

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH YOUNG N.S.W.



A guided tour of the Church and Parish from original texts and sources.

Updated June 2018

Our Mission is ...

“To serve in our community with hospitality and justice by celebrating our faith while inspiring integrity to the Gospel values.”

A History of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Young NSW

In late 1860-early 1861 a working bee of Catholic diggers erected east of the present flour mill, a temporary wooden church with bark roof which was known as ‘The Bark Chapel’. It was the first church in Lambing Flat. From June that year the name ‘Young’, after Governor Young, appeared in Parish Registers.

On June 15th Fr. H. Finnegan was appointed to Young and Grenfell Districts. He was Pastor of Young from 1871-1880.

In 1874 a building commenced on the new St Mary’s Church. The new church was blessed and opened by Bishop Lanigan in 1876.

The building built of granite, is cruciform, with a handsome spire over 108 feet in height from the base course. The side walls are 19 feet high, and the ridge of the roof about 42 feet from the ground. The interior of the building will measure from end to end 109 feet, 27 feet from side to side at the narrowest part, and 61 feet from side to side at the widest part. On each side there will be five double windows, with a triplicate window in each side gable. The footing course will be two feet wide, and every second stone of the foundation is a “througher” stone the full width, and between the througher stones two stones. On the top of the footing course the walls are to be of rubble, in 12-inch courses, and one and a half feet thick, with a througher stone every four feet. The buttresses well tied with long stones. On the top of the foundations, the outside walls will be 14-inch brickwork, the gables 18 inches, and the lower walls 2 feet thick. The whole of the brickwork is to be built of Flemish bond, and the bricks of the very best hard-burnt and of good colour. The spire is to be of 18, 14, and 9 inch brickwork. All the doors are to have steps 14 inches wide and 6 inches thick of cleaned, chiselled freestone. The gables, copings, buttress caps, sills, joints, arches of the windows are to be cemented in Portland cement.

In 1889 Fr. Jerome Hennessy took charge of the Parish at the age of 34. He was destined to make a tremendous impact on the church, whole town and district. He spent 44 years of his remaining 52 years at Young.

On Sunday 26th May 1907, the foundation stone was blessed and placed in position by Rev. Dr. Gallagher. The invited guests included the Mayor, Parliamentarians and Priests. They came from the surrounding areas as well as Sydney.

As the Parish of Young had grown so much; the requirement for extensions had become more pressing every year; but had been deferred to meet more pressing demands such as the Convent, the Presbytery, St Patrick's Hall and the purchase of the whole block from street to street.

This showed how much the town had grown.

2200 Pounds was required for the extensions to the church. The building was done in stone so that it was in harmony with the old building.

An addition of 80 feet of nave and sanctuary was added. In the original church the sanctuary had been at the eastern end, near the tower, and the entrance west, near the convent. But now the sanctuary was removed to the western end and a new sacristy and nuns' chapel built on either sides of it, and the church was extended to the east.

A contribution of 856 Pounds was contributed at the laying of the foundation stone towards the church's new extensions. Building was completed within 12 months.

The church was now 137ft.long, 72ft. wide in transept and 26ft in nave, 42ft in height from the floor to the ridge of the roof, and an imposing tower 75ft high.

The inside ceilings ornamental character was 10ft x 10ft squares of Richmond River pine panels, with the border division of the squares being of dark moulding which stands out in strong relief, with heavy cornice mould underneath.



A night photograph of the main altar and sanctuary during World Youth Day 2008.

The Stained Glass Windows in the Church.

1. The main window behind the present altar.

The top triptych section of the window depicts Mary, Crucifixion and St. John.

The bottom triptych depicts Annunciation, Ascension, and Nativity.



Below this window the inscription reads:

“This window was erected to commemorate 60th Anniversary of the ordination of the Right Rev. Mgr. Hennessy PPVF to the Priesthood as a token of esteem and affection from the Parishioners of Young and District. In which he has so long and faithfully laboured”. F.G. O’Brien Co. Pty/Ltd.

2. The northern window, Dundas St. side of the church.
St Joseph, Immaculate Conception, St. Bridget.
St Bridget is holding an Abbess' Staff, which is the same
as a Bishop's Staff.



The inscription on these windows read:

2.a. St Joseph.

