

Appendix 6: St Joseph's Church – Darfield

SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

St Joseph's Catholic Church

ADDRESS

1981 Telegraph Road, Darfield

PHOTOGRAPH



(D McEwan, October 2017)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

~~n/a~~ H166 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Pt RS 25014

SDC FILE NUMBER

2418028700A

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1936-37

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

HF Willis, architect; J & W Jamieson, builders

STYLE

Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Gothic Revival style church with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Gabled entrance porch on north-east elevation is north of square-plan crenelated tower; apsidal chapels flank sanctuary at south-east end. Buttresses, paired cusped lancet arched window openings with decorative foils. Crosses atop gable ends and Moderne style strapwork on tower and framing entry. Lancet moulding at top of walls and above windows. Large, traceried windows at north-west and south-east ends with stepped bases.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Plastered concrete incised to resemble blockwork with slate roof, Oamaru stone window surrounds, and leadlight windows.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Post-EQ repair and repainting (post-2012).

SETTING

St Joseph's is located on the south-west side of Telegraph Road, south of its intersection with Cardale Street. The former convent and convent school are located to the east, on the other side of Telegraph Road. A low perimeter wall with lancet relief motifs borders the property, which also includes a cemetery and Parish Centre to the north-west of the church. The scheduled setting is that portion of the land parcel on which the church, ~~Parish Centre, and cemetery are~~ is located. The setting also includes the former site of the presbytery, which was demolished post-EQ, in view of the archaeological values that may be present.

HISTORY

Darfield's Catholic Church of the Holy Angels (built 1880) burnt down in January 1936 and tenders for its replacement were called in April of the same year. The foundation stone of the new church was laid in October 1936 by Bishop Brodie of Christchurch. The Bishop returned to Darfield to consecrate the new church on 27 June 1937. The first wedding celebrated in St Joseph's was that of Nancy O'Sullivan and MJ Corrigan in late October 1937. Today St Joseph's is part of the Catholic Parish of ~~Hornby/Darfield~~Selwyn.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Joseph's has historical and social significance for its association with Catholic worship in the district since 1880 and the commitment of the church's congregation to rebuild their church, at a cost of c.£4000, at a time when the effects of the Great Depression were still being felt.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Joseph's has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship and the focus of the Catholic way of life since 1937.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

St Joseph's has architectural significance as the work of noted Christchurch architect H Francis Willis (1893-1972). Willis worked for the Christchurch City Council in the early 1920s and then formed a partnership with his former council colleague Charles Dawe (1924-28). Thereafter Willis ran his own practice, which is best known for the design of New Regent Street (1932). Francis Willis designed a number of other Catholic churches, including St Teresa's in Riccarton (1929) and the neighbouring presbytery (1933), and was a specialist in theatre design. Echoes of the Art Deco and Moderne styles that he favoured in his commercial and residential work can be seen in the strapwork on the tower and entrance porch of St Joseph's.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

St Joseph's has technological and craftsmanship significance for its concrete construction and integrated decorative elements. Samuel Jamieson (c.1813/1821-92) established one of Christchurch's most successful construction companies in 1864. The firm was later taken over by his sons James and William. J & W Jamieson also built 'Otahuna' homestead (H314, 1894-95), the Catholic Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (1901-5) and the Government Buildings in Cathedral Square (1909-13).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Joseph's has contextual significance as a local landmark, which is associated with the former convent and convent school that are located at 47 and 45 Cardale Street respectively. Together the three buildings form a Catholic precinct that is acknowledged by local residents.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the church post-dates 1900, the site of St Joseph's has potential archaeological significance as it has been in church use since 1880.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Joseph's Catholic Church has overall heritage significance to Darfield and Selwyn district. The church has historical and social significance for its association with the Catholic community of Darfield and cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship and communion since 1937. St Joseph's has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival

style church designed by noted Christchurch architect Francis Willis and technological and craftsmanship significance for its concrete construction and integrated decorative mouldings by leading builders J & W Jamieson of Christchurch. St Joseph's has contextual significance as a local landmark and the site of St Joseph's has potential archaeological significance in view of the development of this property by the Catholic church since the late 19th century.

REFERENCES

- *Press* 26 September 1929, p. 4; 3 March 1933, p. 5; 20 January 1936, p. 10; 13 April 1936, p. 19; 14 October 1936, p. 3; 28 June 1937, pp. 3, 14; 29 October 1937, p. 3; 19 July 1940, p. 3.
- *Horowhenua Chronicle* 20 January 1936, p. 3.
- *The Record* 10 July 2013, pp. 1 & 7.
- *Globe* 4 November 1880, p. 3.
- <https://chchcatholic.nz/location/hornby-darfield-st-josephs-church-darfield/>
- '10. Pavilions, temples & four square walls – Christchurch pump houses and substations' *The Architectural Heritage of Christchurch* Christchurch.
- <http://www.0800wepaint.co.nz/projects.html>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/4975>

REPORT COMPLETED

4 June 2018

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19 October 2021**

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PEER REVIEWED

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REVIEWER

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Extent of scheduling, St Joseph's Catholic Church, 1981 Telegraph Road, Darfield.



Land parcel as a whole.



'Consecration of Roman Catholic Church at Darfield' *Auckland Weekly News* 7 July 1937, p. 58. AWNS-19370707-58-1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.