

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	St Mary's Catholic Church
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2196, 8709
State Heritage Register:	14 May 1999
Other Listing:	Catholic Church Inventory Completed 01 Jul 1998, Aboriginal Heritage Sites Register Recorded

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	30 - 32 Franklin
Locality	Leederville
Survey	LOT: 80 D/P: 53837
Vol/folio	1496/399
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 1</p> <p>The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The place displays a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, and exhibits a well resolved combination of architectural, symbolic and artistic motifs.</p> <p>The atavistic use of Inter War Gothic style characteristics adds interest to the building.</p> <p>The place illustrates the historic theme of the development of liturgical architecture and arts in Australia.</p> <p>The imposing bell tower and ecclesiastic architecture have a substantial impact on the streetscape and present a landmark in Leederville.</p> <p>The place is a rare example of a parish church with a 'grand' bell tower of such prominence, the scale of which is usually incorporated into the design of cathedrals;</p> <p>The place has social value to the wider community as a place of gathering, a vehicle of local identity, pride and sense of place and, hence, of social bonding within the community.</p> <p>The place has a strong spiritual significance to the Roman Catholic community in the Leederville Parish and the Perth Archdiocese</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Current use	Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1923
Walls	Brick
Roof	Terracotta Tile
Architectural Style	Inter-War Gothic
Physical description	The church is a red brick and tile building in the Inter-War Gothic style, with characteristic stone mullioned windows, parapeted gable, spire and other vertical elements and entrance porch. Imposing gable roofed church with a tall bell tower and spire.
	Constructed with gothic design elements including arched windows and doors and buttresses at the sides. The central and side windows feature characteristic stone tracery and stained glass lead lights. The building has a projecting entrance porch at the front. A spire of this scale is unusual in a suburban parish church, being more commonly found on cathedrals.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Sisters of Mercy established a convent and primary school on the corner of Marian and Shakespeare Streets in 1903. The Sisters of Mercy is a religious order founded by Catherine McAuley in Ireland in 1831. The sisters' mission is to serve the poor and the needy with many engaging in medical care, community programs and teaching.

The Leederville school opened in an existing weatherboard house and it was known as Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Convent, Aranmore. A weatherboard school building was established further west on Marian Street. This building was most likely also used for church services. It is shown on the MWSSDD sewerage plan of c.1930 as being constructed in the traditional cross-shape.

The Leederville Parish was established on 1 March 1919, and the first presbytery was an existing cottage at 46 Franklin Street. The first parish priest was the long-serving Monsignor J. F. Maloney (1919-1958). Theresa Leeder occupied a house on the corner of Franklin and Shakespeare streets, and when she died on 26 October 1922, this land was purchased in March 1923 as the site for St Mary's Church.

The foundation stone for the church was laid on 6 May 1923 and the Church was opened on 9 December that year. The architect for St Mary's Church was Ernest H. Hamilton. The Berry Brothers, members of the Leederville parish, were responsible for the extensive jarrah joinery in the Church. Ernest Hamilton originally worked as a draughtsman for the Public Works Department and was involved with the design of Perth Modern School in 1909. As a privately employed architect in the 1920s, he designed the Subiaco Clock Tower war memorial. He was most likely assisted with the design of St Mary's Church by Leederville parish priest Monsignor J.F. Maloney, who was known for his forceful and outspoken opinions. Mons Maloney was the parish priest from 1919 - 1958, and was a driving force in the development of the parish and the Aranmore College group.

In 1929, a church hall, reputed to have been moved from the goldfields, was erected on the corner of Franklin and Oxford streets. This was named St Mary's Hall. It presents a shop-front to Oxford Street, and the front two rooms may have been used originally to house an op-shop or some similar fund-raising function for the parish. Many early residents recall going to weddings, dances and other fund raising functions in this hall and the children attended the school's annual fancy dress ball there.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

On 21 November 1933, the Sisters of Mercy opened the new novitiate and convent building. They were then able to extend the school to secondary level for girls. The school was renamed St Mary's College.

The following year, a new Presbytery was built on the west side of the Church, directly opposite the new convent building, and the priests took up residence on 5 November that year. Monsignor Maloney is credited with the design of this presbytery.

In 1937, St Mary's Church was enlarged and the bell tower added, the additions being blessed by the Archbishop on 13 February 1938. The terrazzo Communion rail, which was added at this time, was made by Fanzan Brothers of Perth. The Church bell had been cast at the O'Byrne Foundry in Dublin in 1928. The iron and stone fencing around the Church on both street frontages was erected in 1956.

In February 1942, the Christian Brothers opened their college on the adjoining site west of St Mary's College with 140 boys. In 1971, the senior classes at St Mary's and CBC were amalgamated and St Mary's Primary School moved to a new site on Brentham Street in 1976. The Christian Brothers established an upper primary school for the boys on Jugan Street, Glendalough. Various other buildings were added to the two secondary school complexes over the years, and they shared some facilities, including a library, canteen and sports grounds. In 1986, St Mary's and CBC amalgamated as Aranmore Catholic College, a fully co-ed school.

In 1991, the St Mary's convent building was remodelled for offices and classrooms, with new convent accommodation being provided on Shakespeare Street, opposite the College complex.

Following construction of the Parish Centre, St Mary's Hall, no longer required as a church hall, became part of the school complex. The Hall continues to be used as the venue for lower school social functions, music and drama concerts, graduation ceremonies, meetings, parent group functions, and any other activity that requires a large space, including local community use as an election polling place.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Social Services: Education	
Associations	Ernest H. Hamilton E.T. Russell Berry Brothers Monsignor J.F. Maloney Fanzan Brothers	Architect Builders Carpenters and joiners Parish Priest Artisans
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. P2196 Saint Mary's Catholic Church, assessment documentation, DPLH, 1999.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