*"In memory of Rev. H H. Finnegan. First pastor of Young.
1870."*

2.b. Immaculate Conception.

*"Erected by S.H. (Sacred Heart) Society. Jubilee of Immaculate
Conception Year."*

2.c. St Brigid.

"In grateful remembrance of Rev. W.M. McGrath 1880 RIP."

3. The Good Shepherd Window (under the tower).

This window was designed by Fr. Richard Thompson in 1986.
The sheep had to resemble local merino sheep.



4. St Dominic, St Catherine of Sienna.



The inscription on these windows read:
“The gift of W. M. Myers, in memory of his wife”.

4.a. St Dominic.

4.b. St Catherine of Sienna.

Mr W.M.Myers was from Tyagong. The price of this window in 1908 was 33 pounds 12 shillings.

5. St Anthony, Jesus as the Good Shepherd.



The inscription on these windows read:
“Erected by Mrs T Dwyer to the memory of her husband”

5.a. St Anthony.

5.b. Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

The Dwyers were from Moppity. The price of this window in 1908 was 33 pounds 12 shillings.

6. Sacred Heart, Margaret Mary.



The inscription on these windows read:
“Erected by the members of the Sacred Heart Society”

6.a. Sacred Heart.

6.b. Margaret Mary.

7. St Peter, St Paul.



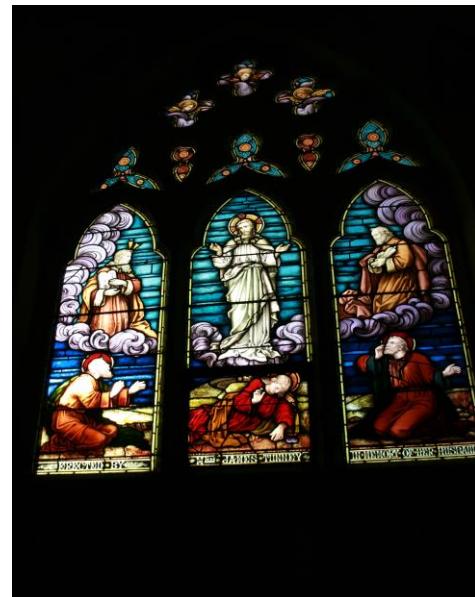
The inscription on these windows read:
“Erected my Mrs Robert Baker in memory of her husband”

7.a. St. Peter.

7.b. St. Paul.

The price of this window was 33 pounds 12 shillings.

8. The Transfiguration window located above the gallery.



The inscription on this window reads:

“Erected by Mrs James Tunney in memory of her husband”

The price of this window was 53 pounds 12 shillings.

9. Jesus and the Baptism of the children.



This rather modern window was donated to the church in 2001.

“Remember the Mullany Family”

This is a modern window donated in 2001. The Mullany family have been prominent members of the local community for over 50 years. Dr Michael Mullany was awarded the Order of Australia in 2008 and his wife Bernie is a prominent local artist. This window is dedicated to the families in Ireland and Australia. Some of the children are very involved in local rural industries.

10. The southern window (Ripon St) depicts Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque (foundress of the devotion to the Sacred Heart), the Sacred Heart and St Patrick.



The inscription on these windows reads:

10.a. “*Erected by Mrs Joseph Woodbridge (Crowther) in memory of her husband*”

10.b. Sacred Heart.

“*Erected by Fr. Hennessy in memory of his parents (P.P. at Young)*”.

10.c. St Patrick.

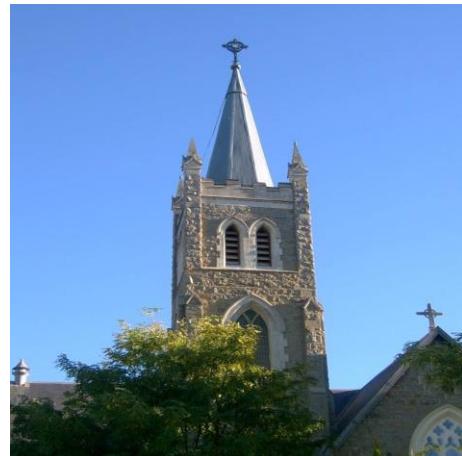
“*Erected by Mrs John Norton (Marengo). In memory of her husband & son.*”

Mr Norton was the gentleman that did the lovely timber ceiling in St Mary’s Church.

