

# Sisters of the Good Samaritan

1866 –

**Other Names:** • The Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of Saint Benedict

**URL:** <http://www.goodsams.org.au/>

## Details

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The Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of Saint Benedict was established in 1866. They are more commonly known as the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Prior to 1866 the Sisters were called the Good Shepherd Sisters but their title was changed to avoid confusion with an older Order of the same name that had recently arrived in Australia. The Sisters of the Good Samaritan ran many children's homes around Sydney.

As their numbers grew, the Good Samaritans extended their work to education and visiting the sick and the poor. They devoted themselves to the care of orphans and neglected children at the Parramatta Roman Catholic Orphan School, at the Industrial School and Orphanage at Manly and later at Narellan, near Camden. Sisters taught at a number of denominational schools in Sydney, as well as country towns such as Wollongong, Windsor, Braidwood, Queanbeyan, Moruya and Campbelltown.

In 1901, the resumption of land for the construction of Central Railway Station saw the Order move to Toxteth House at Glebe, where St Scholastica's Convent was established as their new mother house. The work of the Good Samaritans has spread interstate and overseas, and their work continues to the present. Their undertakings include education, liturgical and retreat centres, hospital chaplaincy, parish ministry and ministry to the aged, the sick and the dying, to young migrants, the handicapped, prisoners, homeless young people, Aboriginal Australians and outback families.

## Gallery

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**The laundry building at St Magdalen's Retreat, Arncliffe, 1899**

**Description:** When the Sisters of the Good Samaritan owned Tempe House (which they renamed St Magdalen's Retreat) they operated a laundry on the site.



**Cleveland House [from Chalmers Street]**

**Description:** Photograph by Stewart Watters of Cleveland House

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**Cleveland House [from Bedford Street]**

**Description:** Photograph by Stewart Watters of Cleveland House.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Good Shepherd Sisters (1857 - 1866)
  - **Sisters of the Good Samaritan (1866 – )**

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Roman Catholic Orphan School \(8 March 1844 - 1886\)](#)  
Date: 1866 - 1886
- [House of the Good Shepherd \(1848 - 1901\)](#)
- [Manly Industrial School and Orphanage \(1881 - 1910\)](#)
- [St Magdalen's Retreat \(1887 - 1947\)](#)
- [St Magdalen's Refuge Buckingham Street \(1903 - 1936\)](#)
- [Mater Dei Orphanage \(1910 - 1957\)](#)
- [Balmain Industrial School \(1910 - 1924\)](#)
- [Good Samaritan Training Centre \(1948 - 1982\)](#)
- [Mater Dei School \(1957 - current\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Good Samaritan Sisters \(1866 - current\)](#)

### Resources

- Walsh, Margaret, *The Good Sams: The Sisters of the Good Samaritan, 1857-1969*, 2001
  - [Tempe House & St Magdalen's Chapel](#), State Heritage Inventory, 2018
  - [Good Samaritan, Sisters of the](#), St Bede's College Website, 1997
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