

Subiaco Boys' Orphanage

1872 – 1901

Other Names:

- St Vincent's Boys' Orphanage
- Subiaco Orphanage for Roman Catholic Boys

Details

Subiaco Boys' Orphanage for Roman Catholic boys was established by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Perth in 1872 and run by Benedictines (1872-1876) then the Sisters of Mercy (1876-1897), and the Christian Brothers (from 1897). In 1901 the orphanage moved to Manning and became known as Clontarf. The St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage was then established on the Subiaco site.

Subiaco Boys' Orphanage was established by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Perth, Matthew Gibney, on 13 February 1872 on the site of the Benedictine monastery in Subiaco. It was run by the Benedictines from 1872 to 1876. The 1897 annual report by the Superintendent of Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions says it was then run by the Sisters of Charity but this is incorrect. It was run by the Sisters of Mercy. On 22 November 1897 the Christian Brothers took control of the orphanage. In 1874, the orphanage had been gazetted under the Industrial Schools Act.

The first entries in the surviving admission register date from 1888 and record the admission of two boys, aged two and three years.

In 1901, the boys' orphanage moved to a new site in Manning and continued as Clontarf. The Sisters of Mercy then brought the girls from the Roman Catholic Girls' Orphanage in Victoria Square to live on the site, which became known as the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage.

Gallery



Subiaco Orphanage Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys

Description: 'Subiaco Orphanage Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys' is an image included (before p.23) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, etc.*, for the year ending 31 December 1900. This image shows a group of approximately 50 boys and several adults standing in front of two buildings. One of the buildings appears to be a church, and the other is a long three-storey building with enclosed upper verandahs. The boys are wearing a uniform of what looks to be dark jackets and pants, white shirts, and dark caps or brimmed hats.



Bishop Salvado and Subiaco

Description: 'Bishop Salvado and Subiaco' is a digital copy of an undated photograph from the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Archives and Heritage Centre. It shows a group of adults and children at the southern end of the Subiaco Boys' Orphanage. Dom Salvado was a Benedictine bishop. Benedictines ran the institution from 1872-1876 so the image may date from that time.



Early photo

Description: 'Early photo' is a digital copy of a photograph from the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Archives and Heritage Centre. It shows the Benedictine Monastery which became the Subiaco Boys' Orphanage (1872-1901) and then the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage (1901-1971). The image dates from 1859.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Benedictines, New Norcia \(c. 1846 - current\)](#)
The Benedictines who established New Norcia ran the Subiaco Boys' Orphanage from 1872 to 1876.
Date: 1872 - 1876
- [Sisters of Mercy, Perth Congregation \(1846 - 2011\)](#)
Date: 1876 - 1897
- [Australasian Province of the Christian Brothers \(1885 - 1953\)](#)
Date: 1897 - 1901

Related Events

- [Committee to Consider the Capitation Grant for Orphanages, Crown Colony of Western Australia \(29 March 1884 - 3 June 1884\)](#)
The cost of raising a child in the Catholic Boys' Orphanage was examined by a Committee in the Legislative Council.

Related Organisations

- [Clontarf \(8 September 1901 - 1983\)](#)
In 1901 the Christian Brothers moved from the Subiaco Boys' Orphanage to Clontarf.
Date: 1901 -
- [St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage \(1901 - 1971\)](#)
St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage was established on the site of the Subiaco Boys' Orphanage.
Date: 24 September 1901 - 1972

Resources

- McLay, Anne, [Women Out of Their Sphere: A History of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia](#), 1992
- Western Australia. Charities Department, *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools*, 1899 - 1907. *Relevance:* 1899, 1900
- Pushong, Lyn, *Heritage Trail: A journey through the history of MercyCare*, 2008. *Relevance:* p.8
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- [Report by the Superintendent of Poor Houses](#), 1882 - 1889. *Relevance:* 1883, 1884, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889
- *Reports upon the Roman Catholic Orphanages for the Year Ending 30th June 1884*, 1884
- *Annual Report of the Roman Catholic Orphanages for 1884-85*, 1885

- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [Catherine McAuley Centre](#), inHerit: our heritage places, 8 February 2015
- *Report by the Superintendent of Poor Relief*, 1890 - 1896. *Relevance*: 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Perth Archives \(1847 - 1991\)](#)
 - [Records of Christian Brothers Children's Institutions in Western Australia \(1888 - 1983\)](#)
 - [New Norcia Archives \(1846 - current\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
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