This window was placed in the church in approximately 1892. The cost of this window was 90 Pounds.

At the end of the Church opening ceremonies banquet, the church debt had been wiped out. The cost of the church’s first extensions and renovations was 3,007 pounds.

The tower and spire were added to the church as a present from parishioners for Monsignor Hennessy's Golden Jubilee on the 10th June 1931.



After the Second Vatican Council.

St Mary's major refurbishments were in 1963 and again in 1986. The marble Lectern, Altar and Baptismal Font are made from the original high altar and were part of the 1986 refurbishments. Mrs Jan Oxenham and Fr Kevin Flynn PP were primarily responsible for initiating and completing these renovations.



The Baptismal Font was placed in the church during the 1986 refurbishments.

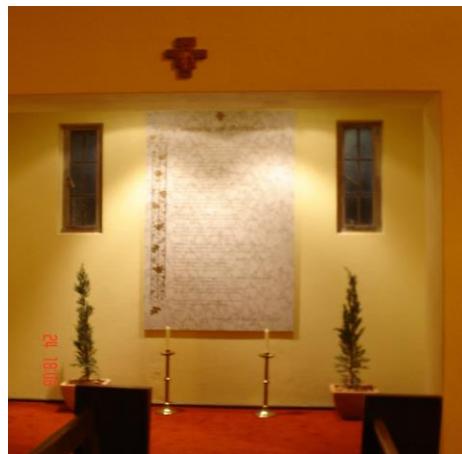


The shell is symbolic of carrying ‘living’ water. It is a practical and natural way of administering the sacrament. It is not man made, and neither is water nor the sacrament.

A time capsule was placed under the font during these renovations.

The Canticle of Brother Sun

This plaque is located in the prayer space of the Ripon St alcove.



St Francis of Assisi’s ‘Canticle of the Sun’ was placed in the church for the centenary of the original extensions to St Mary’s in 1907.

The significance of this Canticle is explained on the prayer cards that are available next to the plaque.

Please take one and remember our parish in your prayers.

This plaque was officially blessed and opened on the 24th May 2007 by Fr. Richard Thompson PP of Young.

Our Memorial Candle was placed in our church 2 November 2012. This is truly a very beautiful and unique piece of art. This was designed by Fr Richard Thompson. The grapevine was donated by Peter and Cath Mullany. This beautiful artwork was made by Stephen Cavanagh.



Chronological History of St Mary's Parish Young.

1860 First Mass celebrated in a large tent on the goldfields by Fr. McAlroy a travelling Priest from Yass.

Late 1860 early 1861 Working Bee to erect a temporary wooden Church with a bark roof-still known as “The Bark Chapel”.

1862 First Catholic School established in “The Bark Chapel”. The Schoolmistress, Mrs Callan, taught 49 pupils.

11/10/1863 Fr J Cooke opened a weatherboard church/school on the present site of St Mary’s Church.

1865 Parish of Young and Boorowa was separated from Yass with the Parish Priest, Fr Thomas O’Neill, residing at Boorowa.

1871 Young became an entirely separate Parish with Fr. H Finnegan as Parish Priest

1874 Building commenced on a new St Mary’s Church.

5/11/1876 St Mary’s Church opened by Bishop Lanigan.

7/7/1886 Five Presentation Sisters arrived in the Parish with Mother Mary Frances Hayes in charge. Fr. McGrath and his Curate had vacated the Presbytery and converted it into a Convent for them. On the Monday after the arrival of the Sisters, a remodelled school was opened with a roll call of 100.

1889 Fr Jerome Hennessy took charge of the Parish at the age of 34 and was destined to make a tremendous impact on, not only the Church, but also the whole town and district. He spent 44 of his remaining 52 years at Young.

