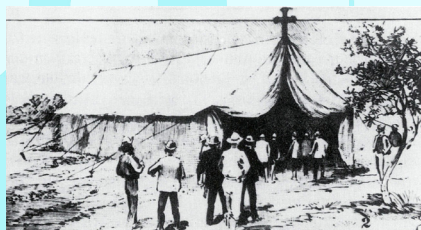


26 March 2024



1857
Sandstone Church
St Kilian's Bendigo
is completed

December 1856
Bishop James Alipius Goold visits the
Sandhurst Mission – describing it as
'a miserable slab affair, badly covered
with canvas'.

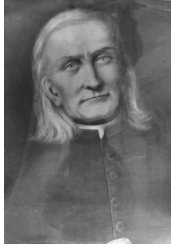


1863
The Catholic Mission at
Wangaratta is established

2 May 1852
The first Mass on the Bendigo goldfields is celebrated
and the Bendigo Mission is established

November 1851
Gold is discovered in Bendigo

July 1854
The Catholic Mission at Beechworth is established



23 April 1867

After an absence of almost four years Backhaus is reinstated. "Sandhurst is vacant. Will you take it?" asked V.G Fitzpatrick of Rev. Dr Henry Backhaus.

6 November 1864

St Augustine's, the oldest standing original diocesan church was designed by Vahland and opened on this day.



30 March 1874

The Diocese of Sandhurst is erected, from Melbourne.

6 March 1874

Julia Linehan is born at Warring. She will later become Mother Mary Leonie of the Seven Dolours who witnessed a miracle at Lourdes. She was baptised during the opening of the new Nagambie church, a week after her birth.

1874



May 1866

The foundation Stone for the Wardell designed church at Beechworth is laid "under the invocation of St Joseph".



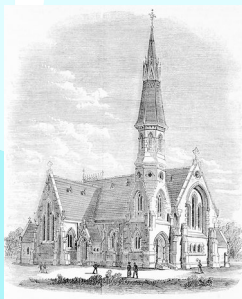


4 August 1874

Rev. Martin Crane OSA is appointed 1st Bishop of the Sandhurst Diocese, Consecrated in Dublin Ireland on 21 September 1874 and installed as Bishop at St Kilian's church on 17 May 1875.

December 1874

Echuca Mission is established



24 August 1876

Benalla Mission is established

2 June 1874

Peter Thomas Joseph Mahoney is born at Nagambie. He will be the first diocesan-born priest to be ordained at Sandhurst.



September 1874

Heathcote Mission is established

15 July 1876

Chiltern parish is established



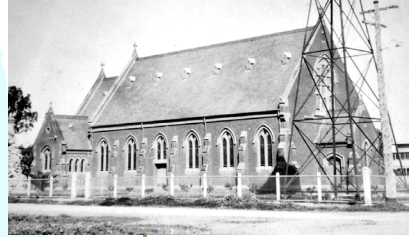
1877

Myrtleford parish is established



1884

Yarrowonga parish is established



25 August 1879

Shepparton parish is established



1884

September 1881

The first Sandhurst Diocesan Synod

11 September 1882

Rev. Dr Henry Backhaus who died on September 7 is buried in St Kilian's Church grounds following a Requiem Mass.

Over 30,000 people attend the funeral.

26 April 1885

The Feast of the Blessed Virgin under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated for the first time in the Diocese. "The

Holy Father has deigned to confer on the clergy of this Diocese the privilege of celebrating this feast annually on the above date".



1886

Brigidine Sisters arrive at Echuca

May 1886

Boarders begin at the Brigidine school, St Joseph's School Echuca

27 November 1886

The Brigidine Sisters arrive at Beechworth

22 October 1887

Four Brigidine Sisters arrive at Wangaratta St Patrick's

1893

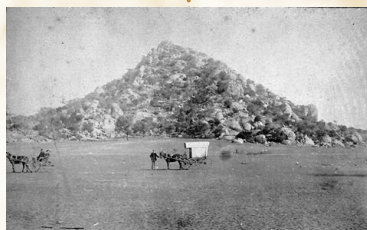
Brigidine Sisters arrive at Rochester

24 October 1887

Numurkah parish is established

1890

Sisters of St Joseph arrive at Numurkah and establish the first Victorian Josephite school
Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop opens the school



1885

Pyramid Hill parish is established



20 December 1886

The Augustinian priests arrive at Echuca



1889

The Augustinian priests arrive at Rochester
Rochester parish is established

1890

Dookie parish is established

10 April 1890

Four sisters from the Mercy Order arrive
at Yarrawonga

1891

St Brendan's school Shepparton
opens with 2 lay teachers

6 February 1892

Sisters of Mercy arrive at Wodonga

1892

Nathalia parish is established

1893

Sisters of Mercy arrive at
St Augustine's, Wodonga and they
stay for 100 years



1889

Tatura parish is established



1894

1893

Marist Brothers
arrive in Bendigo and
the Monastery is built



1894

Kerang parish is established

25 June 1897

The Feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated at St Kilian's on this date. This coincided with the laying of the foundation stone at the Cathedral site one day later.

