

# St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay

1907 – 1960s

**Other Names:**

- Junior Boys Home of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart Incorporated
- Largs Bay Orphanage
- St Joseph's Junior Boy's Home

## Details

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St Joseph's Orphanage at Largs Bay, formerly St Joseph's Sanatorium, opened in 1907. Run by the Sisters of St Joseph it took in infants and school age children. From 1941 it accommodated only boys aged 3 to 12. Girls were sent to St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Goodwood and older boys to St John's Boystown, Brooklyn Park. During the 1960s the Home became known as St Joseph's Junior Boys Home.

The St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay, formerly known as St Joseph's Sanatorium, was the second orphanage to be managed by the Sisters of St Joseph in South Australia. The original St Joseph's Sanatorium moved from Kalgoorlie Street in Largs Bay to larger premises on the Esplanade near the Largs Bay jetty in 1906. Although the Sanatorium continued for a time to accommodate women in the new premises, the Sisters began to concentrate on its role as an orphanage for boys and girls from infancy to school leaving age. In 1907 the then Archbishop of Adelaide, Archbishop O'Reily, established the Home as St Joseph's Orphanage.

Along with 'homeless children and orphans' St Joseph's Orphanage also took in children of more than 3 years of age from the St Joseph's Refuge whose mothers chose to stay at the Refuge.

By 1908 the large building was becoming overcrowded so a cottage on an adjoining lot was purchased. In 1910 62 children were being cared for in the orphanage and by 1912 the Sisters were running out of room for the numbers of children being referred to them. Over the next few years additions were made to the building, including a schoolroom in 1912 and a kitchen, laundry and new wing in 1917.

In 1941, after the arrival of Archbishop Matthew Beovich in Adelaide, the focus of the Orphanage changed. The Archbishop arranged for all the older boys from the orphanages at Goodwood and Largs Bay to be placed at Brooklyn Park under the care of the Brothers of St John the Baptist and later the Salesians of Don Bosco. All girls were moved to the St Vincent de Paul orphanage and St Joseph's took charge of boys aged between three and twelve.

During the 1960s the home became known as St Joseph's Junior Boys Home.

## Gallery



## St. Joseph's Orphanage

**Description:** This is a photograph taken at the opening of a new wing at St. Joseph's Orphanage, Largs Bay, in 1917. The image shows a crowd gathered around a large two-storey brick building decorated with flags, with some spectators standing on the roof of a portion of the building. Two inset images further show the extent of the crowd. This image was published in the *Chronicle* on 25 November 1917. The caption published alongside the image reads: "On Sunday last His Grace the Archbishop (Right Rev. Dr. Spence) opened the new wing of St. Joseph's Orphanage at large Bay. The man picture gives a general view of the new building. The top inset shows the head of the procession, and the bottom one, the Children of St. Mary and portion of the spectators."



## Largs Bay Orphanage

**Description:** This image was included in the Finding Your Own Way guide, Section 2. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

# More info

## Chronology

- St Joseph's Sanatorium, Largs Bay (1903 - 1907?)
  - **St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay (1907 – 1960s)**
    - St Joseph's Junior Boys' Home (1960s - 1969)
    - St Joseph's Children's Home (1969 - 1980)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart \(1866 - current\)](#)

### Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [St John the Baptist Home for Boys \(1898 - 1941\)](#)

In 1941 St John the Baptist Home for Boys took boys aged 12 years of age or older, while younger boys were sent to the St Joseph's Orphanage at Largs Bay or to the St Vincent de Paul Orphanage at Goodwood.
- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage \(1866 - 1975\)](#)

From 1941 all girls at St Joseph's Orphanage, Largs Bay, were sent to St Vincent de Paul Orphanage at Goodwood.  
Date: 1941 - 1969
- [St John's Boys Town \(1941 - 1954\)](#)

From 1941 older boys from St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay were placed at St John's Boys Town, Brooklyn Park.
- [St Joseph's Refuge \(1868 - c. 2001\)](#)

Children over the age of three years who had been staying with mothers accommodated at St Joseph's Refuge at Fullarton were placed in the St Joseph's Orphanage at Largs Bay.  
Date: 1903? - 1969?

### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

## Resources

- Foale, Marie Therese, *Think of the Ravens: The Sisters of St Joseph in Social Welfare*, 2001
- 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

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

### Records

- [Records of St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay, Professional Standards Office Records Service of the Catholic Church \(1903 - 1980\)](#)
  - [Records held by the Sisters of St Joseph Archives, Adelaide \(1866? - current\)](#)
  - [Photographs, St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay \(1903? - 1980?\)](#)
  - [Former Residents' Folders, Catholic Children's Homes \(1900s - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/st-josephs-orphanage-largs-bay/>