

Inspiration from Our Founders

Models of Christian Service



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object provides students with the historical background to the Catholic tradition in Australia. Catholic education flourished due to the perseverance of the religious orders present who answered the call to 'go forth on mission'. Their determination should be an inspiration to the students.

The multimedia element of this Object is an interactive slide show of 18 religious orders, chronologically arranged by the year of their foundation. Each of the religious orders represented here have contributed to Catholic education in Australia.

Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Living a Eucharistic Life' section of the DVD Rom *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* to deepen their understanding of: the call to 'go forth' and live the mission of the Gospel in our daily lives; how we are called to live our Catholic and Christian faith; and the meaning of the Eucharist in our lives.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

The first Catholics to reside in Australia arrived with the First Fleet in 1788. They were mostly Irish convicts, together with a few marines.

It was not until 1800 that the first priests arrived in the colony, as convicts! One of these, James Dixon, was granted conditional emancipation and permission to say Mass for the Catholics of Sydney, Liverpool and Parramatta on successive Sundays, a practice that continued from 1803 until March 1804, when the Castle Hill rebellion so alarmed Governor King that he withdrew Dixon's privileges. Dixon soon after returned to Ireland, and Mass was not legally celebrated again in the colony until Fathers John Joseph Therry and Philip Connolly, chaplains appointed by the Government in London, arrived in 1820. Their arrival can be regarded as the formal establishment of the Catholic Church in Australia.



Supporting Content

At least two Catholic schools were established in the early years of the nineteenth century but neither survived very long, and it was not until after the arrival of Therry and Connolly in 1820 that significant development took place. By 1833, there were about ten Catholic schools in the country. From this time until the end of the 1860s, Catholic schools received some government assistance under a variety of schemes, but campaigns for 'free, secular and compulsory' education had begun in the 1850s and it became increasingly clear that Catholic schools would not be able to rely on government aid for much longer.

Between 1872 and 1893, every State passed an Education Act removing state aid to Church schools. This was a turning point for Catholic schools and, indeed, for the Catholic community in Australia. Bishops and people decided to persevere with the Catholic system. With no money to pay teachers, the Bishops appealed to religious orders in Ireland and other European countries, and soon religious sisters and brothers were responding to the crisis.

There were already a few religious orders in Australia: as well as the Sisters of Charity, there were also, among others, the Good Samaritan Sisters, founded by Polding in 1857, and the Sisters of St Joseph, founded in 1866 by Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop, now recognised as Australia's first saint. By 1871, these 'Josephites' were running thirty-five schools in the Adelaide diocese. By 1880, there were a total of 815 sisters from all orders teaching in schools; by 1910 the number exceeded 5000.

The sisters not only set up schools in the cities but also established little parish schools all over Australia, providing a Catholic education for the children of the bush. Their efforts, with almost no money and in the face of considerable hardship, were nothing short of heroic. The largest of the male teaching orders, the Christian Brothers, had 115 brothers teaching in thirty schools by 1900. Under the influence of the religious orders, Catholic schools not only survived but flourished; the sisters and brothers were to be the mainstay of the schools for a hundred years.

TIMELINE OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS

1205

Dominican Sisters of Australia, The Federation of (OP)

There are four autonomous congregations of Dominican Sisters of Australia. Founded by St Dominic in 1206 at Prouille France. Introduced to Australia by



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Bishop James Murray (foundress was Mother M Agnes Bourke) in 1867 in the Diocese of Maitland, NSW, from Ireland.

www.opeast.org.au

1540

Jesuits - The Society of Jesus (SJ)

Founded by St Ignatius Loyola in 1540 at Rome, Italy; introduced to Australia by Fr Aloysius Kranewitter in 1848 in the Diocese of Adelaide from Austria.

www.jesuit.org.au

1609

Loreto Sisters - Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM)

Founded by Mary Ward in 1609 at St Omer Flanders; introduced to Australia by Mother Gonzaga Barry in 1875 in the Diocese of Ballarat, from Ireland

www.loreto.org.au

1680

De La Salle Brothers – Brothers of the Christian Schools (FSC)

Founded by St John Baptist De La Salle in 1680 at Rheims France; introduced to Australia by Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney. The Brothers commenced their apostolate in Armidale in 1906.

www.delasalle.org.au

1696

Sisters of St Paul of Chartres (SPC)

Founded in 1696 by Fr Chauvet, Parish Priest of Levesville-la-Chenard in France; introduced to Australia, from Hong Kong by Fr P Chang in the Diocese of Wollongong NSW under the patronage of Bishop William E Murray, and in 1989 to the Archdiocese of Brisbane by Archbishop Francis Rush. In 1999, introduced to Archdiocese of Melbourne by Archbishop George Pell.