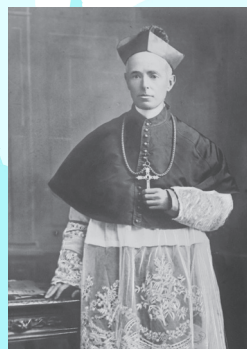


29 September 01

The Sacred Heart Cathedral is blessed and opened by Cardinal Moran.



April 1899 Nagambie parishioners



1900

Wodonga parish is established
Four Sisters of Mercy Order arrive at Tatura.

14-August-1900

Five Sisters from the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) formed the first community at Benalla.

21 October 1901

Martin Crane dies in his sleep at the Bishop's Palace, Bendigo and Bishop Reville succeeds as 2nd Bishop of Sandhurst.

1901

Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo



1901

The Presentation Sisters arrive at Rutherglen and Chiltern

1902

Elmore, Kyabram and Marong parishes are established

01 February 1902

The Sisters of Mercy arrive at Shepparton

The Augustinian Priests arrive at Kyabram

1904

1904

The Sisters of Mercy arrive at Eaglehawk



Most Rev. Martin Crane, OSA DD





19 July 1905

St Aidan's Children's Centre was opened and run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd



17 October 1916

World War I, Rev. Frederick O'Connor enlists with the AIF. Chaplain Major O'Connor was welcomed home at Chiltern Parish on 15 October 1919 where he said, he did his best for the soldiers and he would do it again.



14 December 1915

World War I, Rev. J.J. Kennedy of Yarrawonga parish, enlists as a Chaplain in the AIF and will receive a Distinguished Service Order "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty" at Fromelles.

1906

Euroa parish is established



1 October 1912

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan arrive at Kerang

7 April 1916

Tallangatta parish is established



19 September 1916

Bishop Stephen Reville dies from pleurisy

17 June 1917

Rev. John McCarthy VG
Melbourne Archdiocese
is ordained as the
3rd Bishop of Sandhurst at
Sacred Heart Cathedral,
he was appointed on
February 14, 1917.



1924

Rutherglen parish is established

1918

Eaglehawk and Rushworth
parishes are established

1920

Sisters of St Joseph come to Eaglehawk
and replace the Mercy Sisters

The Mercy Sisters arrive
at Kangaroo Flat and White Hills

1921

Sisters of Mercy arrive at Euroa

1917 -1918

Outdoor Mass at the Bendigo Cathedral
due to the outbreak of Spanish Flu,



1924

1922 Cobram parish is established
Mercy Sisters open school at Cobram

1923
Sisters of St Joseph arrive at Nagambie
Presentation Sisters arrive at Myrtleford

1 September 1926

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan arrive at Cohuna and stay until 1990.

The Presentation Sisters arrive at Heathcote

1929

The Sister of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) arrive at Elmore

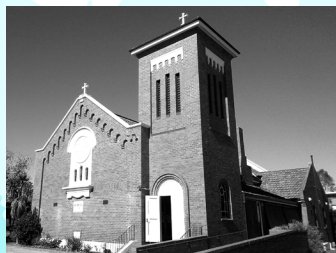


6 August 1941

World War 2 Rev. Vincent Cochrane joined the AIF as Army Chaplain – Cochrane (in his own words), was “a guest of the Japanese Emperor” from February 1942 - August 1945, Fr Cochrane became a POW; he volunteered to go with the Australian prisoners when captured as they had no clergyman. Unable to say Mass for three years, he gathered the soldiers each evening for the Rosary. He served the Sandhurst Diocese for over 40 years, until his death in 1975.

1934

Mooroopna parish is established



11 February 1947

Bernard Denis Stewart is ordained Titular Bishop of Ucles, after being appointed as Coadjutor Bishop of Sandhurst on 12 December 1946

13 December 1936

Cohuna parish is established



1948

Bright parish is established



18 August 1950
 Bishop McCarthy dies
 in Bendigo at the age of
 91 and Bishop Stewart
 succeeds as the
 4th Bishop of Sandhurst



1953
 The announcement is made
 that the second stage of the
 Cathedral will commence,
 the costs are estimated to be
 £300,000

1954



1951
 Cathedral and
 Golden Square
 parishes are
 established

1954
 The Franciscan Friars arrive at Eaglehawk
 Sisters of St Joseph arrive at Rushworth

16 October 1955

Cardinal Gilroy officiates at the occasion of the laying of the commemorative stone at the Sacred Heart Cathedral to mark the second stage works, 6,000 people attend.



Construction continues on the Sacred Heart Cathedral



1957

White Hills and Kennington parishes are established. The Sisters of Mercy run the White Hills school, Holy Rosary and the Kennington school, St Therese's.



1955

Moyhu and Shepparton South parishes are established

1958

Wangaratta South parish is established
Three Mercy Sisters open a school at Tallangatta

1955

The Vincentians open a school for boys at Junortoun



1959

Four Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM) Sisters arrive and run St Francis' school, Nathalia.



