

Holy Cross School Miramar

There were originally two schools on this site: Marist Miramar and Holy Cross Miramar.

The classrooms that now house the Senior Block made up the school known as: Marist Miramar, established in 1937. This school was run by the Marist Brothers for boys, from Years 5-8. In 1941 Brothers moved to Athens St.)

The founder of the Marist Brothers was Marcellin Champagnat.

In the area at the end of Miramar Avenue past the current school hall was Holy Cross School. This school, established in 1932, was run by the Mercy Sisters; a school for girls, Years 1-8, and boys Years 1-4.

Two Sisters of Mercy, Sisters Norbert and Rosalie pioneered Holy Cross School, commencing teaching in St Columban's Hall from 1930 until the school on the Miramar Ave was officially opened in 1932. Many Sisters, and from 1962, lay teachers, followed the original Sisters; they worked with tremendous spirit and dedication, enduring hardships and frustrations along the way but always they kept the needs of the children to the fore.

See attached: *The Growth and Development of Holy Cross Miramar*

The founder of the Mercy Sisters, was Catherine McAuley.

In 1983 the two schools, Marist Miramar and Holy Cross Miramar amalgamated and became Marist Holy Cross. In 1989 the school became known as Holy Cross.

Over the years as the buildings aged little money was available for modernisation and so staff and students endured, at times, a challenging environment. However, it would be true to say, the original pioneering spirit has been evident throughout the history of Holy Cross School. Key people, including Principals, Board and Parent representatives, and Parish Priests have continued to drive changes.

Building Developments: In the late 1990s the school community raised money and built the Paul Reddish Hall, situated on Miramar Avenue. In 2002 the school modernization programme began. This started with the remodelling of the Senior Block (Rooms 1-5) and was followed by the building of the Middle Block (Rooms 6,7,8). Rooms 11 and 12 were moved on site from another school and Rooms 9 and 10 (pre-fabricated classrooms) were modernised at the same time. Another pre fab building that was on the school site was used as the shell for the new library. The pre fab was split in half and a new section constructed down the middle. The school worked with the CSBL to ensure the library provided what we needed- this meant some of the work was carried out by the school.

Finally, in 2009 the new administration block was completed; this necessitated the sale and removal of Brennan House (the previous administration block). Money from the sale of this house is to be used to support the construction of storage sheds to house the PE equipment and caretaker's equipment. This is on-going.

In 2014 the school's application to become a 'Bikes in Schools' school was successful and Holy Cross became one of three Wellington schools to introduce this programme. The Wellington City Council covered the cost of grounds development, to install three tracks: a perimeter track and skills track

and a pump track They also provided 55 new bikes and a storage container. The track was Blessed by Cardinal John Dew and opened by the Mayor of Wellington , Celia Wade –Brown on 30 March 2015. The school remains committed to utilising this amazing resource.

NOTE: The supporting poles of the old adventure playground which was taken down to make way for the cycle track were reused by classes to create the beautiful cultural pou that feature so prominently on the path leading to the Hall.

An ability to ‘think outside the square’ combined with a commitment of the school and parish communities to provide the best we can for our students has always been a feature of Holy Cross School.

Te Rotokura -Administration Block

History behind this name: the first Maori to occupy Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour and area) lived on the island of Motukairangi, now Miramar Peninsula. Within the island there was a lagoon, this area was drained in 1840 and later became a racecourse, reputedly NZ’s first. The lagoon was known as Te Rotokura (translation of this is: the red lake- and this was because of the red coloured reeds on the lagoon but for our school this is also significant because the word kura when used as a verb means to be educated and when used as a noun is school. So it is very fitting that this name has been chosen for our school’s newest building- Te Rotokura Administration Block- It recognises the history of the land as well as the purpose of the school.

2017 Pou Maori

In 2017 each class completed a series of tiles, connected with our local Maori history or linked to Pope Francis’ invitation, ‘Care for our common Home’. The pou were unveiled and blessed by Henare Walmsley who helped to guide the process from design to completion. The pathway has been named: Te Ara Tapuwae Rau- The Pathway of a Thousand Steps.

Toilet Block Upgrade 2017

In 2017 the school’s cleaner’s facility and toilet block was fully upgraded to include warm water and hand driers. These changes were greatly appreciated by the students!

