

St Joseph's Orphanage, Goulburn

1864 – 1975

Other Names:

- St Joseph's Girls' Home
- Kenmore Girls' Orphanage

Details

St Joseph's Orphanage, Goulburn, was run by the Sisters of Mercy from 1864. It was located at the corner of Clinton and Bourke Streets, Goulburn from 1880 until 1905, when the children were moved to a new site in Kenmore. It provided care for girls aged 5 to 16 years. In 1976 the Home amalgamated with St John's Home, and the children were moved to two cottages and to St John's Home. St John's Home closed in 1984 and the cottages closed in 1987.

St Joseph's Orphanage, Kenmore, became an approved institution to receive child migrants from Britain, however it does not appear to have any received any. The Lost Innocents Report (2001) noted that there was no evidence of child migrants being sent to St Joseph's.

In 2019, the former orphanage at Kenmore was known as Liminis House. A former resident of the orphanage visited the site in 2015 and described what it was like:

Memories came flooding back as I walked down these now quiet and lonely hallways and it was I who ended up being the tour guide [for the new owners], describing the many aspects of our daily lives when I lived here as a child.

As I stood in the entry hallway I could still see myself kneeling down with a toothbrush in hand, scrubbing the intricate parquet tiles before having to operate the monstrous polisher that was twice my size, being ever so careful as it would throw you around the room like a rag doll while trying to operate it.

Gallery



St Joseph's Orphanage (Goulburn)

Description: This image was included in the article 'Council shows faith in church subdivision bid' in the *Goulburn Post* on 29 August 2007.

More info

Chronology

- **St Joseph's Orphanage, Goulburn (1864 – 1975)**
 - St John's Home, Auburn Street Goulburn (1976 - 1987)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn Congregation \(1859 - 12 December 2011\)](#)
Date: 1864 - 1975

Related Organisations

- [Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service \(1994 - current\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds copies of records relating to St Joseph's at Goulburn.
- [St John's Home, Goulburn \(1905 - 1978\)](#)
In 1976 St Joseph's Orphanage amalgamated with St John's Home

Resources

- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- [The Cry of the Children: Mr P McGarry Introduces a Deputation: The Chief Secretary's Sympathetic Words](#), Freeman's Journal, 25 November 1915
- Thistleton, John, [Parishioners angered by school sale](#), Canberra Times, 24 September 2013
- Littlehawk, Josephine, [A Forgotten Australian's scrapbook](#), Inside: Life in Children's Homes and Institutions blog, 2011
- Armitage, Catherine, [Royal Commission: Survivors flee hearing in tears](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 9 December 2013
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [Admission Registers, St Joseph's Orphanage, Goulburn \(1940 - 1963\)](#)
 - [Notifications of Reception, St Josephs' Orphanage, Goulburn \(1917 - 1959\)](#)
 - [Notices of Reception, Discharge, Death or Admission to Hospital of a Child \(1970 - 1977\)](#)
 - [Notifications of Discharge, St Joseph's Orphanage, Goulburn \(1923 - 1969\)](#)
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