

# Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Perth Archives

1847 – 1991

**To access these records:**

Please contact the Archivist, ISMAPNG Archives and Heritage – Sydney.

Postal Address: PO Box 284 Petersham, NSW 2049

Email: [ismapngarchives@ismapng.org.au](mailto:ismapngarchives@ismapng.org.au)

Website: <https://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/archives-and-heritage/>

**Records Location**

These records are held by [Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Archives and Heritage Centre \(2012 - current\)](https://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/archives-and-heritage/)

## Details

Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Perth Archives is a collection of registers, records, photographs, artefacts and memorabilia relating to Benevolent Institution for Aboriginal Children, St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage, St Vincent's Foundling Home Subiaco, Subiaco Boys' Orphanage and St Joseph's Catholic Orphanage for Girls and Catherine McAuley Centre.

## Access Conditions

Access to records is restricted to protect the privacy of individuals, but you are very welcome to enquire. The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea encourages you to either contact them directly for access to personal records, or use one of the available Support Services.

## Records

Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Perth Archives' collection relates to Homes run by the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia including Benevolent Institution for Aboriginal Children, St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage, St Vincent's Foundling Home Subiaco, Subiaco Boys' Orphanage and St Joseph's Catholic Orphanage for Girls and Catherine McAuley Centre. There is also information about the primary school, St Joseph's Victoria Square, where some of the girls from the orphanage went to school.

The types of items held include photographs, memorabilia, artefacts, and records. The records include:

- Judgement Book 1847-? (lists Indigenous children's behavior that was tallied to give out school prizes)
- Receipt and Expenditure Registers 1847-? (lists expenditure for convent, school and orphanages including Benevolent Fund. Includes travel supplies for Indigenous girls)
- Admission registers for the years 1868-1928
- Case records from c.1960-1991
- Maintenance registers for 1901-1948 and 1958-1972
- Committal warrants from 1868-1951
- Baptism Certificates 1868-1972 (those for the 1950s are missing)

- Social security payments records 1960s (those for the 1970s are missing)
- Ailments register 1915

This collection is a combination of collections previously held by MercyCare Ltd, Mercy Heritage Centre, Perth and the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea in Perth. The collection is now held by the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea in Petersham, NSW.

## Gallery

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### St Joseph's Guard of Honour Kings Park

**Description:** 'St Joseph's Guard of Honour Kings Park' 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 girls and a sister from the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage awaiting a royal procession, which may have been a visit by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester (1934 and 1945).



### Guard of Honour Kings Park

**Description:** 'Guard of Honour Kings Park' 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 girls from the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage awaiting a royal procession, which may have been a visit by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester (1934 and 1945).



### Classroom

**Description:** 'Classroom' 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 students in the St. Maria Goretti School at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. The school is known to have been on site in 1953.



### Sing song

**Description:** 'Sing song' 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 girls gathered around a piano in the hall at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given, based on the girls' uniforms.



### Ballet lesson

**Description:** 'Ballet lesson' 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 girls in the hall at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given, based on the girls' pinafores.



### Dancing classes

**Description:** 'Dancing classes' 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 girls at a dress rehearsal in the hall at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given.



## Foundling Home

**Description:** 'Foundling Home' 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 young children and babies in front of the St Vincent's Foundling Home. An approximate date range of 1914 to 1950s has been given, based on the children's clothing.



## Gardening St Joseph's

**Description:** 'Gardening St Joseph's' 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 girls working in the garden at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given, based on the girls' pinafores.



## St Vincent's children

**Description:** 'St Vincent's children' 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 young children and babies in front of the St Vincent's Foundling Home. Also present are older girls, who would have been from the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. These older girls helped staff and sisters care for the children in St Vincent's. An approximate date range of 1914 to 1950s has been given, based on the children's clothing.



## 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.



## Subiaco Dormitory

**Description:** 'Subiaco Dormitory 2' 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 dormitory at the St Vincent's Foundling Home. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given, based on the style of the dolls on the beds. It is possible that the picture was taken when the dormitory was decorated for a special event.



## Back of St Joseph's main building

**Description:** 'Back of St Joseph's main building' 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 two girls on a see-saw and some sisters. An approximate date range of 1920 to 1960s has been given, based on the children's clothing.



### St Joseph's Front

**Description:** 'St Joseph's Front' 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. An approximate date range of 1930 to 1950s has been given, based on the car in the image.



### 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.



### Back area - colour

**Description:** 'Back area - colour' 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. According to information from the Mercy Heritage Centre, the St Maria Goretti classrooms were built in the lower area that is showing in the image. As it is a colour photograph, it is likely that the image dates from the 1940s or later.



### Orphanage dining room

**Description:** 'Orphanage dining room' 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 the dining room at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1901-1950s has been given, based on the furnishings.



### St Vincent's Foundling Home

**Description:** 'St Vincent's Foundling Home' 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. As it is a colour photograph, it is likely that the image dates from the 1940s or later.



### Dormitory, St Joseph's Girls Orphanage

**Description:** 'Dormitory, St Joseph's Girls Orphanage' 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 dormitory at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given, based on the style of the dolls on the beds. It is possible that the picture was taken when the dormitory was decorated for a special event.



### Girls' dormitory

**Description:** 'Girls' dormitory' 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 dormitory at the St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage. An approximate date range of 1920s to 1960s has been given, based on the style of the furniture.

## More info

# Organisations in these records

## Related Organisations

- [Sisters of Mercy, Perth Congregation \(1846 - 2011\)](#)
  - [Benevolent Institution for Aboriginal Children \(1847 - 1860?\)](#)
  - [St Joseph's Catholic Orphanage for Girls \(1868 - 1901\)](#)
  - [Subiaco Boys' Orphanage \(1872 - 1901\)](#)
  - [St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage \(1901 - 1971\)](#)
  - [St Vincent's Foundling Home \(1914 - 1971\)](#)
  - [Catherine McAuley Centre \(1971 - 1991\)](#)
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