1892 Presentation Sisters moved into a New Convent.

- 1894 Churches built at Koorawatha and Thuddungra.
- 1895 St Patrick's New school hall opened.
Fr. Hennessy transferred to Albury.
- 1903 Fr. Hennessy returns to Young, never to leave it again, until worn out by age and by ceaseless activity his weary body was laid to rest 38 years later under the shadow of St Mary's Church, which he loved so dearly.
- First Monteagle Church built.
- 26/5/1907 Memorial Stone of St Mary's Church blessed and placed in Church.
- 1907 St Vincent de Paul Society established.
- 1909 Sacred Heart Sisters arrive in Young and Wombat.
- 1910 Convent school at Wombat opened.
- 12/11/1911 Sacred Heart Hospital opened.
- 1914 Sisters of St. Joseph arrive in Wombat and Sisters of the Sacred Heart returned to Young.
- 14/5/1916 Girls Catholic High School opened.
- 1919 Boys Catholic High School opened
- 1920 Foundation Stone laid for Mt. St. Joseph's Home.
- 1923 Sisters of the Sacred Heart hand over management of the hospital to the Sisters of Mercy.
- 25/3/1925 Southern Cross Hall opened.
3 Christian Brothers arrive to take over the boys High School.
- 1/5/1927 Christian Brothers Monastery opened. Jack Hassall first pupil to sit for Leaving Certificate in 1928.
- 1930 Dean Hennessy appointed Domestic Prelate to the Pope and titled "Monsignor". He was honoured for his outstanding work to the Church.
- 10/6/1931 Public Holiday declared in Young to celebrate Monsignor Hennessy's Golden Jubilee (50 years a Priest). The Church spire and tower were erected to commemorate the event.
- 8/5/1934 St. Joseph's Infants School opened.
- 30/4/1941 Monsignor Hennessy died at Mt. St. Joseph's Home among the elderly people for whom he had done so much.
- 1946 Legion of Mary established.

27/3/1955 St. Mary's War Memorial Girls School opened and was claimed by the Young Witness of the day to be "an edifice years ahead of its, time and will remain for many years the structural showpiece of the Young district".

11/11/1957 A branch of the Catholic Women's League formed. St. Anne's Primary School opened.

24/6/1963 St Mary's Church enlarged and renovated.

1974 Triple 100 Year centenary of Young, Murringo and Wombat.

1978 Amalgamation Christian Brothers, St Mary's Primary, St Joseph's And St Anne's.

1986 Church refurbished and modernised.

1987 December Presentation Sisters Convent closed.

1988 Christian Brothers leave schools.

1990 Last Presentation Sister at St Mary's Primary School was St Marie Titterton who was the Principal.

1991 Presentation Sisters leave Young.

2000 St. Mary's Primary School moved to the north Young site of St. Anne's Primary School and both schools became known as St. Mary's Primary School.

Name changed to Hennessy Catholic College for students from Year 7 - Year 12.

2005 First "original" students from year 7 at Hennessy Catholic College graduate.

Current Parish Priest, Fr. Richard Thompson appointed 15th PP of Young.

24/5/07 Prayer space of St Francis' "Canticle of the Sun" blessed and opened by Fr. Richard Thompson.

26/5/07 Centenary Celebration of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the original extensions to the church.

Nov. 2007 Centenary Anniversary of the St Vincent De Paul Society in Young.

Dec 2007 Parish office removed from Presbytery and relocated to refurbished Parish and Administrative Centre in Campbell St. (the site of St Joseph's Infant's School whose Foundations were blessed 8 Dec 1933).

7 Jan 2008 Presbytery demolished to make way for playing fields at Hennessy College.

Jan 2008 Christian Brothers return to Young with Brother Christopher Peel as Principal of Hennessy College.

13 Jan 2008 New Parish Administration Offices opened.

Mar 2008 50 Years Anniversary Catholic Women's League celebrated.

7-20 Jul 2008 World Youth Day 08, Sydney. Australia visited by Pope Benedict XVI

9 Nov 2008 Blessing of Foundations of the new Presbytery in Dundas Street, formerly the family home of site benefactor Fr Lloyd Reynolds.

24 May 2009 New Presbytery blessed and opened by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Fr. Richard Thompson 15th Parish Priest of Young.

Jan 2010 Fr Samy arrives as Assistant Priest.

Jan 2011 Fr Samy leaves Young.

2011 Fr Joseph arrives as Assistant Priest.

2012 Fr Joseph leaves Young on sick leave and then to Gunghalin in 2013.

2 Nov 2012 Memorial Candles placed in our church. This was designed by Fr Richard Thompson. The Grapevine was donated by Peter and Cath Mullany. The art work was made by Stephen Cavanagh. This is truly a beautiful and unique piece of artwork.