2018 Music Room

At the end of 2017 the school was advised that a bequest had been made by a local Miramar resident, Richard Lewin Horsham, to support the ongoing development of music and the arts at Holy Cross School. This wonderful display of generosity prompted the decision to turn the school’s ‘computer suite’ into a dedicated music room. The combination of funding from the Catholic Archdiocese and a donation from Stone Street Studios (prompted by another Miramar resident and supporter of the school, Ken Masters) resulted in the development of this wonderful space.

2019 Junior Block

On Monday 21 October the upgrade of Rooms 11 and 12 and the associated Resource Room were completed. The staff are delighted with this spacious learning area, the calming colour scheme and cabinetry. The manifestations on the sliding doors were designed in consultation with whānau. The

symbol was drawn by one of our students and reflects our motto, 'Let Your Light Shine'.

School Principals

Sister Theresa Hanratty 1983 - 1998

Jacqui Dromgool 1998 -2006

Celeste Hastings 2006- 2021

Board Chairs-

Derek Fussell- first chairperson of BOT for HCS – 1989- 1991

Bruce O'Connor- Chairperson- 1991- 1995

Gerardine Parkinson 1995 – 1998

Peter Hayes- 1998 -2004

Geoff Burt 2004- 2005

Ian Taylor 2006- 2012

Martin Paget 2012 - 2016

Brendon Baker 2017 -

The Founders of the Orders Associated with Holy Cross School

SISTERS OF MERCY: Catherine McAuley 1778- 1783 [Mercy Website](#)



Catherine McAuley was born in **Dublin, Ireland**, in September, 1778 to a prosperous Catholic family. Though her father, **James McGauley**, died in 1783 when Catherine was just **five years old**, **his compassion for the poor, especially children and families who lived nearby, was a lifelong example for his eldest daughter.**

Fifteen years after her father's death, Catherine was orphaned in 1798 and chose to live in the home of relatives, some of whom were non-Catholic and had little tolerance for her pious practices. In 1803 Catherine was invited to live in the home **of William and Catherine Callaghan** as a **companion to Mrs. Callaghan**. The Callaghans were childless and upon Mr. Callaghan's death in 1822, Catherine inherited their fortune: about £25,000, their estate, "furniture and plate."



In 1824, Catherine used her inheritance to **lease property** on Baggot Street, a fashionable neighborhood in Dublin, for the

purpose of building a large house for religious, educational and social services for women and children. Other women, intrigued by the house and the work for which it was intended, were attracted to Catherine and began to join her preparations for the ministry she planned.

On September 24, 1827, the Feast of our Lady of Mercy, the first residents came to live in the house they called the House of Mercy in honor of the day and two years later the Chapel was dedicated. Between late 1829 and 1830, after prayerful deliberation and consultation, Catherine and her associates agree to found a new religious congregation. Though this was not her original intention, Catherine began the founding of a new religious congregation of women dedicated to service to the poor.

Catherine and two of her associates entered the Convent of the Presentation Sisters in Dublin on Sept. 8, 1830, to begin formal preparation for founding the Sisters of Mercy. Fifteen months later the trio pronounced vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and to persevere until death in "the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy." Thus the new community was founded on Dec. 12, 1831.

Catherine lived only ten years as a Sister of Mercy but in that time she established nine additional autonomous foundations in Ireland and England, and two branch houses near Dublin. When she died in 1841 there were 150 Sisters of Mercy. Shortly thereafter, small groups of sisters left Ireland at the invitation of bishops in Newfoundland, New Zealand, the United States, Argentina and Australia.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas now serve in North, Central and South America; the Caribbean; Guam and the Philippines, with more than approximately 4,000 sisters responding faithfully to the needs of the poor in these countries.

St Marcellin Champagnat 1789-1840



Feast Day June 6

Introduction

St Marcellin Champagnat founded our worldwide community of Brothers. He followed his calling from God with the simple and ordinary Christian faith in his heart together with hard work. His passion and love of God at once drove and comforted him throughout his life, while allowing him to live surrounded by those who loved him and all they had built together.