www.srspcaustralia.org.au

1775

Presentation Sisters - Society of Australian Congregations of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM)

Founded by Honora (Nano) Nagle in 1775 at Cork, Ireland.

www.pbvm.org.au



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1800

Religious of the Sacred Heart - Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ)

Founded by St Madeleine Sophie Barat in 1800 in France; introduced to Australia in 1882, in the Diocese of Sydney, from England.

www.rscj-anz.org

1802

Christian Brothers - Congregation of Christian Brothers (CFC)

Founded by Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice in 1802 at Waterford Ireland; introduced to Australia by Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy at the invitation of Archbishop Goold in 1868 in the Diocese of Melbourne Vic, from Ireland.

www.edmundrice.org

1807

Brigidines - Sisters of St Brigid (CSB)

Founded by Bishop Daniel Delany, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Ireland, in 1807 at Tullow Co Carlow, Ireland; introduced to Australia by Mother John Synan at the invitation of Bishop Murray of Maitland, in 1883 from Mountrath, Co Laois Ireland.

www.brigidine.org.au

1815

Sisters of Charity - Congregation of the Religious Sisters of Charity of Australia (RSC)

Founded by Mother Mary Aikenhead in 1815 in Dublin, Ireland; introduced to Australia (Archdiocese of Sydney) by five Sisters from Dublin in 1838.

1816

Oblates - Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary (OMI)

Founded by Eugene De Mazenod in 1816 at Aix, France; brought to Australia from Ireland in 1894 by Bishop Matthew Gibney of Perth, to serve in his diocese.

www.oblates.com.au

1817

Marist Brothers - Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS)

Founded by Saint Marcellin Champagnat in 1817 at Lavalla France; introduced to Australia by Brothers Ludovic Laboureyas, Jarlath Finand, Augustinus McDonald and Peter Tennyson in 1872 in the Diocese of Sydney,

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from St Genis Laval, France

www.maristmelb.org.au

1820

FCJ Sisters - Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ)

Founded by Venerable Marie Madeleine de Bonnault d'Houet in 1820 at Amiens France; introduced to Australia by Mother Mary John Daly at Richmond in 1882 in the Diocese of Melbourne, from England.

www.fcjsisters.org/aa

1831

Sisters of Mercy - Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia (RSM)

Founded by Catherine McAuley in 1831 at Dublin Ireland; introduced to Australia by Mother Ursula Frayne in 1846. Foundations continued to be made from overseas until 1888.

www.mercy.org.au

1832

Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition (SJA)

Founded by St Emilie de Vialar in 1832 at Gaillac France; introduced to Australia by Bishop Serra OSB, from Motherhouse Marseilles France, in 1855 in Perth (Fremantle) WA.

www.stjoseph-apparition.org.au

1857

Good Samaritan Sisters - Institute of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict (SGS)

Founded by Most Rev John Bede Polding OSB in 1857 at Sydney.

www.goodsams.org.au

1863

Sion Sisters - Our Lady of Sion Sisters (NDS)

Founded by Fr Theodore Ratisbonne in 1863 at Paris France; introduced to Australia by Bishop Corbett in 1890 in the Diocese of Sale, from Paris.

www.sion.org.au

1872

Sisters of St Joseph - The Australian/New Zealand Federation of Sisters of St Joseph (RSJ)

Founded by Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop (Australia's first

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Saint) in 1872. The Australian-New Zealand Federation was established in 1968. It consists of five autonomous congregations.

www.sosj.org.au

1874

OLSH Sisters - Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (FDNSC)

Founded by Jules Chevalier MSC, in 1874 at Issoudun France; introduced to Australia by Sisters Paul Perdrix, Xavier Ryan, Madeleine Masselin, Claire Dessailly, and Martha Douillard on January 31, 1885, in the Diocese of Sydney, from Issoudun France.

www.olshaustralia.org

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

Select one or more of the following activities for students to complete.

- 1 **If possible, invite a member of the founding congregation or religious order to speak with the class. Consult other resources, such as the founding congregation or religious order website.**
Investigate the story of your founding congregation or religious order. Explain their charism or spirit.
- 2 **Conduct the following research task:**
Research the story of your school's founder or foundress. What motivated them to establish your school?
- 3 **Conduct the following research task:**
Create a digital 'Hall of Fame' for persons who have made significant contribution to continuing the mission and vision of your school's founder.
- 4 **Invite students to reflect on their call to follow in the footsteps of the founder.**
What are the ways in which you carry out the mission and vision of your school?
- 5 **Invite the students to prepare a prayer service which gives thanks for the founder and their answer to God's call. Include the prayer that each student may listen to what God is calling them to and that they may have the courage to respond generously as their founder did.**

Teacher Professional Development Resources

[The Journey of the Catholic Church in Australia](#)