2013 Sr Madeleine Lawrence (Catherine Leria Lawrence) RSM died 110 years of age at Young. Sr Madeleine was born 8 December 1902, died 16 June 2013. Sisters motto in religious life was "Thy Kingdom Come" Mt.6:10.

29 Dec 2013 Fr Richard Thompson leaves Young.

1 Jan 2014 Fr Tom Thornton arrives as Parish Priest.

8 Feb 2014 Fr Paul Nulley arrives as Assistant Priest.

22 Oct 2017 Joshua Scott our local Seminarian Diaconate was held at St Mary's Church, Young

26 Dec 2017 Fr Paul Nulley left Young

1 Jan 2017 Fr Pale Leota arrives at Young

19 Feb 2017 Brother Stan Madden (last of the Christian Brothers) leaves Young

13 Oct 2017 Fr Joshua Scott (Ordination to the Priesthood)

26 Dec 2017 Fr Pale Letoa left Young

08 Jan 2018 Fr Steve Astill arrives for 3 months in Young

1 April 2018 Fr Steve Astill leaves Young

2 – 12 Feb 2018 St Mary's Steeple and Spire was taken for repairs and replaced

1 April 2018 Fr Steve Astill leaves Young and not replaced



2 Nov 2012 Memorial Candle



The 2008 Dundas St main entrance to the Parish and Hennessy Catholic College. This entrance was built in front of the 1954-2007 presbytery site.



The new St. Mary's Presbytery in Dundas St was officially opened on 24 May 2009 by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Fr Richard Thompson PP.

About “The Canticle of Brother Sun”

In 1986 the universal church declared St Francis of Assisi Patron Saint of Ecologists.

The Canticle was written by St Francis in 1225-1226 and often sung by his friars

The first seven verses reflect and echo his great love for all living creatures and indeed all creation. In The Canticle he praises The Creator.

He added the eighth verse when a local political dispute was eventually resolved peacefully after his intervention. This verse reflects his prayer for peace.

The ninth verse was written on his deathbed in 1226. It reflects the Saint embracing Sister Death with confidence and courage.

The final verse was traditionally sung as a Blessing.

St Mary’s parish here in Young NSW, asks that you keep this prayer close and use it often. The plaque in the prayer space was consecrated on 24th May 2007, for the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of this church.

It reflects our desire to pray and work for the better care of our environment; for the Creator’s blessing upon all those, especially in our local area, who strive to make their living off the land; for peace in our world and for those suffering as a result of or facing death.

This translation from the original Italian comes from:

St Francis of Assisi: English Omnibus of the Sources for the Life of St Francis.

Edited by Marion A. Habig, Franciscan Press, Quincy Il., 1991 (Omnibus)

THE CANTICLE OF BROTHER SUN.

Most high, almighty, good Lord
Yours be the praise, the glory, the honour and every blessing;
To you alone, most high, do they belong
And no man is worthy to utter your name.

Be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures,
Especially Lord Brother Sun,

To whom we owe both day and light,
For he is beautiful, radiant and of great splendour;
Of you most high, he is the emblem.

Be praised, my Lord, through sister Moon and the Stars,
You have made them in the heaven, bright precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
Through cloud, clear skies and all other weather
By which you give your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, my Lord through Sister Water
So very useful, humble, precious and chaste.

Be praised, my Lord through Brother Fire,
By whom you enlighten the night;
He is beautiful, merry, robust and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister, Mother Earth,
Who sustains and looks after us,
Producing the different fruits, coloured flowers and the grass.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who pardon for thy love,
And bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are they who uphold peace;
By you, most high, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister, the Death of the Body;
From whom no living man escapes.
Woe to them who die in mortal sin,
But blessed are they who do your holiest will,
For them the second death shall never harm.

Praise and bless our Lord and give him thanks,
And serve him with great humility.

St Francis of Assisi (d.1226)

NOTES



The meaning behind the Parish Logo...

RISING SUN – Resurrection

WORDING AROUND THE SUN – Eucharist

CELTIC CROSS – Our Irish Heritage

BLUE "M" – Mary's Patronage

THREE HILLS – The Hilltops Region of South West
New South Wales

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