1959

Brigidine Sisters arrive at Tongala

1961

Mount Alvernia Hospital Bendigo, now St John of God Hospital was opened by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood Sisters (FMDM)

1961

Corryong and Quarry Hill parishes are established



28 December 1963

Cathedral Choir Bendigo

1964

1 October 1962

Second Vatican Council Bishop Bernard Stewart (as Council Father) attends Session One of the Second Vatican Council. In 1963, 1964 and 1965 he attends Sessions 2, 3 and 4.

1962

The Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary (SCJM) arrive in Bendigo and will run the future Bethlehem Home for the Aged

1964

The Sisters of St Joseph open a school at Corryong



June 1964

The Poor Clare Colletines, a contemplative order, arrive in Bendigo from Sri Lanka. The photograph above shows the Sisters having afternoon tea with the FMDM at Mt Alvernia

1 October 1973

Sacred Heart Cathedral reopens internally whilst external works, on the spire, continue.



15 August 1965

Bethlehem Home for the Aged opens in Golden Square

1972

Sisters of Mercy run the newly established St Peter's School in North Bendigo

1974

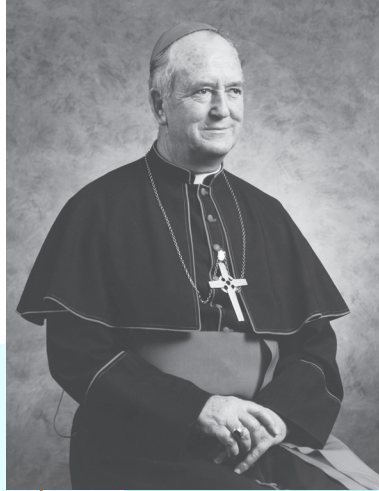
Mgr Peter De Campo is appointed the first Director of Catholic Education in Sandhurst.



14 May 1977

The Cathedral is reopened, all external works having been completed. The opening included the blessing of the Church, the placing of relics in the altar, the consecration of church and altar, the Mass of Dedication. Thomas Vincent Cahill, Archbishop of Canberra dedicated and consecrated the church. Cardinal Freeman officiated the following day at the Solemn Opening.

21 April 1979
Bishop Bernard Stewart retires.
Rev. Noel Daly is appointed the 5th Bishop of Sandhurst and is ordained at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on 11 July 1979



1984



12 February 1978

Inglewood Parish (est. 1865) is separated from Ballarat Diocese and becomes part of Sandhurst Diocese

1983
Wangaratta colleges amalgamate to become Galen College

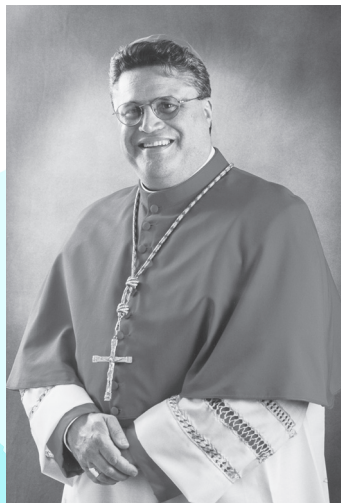
1984
Shepparton Secondary schools amalgamate to become Notre Dame College

1 July 2000

Noel Daly resigns as
5th Bishop of Sandhurst

27 April 2001

Bishop Joseph Grech is
installed as the
6th Bishop of Sandhurst,



1 March 2012

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson
is installed as the
7th Bishop of Sandhurst

14 January 2004

Bishop Noel Daly dies at Bendigo, aged 75

15 October 1988

Bishop Bernard Stewart
dies at Bendigo at the
age of 88.

27 December 2010

Bishop Joe Grech dies suddenly aged 62

1 December 1997

The Sandhurst School Education
Board is established.



23 July 2019

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson officially retires and Bishop Shane Mackinlay is appointed as 8th Bishop of Sandhurst



15 February 2023

Sandhurst Diocesan Assembly in Kialla

16 October 2019

Bishop Shane Mackinlay is ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral and is installed as the 8th Bishop of Sandhurst



1 March 2021

The three remaining Poor Clare Sisters leave Bendigo after 56 years.

October 2023

Bishop Shane attends the Synod for a Synodal Church at the Vatican



12 April 2020

Government Covid 19 lockdown measures force the closure of all Churches and Easter Sunday Mass is celebrated over the internet

2024

2023

The Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council is established and meets for the first time



PRAYER

FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, goodness and beauty, We give thanks to you as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

United in the Body of Christ, through your Holy Spirit, we give thanks for the generous love and care that you have bestowed on us since the foundations of our local Church.

We ask for your guidance, under the patronage of Our Lady of Good Counsel. In union with the whole Church, may we work to discern the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel, and to build up faith communities inspired by justice, peace and love.

Strengthen your Holy Spirit in us as we renew our commitment to proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ entrusted to us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Pray for Us.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST