

# St Catherine's Orphanage

1912 – 1960

## Details

---

St Catherine's Orphanage was the new name given in 1912 to what was formerly Our Lady's Orphanage. It accommodated girls aged between 3 and 14. In 1928, the Orphanage relocated from Newtown to Highton. In 1960, it became the St Catherine's Children's Home.

Barnard and Twigg suggest that the Sisters of Mercy changed the orphanage's name from Our Lady to St Catherine's to distinguish it from the Sacred Heart Boarding School and the day primary school, which were located on the same site.

An appeal for a new building was launched in 1926, and in 1928 St Catherine's Orphanage relocated from Newtown to Highton.

In November 1955, St Catherine's Girls' Orphanage was declared an approved children's home under the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

In 1957, Sister Isidore Ryder took charge at St Catherine's. A year later, it started to receive boys (usually the younger brothers of girls already at the Orphanage). Subsequently, St Catherine's changed its name to St Catherine's Children's Home in 1960.

## Gallery

---



**St Catherine's Geelong**



**St Catherine's Girls' Orphanage Appeal**



**St Catherine's Party Night**

---

# More info

---

## Chronology

- Our Lady's Orphanage (c. 1862 - 1912)
  - **St Catherine's Orphanage (1912 – 1960)**
    - St Catherine's Children's Home (1960 - 1975)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation \(1857 - 2011\)](#)  
Date: 1912 - 1960

### Related Organisations

- [McAuley House \(1942 - 1965\)](#)

## Resources

- Donnelly, Joan, [Submission no 264 to the Senate Inquiry Into Institutional Care](#), 18 October 2003
- Prior, Tom, *A knockabout priest: the story of Father John Brosnan*, 1985
- Flanagan, Maureen, *Along the way*, 2002
- Hollander, Robyn and Margaret Jacobs, *Life lines, stories by women in the western suburbs of Melbourne*, 1985
- Turnbull, Margaret, [Submission no 111 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- *State wards call for help over abuse*, The Age, 16 April 1997
- [Heritage Display](#), MacKillop Family Services website, 2013
- Care Leavers Australia Network, [Geelong and District Orphanages](#), No date
- [St Catherine's Orphanage](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance*: See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to St Catherine's Orphanage
- [Leonie Sheedy interviewed by Daniel Connell in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 30 July 2010
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, [A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families](#), November 1999

## Records

---

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

### Records held by other organisations

- [MacKillop Family Services Records, Victorian institutions \(1857 - current\)](#)
- ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
- [St Catherine's School - Newtown - Examination Register, Inspector's Reports \(1913 - 1971\)](#)

---

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/st-catherines-orphanage/>