Early life

The son of French peasants, Marcellin was born in the village of Le Rosey near the city of Lyons in 1789. It was the year of the storming of the Bastille, the start of the French Revolution. The following decades were extremely difficult for the French. It was with this background of religious, political, economic and social unrest that heavily influenced the path to foundation of a religious order and Sainthood that Marcellin's life led to.

Marcellin was a typical illiterate French peasant when as a young boy a visiting priest suggested that he might like to train for the Catholic priesthood. The family had little means to send their son to the seminary but they were as determined as the young Marcellin and before long he set out on his path. Marcellin found the early years of his studies towards the priesthood extremely difficult. He was no natural scholar but through sheer will and hard work combined with prayer and the never failing support of his mother and aunt he was finally ordained as a priest in 1816.

During his studies Marcellin and a group of other seminarians had discussed forming a religious order under the patronage of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This dream was realised in the church of Our Lady of Fourvières above Lyons, the day after their ordination. The group of young men together dedicated themselves to Mary as "The Society of Mary"

The beginnings of Marcellin's dream

Marcellin's first and, as it turned out, only appointment as assistant priest was to the remote rural community of La Valla, not far from his home. Marcellin's personal charisma and sincerity led him to become popular and respected by this parishioners.

France had been at war almost continuously for 26 years and public education in rural areas had collapsed. This background of no schools or education system lead Marcellin into a life

changing event. One day, a young man of the parish called him to the seventeen-year-old boy, Jean-Baptiste Montagne, who was dying. What affected Marcellin so profoundly about this meeting was that Jean-Baptiste had never learned the most basic elements of the Christian faith. To Marcellin, the death of Jean-Baptiste at only 17 and in almost complete ignorance of the Christian faith was a tragedy. He decided he must act to ensure others did not suffer the same fate. This event, more than any other, set Marcellin on the path which would lead him to found the Brothers.

In January 1817 Marcellin bought a simple house in La Valla and recruited two young men, Jean-Marie Granjon and Jean-Baptiste Audras. Like him, these young men were from peasant stock and together they formed the first community. The three of them came from humble backgrounds and were used to simple living and hard work. They carried this attitude into their new community, praying often and from their example others came to join them. In 1818 Marcellin opened the first Marist school whose timetable he designed in such a way to fit the farming needs of his parishioners (such as allowing children off school to help in the fields at planting and harvesting time). His fees for the school he set at a level he knew most rural families could meet. In fact, if he knew the family was unable to afford anything the tuition was free.

Marcellin and his community helped to support themselves and their school by doing what came naturally to them, they worked hard. The community carried out light manufacturing together such as forging nails which they sold. These efforts and living simply helped to pay for providing schools to the poorest.

FROM FRANCE TO THE WORLD: Over the next 20 years Marcellin's recruits continued to increase in number and they first took the name of *Brothers of Mary* which eventually became *Petits Frères de Marie* or Little Brothers of Mary. (When they were officially approved by the Church they were given the name *Fratres Maristae a Scolis* having the initials FMS which which you find after Brothers' names). To accommodate his growing congregation Marcellin began one of his greatest achievements: the building of a great stone house on a bare piece of land which would become the Hermitage. This first motherhouse of the Marist Brothers was largely designed and built by Marcellin.

By the time Marcellin died on June 6 1840, the order had 48 establishments in France and 278 Brothers. Today there are 5,100 Brothers working in over 80 countries. From small beginnings Marcellin's dream grew and its influence spread to every continent in the world. It has reached to millions of students and their families, who proudly proclaim themselves 'Marists' or 'Marist old boys'.

One of the proudest moments for the Brothers and Lay-Marists came in April 1999 when Marcellin was made a Saint (canonised) by Pope John Paul II. For this major event a special logo was chosen.

THE CANONISATION LOGO: The Logo that was chosen for the Canonisation of Marcellin consists of three interwoven symbols.

The letter "M" at the centre has been a special Marist symbol from the early days, suggesting Mary, Marcellin, Marist and Mission. Planet Earth symbolises a mission to the entire world, every country and every diocese without boundaries. The essential spiritual dimension of the mission is suggested by the halo which encircles and completes the image.

Read more about the life of Marcellin Champagnat at <http://www.champagnat.org/>

'Leave the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love and the future to His providence'.
St Augustine