

# St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Prahran

1854 – 1857

**Other Names:** • Prahran Asylum

## Details

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The St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Prahran was established in 1854 by Father Gerald Ward under the auspices of the St Vincent de Paul Society. It was located off the High Holborn Road, later known as High Street, Prahran. The Orphanage provided temporary accommodation for a small number of Catholic children who were orphaned, or considered abandoned, destitute or neglected. The St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Prahran closed in 1857, when the St Vincent de Paul Orphanage in Emerald Hill opened.

Legal News in *The Age* from 8 October 1855 includes a description of the Orphanage by Father Ward:

*...comprising three houses, with a garden attached...a respectable person, of mature age, acts as matron, and is assisted by two female servants. There are five female children and a large number of boys now in the institution...They are sent to the Catholic Denominational School at Prahran, near by. The intention is to apprentice the boys, and to put out the girls respectably in the world when old enough to earn their living.*

## More info

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### Chronology

- **St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Prahran (1854 – 1857)**
  - St Vincent de Paul Orphanage (1857 - 1874)
    - St Vincent de Paul Girls' Orphanage (1874 - 1962)
      - St Vincent de Paul Children's Home (1962 - 1992)
        - St Vincent de Paul Child and Family Services (1992 - 1997)
          - MacKillop Family Services (1997 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [St Vincent de Paul Society \(1854 - current\)](#)

## Resources

- Barnard, Jill and Twigg, Karen,  *Holding on to Hope: a history of the founding agencies of MacKillop Family Services 1854-1997*, 2004
  - Barnard, Jill, "[A Secure Safeguard of the Children's Morals": Catholic Child Welfare in Nineteenth-Century Victoria](#)", *Provenance*, September 2005
  - Armit, Michael, [One Hundred Years Ago it Was Very, Very Different: New Era for Our Orphans](#), *The Argus: Supplement: The Argus Weekender*, 11 December 1954
  - [Heritage Display](#), MacKillop Family Services website, 2013
  - [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage/Home \(1854-1997\)](#), *Finding Records*, No date
  - [St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage](#), *Advocate*, 23 May 1929
  - 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
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