

TRIPLE C ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, CONVENT AND CHAPEL



WHY WE LOVE IT

STYLE AND GRACE: Australasia's finest examples of church architecture.

Christchurch City's skyline has long been graced with the majestic dome of the Roman Catholic Basilica casting its shadow on neighbouring, and equally grand convent chapel, and buildings – sites of Catholic worship, education and community.

LANDMARKS IN LEARNING: The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions order established themselves in Christchurch in 1868 to provide education. They introduced the Montessori teaching system to New Zealand in 1925.

STYLE GURUS

The large **Convent Building** was designed by notable New Zealand architect F. W. Petre and opened in June 1882. Petre was also the architect of the neighbouring **Roman Catholic Basilica**, which was constructed from 1899 to 1905.

The Byzantine Revival style **Convent Chapel** was built in 1907 to a design by the architectural firm of Seager, Wood and Munnings and is the only known example of this style of church architecture in New Zealand.

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

In 1857 Father Petitjean, a Marist Priest, along with a group of mainly Irish Catholics requested land from the Provincial Government for a church, school and presbytery. Land in Barbadoes Street was granted in 1868 by the Crown. The Catholic community purchased more land bringing the total to just over nine acres.

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

SHAKY BEGINNINGS: In 1860 the first chapel on the site was pre-fabricated and carted to the site by horse and dray.

CHALLENGES

In 1993 the convent buildings were saved from demolition and are now used as a Music Centre for the City.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz>