

Lovat Chapel

**First St. Augustine's Church, Yass;
a brief history with a description of
the historic stained-glass windows.**

180th Anniversary 2018



HISTORIC PRECINCT OF ST. AUGUSTINE, YASS, NSW

Lovat Chapel (foreground) - St. Augustine's 1956 Church (background) - former convent (right).

gs_aerial_imaging@yahoo.com



Australian Bicentenary plaque commemorating the 1988 restoration.

Lovat Chapel

First St. Augustine's Church, Yass; a brief history with a description of the historic stained-glass windows.

St. Augustine's foundation stone was laid in 1838 by Bishop Polding. This booklet celebrates the consecration of the church 180 years ago and its new life that commemorates Fr. Charles Joseph Lovat P.P. (later Dean Lovat), who served the community from 1839 to 1849, and in honour of whom the church was renamed the Lovat Chapel on 28 August 2013.

Acknowledgements

The editors are grateful for information copied from
'Memories of Yass Mission' 1988 by Rev. Fr. Brian Maher.

Further information may be found online:

<http://yass.cathzone.com/history>



Lovat Chapel

First St. Augustine's Church, Yass; a brief history with a description of the historic stained-glass windows.

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

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AERIAL VIEW OF HISTORIC CHURCHES OF ST. AUGUSTINE, YASS, NSW

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Why St. Augustine's?

On 24 August 1838, Bishop Bede Polding arrived in Yass with three priests. He officiated in the service of the following Sunday, and on Monday [27 August] blessed the foundation stone for the Church of St. Augustine. The event was said to be the first of its kind in this part of the Queen's Domain.

When Fathers Lovat, Brennan and Fitzpatrick were about to prepare the site for the ceremony they found it was occupied by a tribe of Aborigines as a camp site. The priests had to be very diplomatic to induce Jacky King, an Aboriginal elder, to vacate the ground; fortunately Jacky King did this peacefully.

Later, on 4 October, Bishop Polding wrote to Dr. Thomas Heptinstall, his cousin and confrere in England:

"I went to Yass on horseback, 190 miles, in 5 days, resting one at Goulburn (same horse). Here I laid the foundation stone of the Church of St. Augustine on his feast day".

Controversially, Cardinal Moran claimed the ceremony took place on 28 August, "the feast of St. Augustine of Hippo" but others claimed he was in error and that the date was 26 May, feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury. However, Polding's letter is dated 4 October [1838] and any Goulburn interpretation is false; there is no St. Augustine's there.

Nevertheless, unlike the actual date of the discovery of Yass, which has never been resolved, Fr Brian Maher author of 'Memories of Yass Mission' considered it reasonable that the ceremony took place on Monday, 27 August, 1838. Coincidentally, this is the feast day of St. Monica, St. Augustine's mother. Bishop Polding's intention seems clear, he wished the church to be named for St. Augustine.

The Catholic Church in Yass.

Diana MacQuillan © Yass & District Historical Society's Journal
'Boongaroon' 12 September 2012

The first Catholic priest to come to Yass was Father John Joseph Therry in 1833. He was the first official Catholic priest appointed to the Colony of New South Wales, along with Father Philip Conolly, who went immediately to Van Diemen's Land. Father Therry celebrated Mass at the home of Cornelius O'Brien, at Cooma Cottage and at several other places in the area, the owners of whom were not Catholic but who had Catholic workers; Hume, Davis and Manton being the main ones.

Archbishop Bede Polding arrived in Australia in 1835 and from that time on, he was very anxious to establish churches outside the metropolitan area. In 1837 a letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Surveyor-General, dated 10 August 1837, stated – 'Dr Polding, having stated in his letter of 16th ult., that a Subscription of between £200 and £300 from 80 landholders, had been raised for building a Roman Catholic Chapel at Yass. I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to request that you will communicate with Mr Henry O'Brien on the subject and fix upon and report on the site.' On 31 March 1838 a site in Meehan Street, containing two acres for a church, presbytery and school was fixed upon and surveyed by Assistant Surveyor, Thomas Townsend.

Henry O'Brien, Cornelius O'Brien and William Hampden Dutton became Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church at Yass. Lots 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Section 17 were allocated to them in 1837. In 1846 lots 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were purchased.



Shortly after this, according to an article written in *The Australian* of Friday 21 September 1838, Archbishop Polding arrived in Yass, on the 24th ult., (August) accompanied by three clergymen. On the Sunday following, the Bishop officiated here and on Monday he blessed and laid the foundation stone of a Church at Yass, the first thing of the kind ever before performed in this part of the Queen's dominion. Two of the Rev. Gentlemen (Brennan and Fitzpatrick) are now stationed in these districts, from whose labours the best results may be expected.

On 11 September 1838, Archbishop Polding consecrated a piece of ground for Roman Catholic burials, which was where Thomas Laidlaw and his wife were subsequently buried, with other unidentified people.

At the same time a subscription had been entered into for the erection of a Protestant Church at Yass and hopes were entertained of it being soon commenced upon.

The census of 1841 for the Yass district gives a total population of 1293 persons, of whom 481 were Catholics. Prior to the completion of the Church, Mass was celebrated on alternate Sundays in the old Court House, which was located behind the present one.

The foundation stone, whose whereabouts is now unknown, used to have pride of place near the crucifix at the left hand side of the Church. I remember it well. *The Australian Chronicle* reports that tenders were called on 15 November 1842. Dr Lang, the celebrated Presbyterian minister reported on his 1843 journey that St Augustine's was 'the only church in the Murrumbidgee district', and it is certain that it was completed by 1844, when Archbishop Polding returned to bless it.

Father Charles Lovat (1799-1858) arrived in December 1839 and he is considered the first permanent Pastor and it was he who undertook the building of the Church, which was then the only Catholic Church between Campbelltown and Melbourne. It was only a small structure. However in 1857, under the hands of Father P

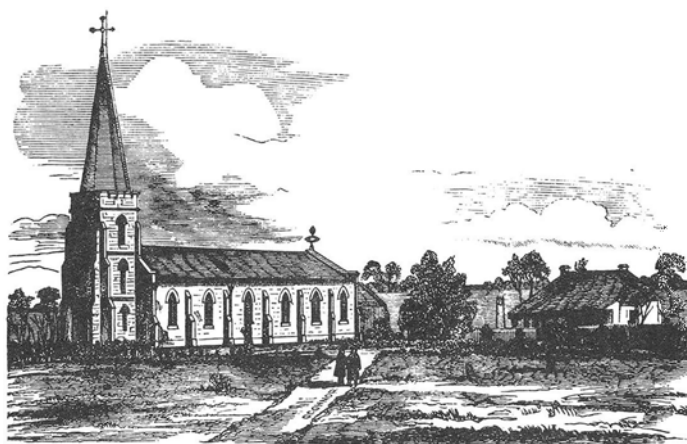
Bermingham and Father M McAlroy, the Church was thoroughly renovated and enlarged by the addition of 37 feet. A massive and beautiful tower and also a chancel were added. St Augustine's was now in height 20 feet, width 26 feet and in length, including the chancel, 90 feet (7x8x27.5m). It was built of stone on the outside and inside. The ceiling was of polished cedar. A Harmonium was placed in the gallery, which was also of polished cedar. No expense was spared to make St Augustine's the most beautiful church outside the Metropolis. The congregation was about 1000. It was blessed by Father McAlroy on 9 September 1859 and again consecrated by Archbishop Polding in July 1860.

Again in 1888 a further renovation was begun under Rev. Dean Patrick O'Keeffe and the church was closed for twelve months, Mass being held in the girls' school. This time walls were raised several feet and there was replacement of the shingles by slates. A vestry chancel and convent chapel were added. Stained glass windows behind the altar were donated by the widow of Henry O'Brien. In October 1888 a fine Sicilian Marble altar, made up in Cork city was installed. On 20 January 1889 these alterations were opened by Bishop Lanigan of Goulburn. Finally in 1890 the church tower was extended by 14 feet (4.3m).

As the congregation grew, Bishop Guilford Young decided that a new church was needed, so land on the opposite side of Meehan Street was obtained and Archbishop Eris O'Brien blessed the foundation stone on 11 April

1954. The new church was opened on 29 April 1956 and St Augustine's Chapel, as it was now designated, was handed over to the nuns for their chapel. Nevertheless, the parish still continued to use the chapel during the week for Mass and the parishoners also asked to hold weddings and funerals in it occasionally. St Augustine's Presbytery is also a building of great significance. It was probably begun as early as 1838 or 1839 by Fr Fitzpatrick. It was a building of four rooms, and in 1844 was described as 'a very pretty dwelling'.

A major renovation of the house was begun in 1890 by Dean O'Keeffe. A wing was added and modifications to the rear portion were made. The famous architect, Edmund Blacket had earlier drawn up and supervised an additional room, dating to 1881. He was the Church of England Diocesan architect, Goulburn. It is more than possible that the Yass Presbytery is one of the oldest houses in NSW that was built for a specific purpose and has been used for that purpose ever since.



St Augustine's Church and Presbytery, Yass.

Sketch by Dr Morgan O'Connor 1861

(Fr Lovat completed the presbytery (right) and first stage of the church early in his tenure 1839 -1849)



The sanctuary window was the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Sadleir O'Brien, who had it erected in memory of her late lamented husband, Mr. Henry O'Brien. This window represents the Crucifixion in the centre light, with the Blessed Virgin on the right, and St. John on the left light.

Detailed report of the fiftieth anniversary blessing ceremony performed by Right Rev. Dr. Lanigan, Bishop of Goulburn, assisted by Very Rev. Dean O'Keeffe, on Sunday 20 January 1889, upon the enlargement of the church and ornamenting of the interior. The first stage of the church had been completed by Fr. Charles Lovat in 1844 and other enlargements took place between 1850 and 1890.

IMPOSING CEREMONY AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S, YASS RICH GIFTS FROM PARISHIONERS

***Freeman's Journal* (Sydney. NSW: 1850 - 1932)**

Saturday 2 February 1889

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article115383236>

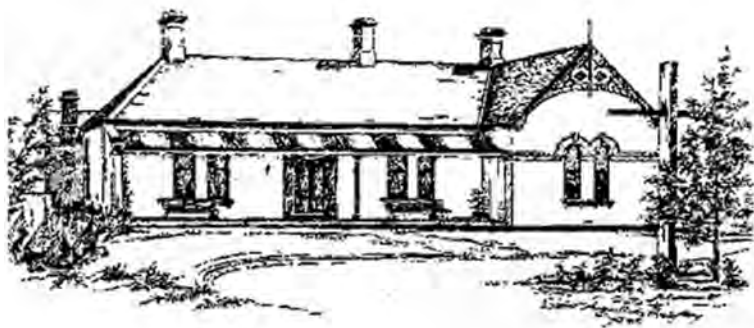
The ceremony of blessing and opening St. Augustine's Church, Yass, in its enlarged and beautified form, was marked by an elaborateness and impressiveness unprecedented in Yass. The work of enlarging the sacred edifice and ornamenting the interior was commenced in February of last year; the contract having been given by the Very Rev. Dean O'Keeffe to Mr. J. O'Brien, of Goulburn for the erection of the brickwork of the vestry, chancel, and convent chapel, while the other works, such as, plastering and cementing, were carried out under separate contracts, the whole work being finished under the watchful and vigilant eye of the Dean. The congregation that assembled to witness the opening ceremonies, included visitors from Burrowa, Jugiong, Bookham, Binalong, Ginninderra, Gundaroo, Gunning, Yeumbra, and other parts of the district, numbering in all six hundred, not a few non-Catholics also attending. The ceremony of blessing the church was performed by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lanigan, Bishop of Goulburn, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean O' Keeffe and the two Passionist Fathers who had gone up to Yass from Sydney to conduct a fortnight's Mission in celebration of the event. In the imposing procession incidental to the blessing the members of the local A.H.C. Guild and Hibernian Society, the boys of the school and the acolyte took part. The Mass which followed was celebrated by the pastor, the music being supplied by a special choir formed of the Sisters of Mercy belonging to the adjoining convent. Father Patrick of the Passionists eloquently preached the sermon, in which he paid a high compliment to the Very Rev. Dean O'Keeffe, for his zeal and exertions in

having had finished to perfection such a beautiful church. The pastor then made his “financial statement.” Irrespective of the interior embellishments, such as the beautiful windows, the altar decorations, the chandeliers, and the Stations of the Cross, the expenditure on the edifice had been £1286, and the receipts from all sources £937, leaving the debt now on the church £349. After a few congratulatory and encouraging words from his Lordship the Bishop, a collection headed by the bishop’s own donation of £10 was made, with the result that nearly £200 was subscribed. The interior fittings and decorations claim most attention. First there is the high altar, a most beautiful and costly structure of Sicilian marble executed to the special order of Dean O’Keeffe whilst in Ireland, at the firm of Messrs. Daly and Co., in Cork. Then there are the new stained glass windows, all gems of art. The sanctuary window is the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Sadleir O’Brien, who has had it erected in memory of her late lamented husband, Mr. Henry O’Brien. This window represents the Crucifixion in the centre light, with the Blessed Virgin on the right, and St. John on the left light. On the gospel side of the altar the first window was erected by Mr. M. Coen and Mrs. Coen, and has the figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. The second window with the figures of St. Patrick and St. Bridget was erected by the children of St. Joseph’s school;

the third window erected by Mr. Paul Kearns and Mrs. Kearns, bears the figures of Sts. Cecilia and Catherine; the fourth window by Mr. W. J. Grogan and Mrs. Grogan has the figures of Sts. John and Stephen; the fifth window, bearing the figure of the Annunciation, was erected by Mrs. Mary Roche, of Blakney Creek, and Mr. P. J. Moore, of Yass, to the memory of Patrick and Anastasia and Maurice Moore. The sixth window, which was erected by the congregation and friends as a tribute to the Rev. Dean O’Keeffe, V.F., [*Vicar Forane*] the present esteemed pastor of the Yass parish, bears the figures of Sts. Ambrose and Jerome; the seventh window represents the Angelic salutation. On the epistle side the first window has the figure of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and was erected by the children of the Sacred Heart school. The second window bears the figures of Sts. Peter and Paul, and was erected in memory of Patrick Roche and Mary Roche, by Mr. John Roche, Miss Kate Roche, Mr. Laurence Roche, Mrs. Garry (Mylora), and Mrs. J. J. Ward (Royal Hotel), Yass. The third window was erected by the Society of Prayer, and on it are the figures of Sts. Dominic and Francis [of] Assisi. The fourth window was erected by Mr. William Dawes and Mrs. Dawes, and on one light is the figure of the Redeemer and on the other St. Thomas. The fifth window bears the figures of Sts. Clara and Theresa, and

was erected by Mrs. Ryan in memory of her husband, Mr. Jeremiah Murray, and of her son Mr. Jeremiah Bede Murray; the sixth window has the figures of Sts Bartholmew and John the Baptist, and was erected by Miss Maria Roche, of Bowning, in memory of her uncle, the Rev. J. R. Roche; the seventh window, and the last one in the body of the church, bears two beautiful figures of the Redeemer. In the vestry there is also a handsome window erected by Mr. Stephen Malloy, in memory of Thomas and Ann Malloy. In the sanctuary, at either side of the high altar, are altars of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin, the decorations on which are in entire keeping with the other embellishments. The handsome Stations of the Cross beautify the walls on the space between the windows, and they are the gifts of Messrs. M. Coen, P. Emerson, J. Collins, Denis Malloney, Inspector Brennan, E. McReynolds (in memory

of Martin Doyle), Miss Malone, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. P. Johnson, Mrs. M. Gately, Mrs. Phillips, and Mrs. Rolfe. The other ornaments are a full set of altar candle sticks, elaborately chased, the gift of Mrs. Julian of Bookham. A rich Roman sanctuary lamp, illuminated with ruby glass, is the gift of Mrs. Coen; three handsome chandeliers for the centre of the church, the gift of Mrs. Rooney and family; the altar lamps and benediction candlesticks, and other requirements of the richest design, presented by Mesdames Woodland, Dallieux, Rooney, and lady friend, Wheeler, Egan, Batty, Comins, Cassidy, O'Brien, Callaghan, Sunderland, Payne, Goodall, Kelly (Limestone), Ryan, Frazer (Tumut), Misses Maloney, Dolan (Limestone), Walshe, Comins, and Messrs. J. Duffy, E. Duffy, Featherstone and Heydon (Coppabella); a valuable and costly carpet, the gift of Mrs. James Gallagher of Bango Creek.



Presbytery, St Augustine's, Yass NSW

Priests Who Have Served Yass

Rev. Fr. John Joseph Therry	1833	Rev. Fr. J. B. McDonnell	1909,1911
Rev. Fr. Michael Brennan	1838	Rev. Fr. W. J. Dwyer	1911-12
Rev. Fr. John Fitzpatrick	1838	Rev. Fr. P. Treacy	1911-14
Transferred to Goulburn, Penrith, Melbourne		Rev. Fr. Peter Mulligan	1912
Rev. Fr. Charles Lovat, PP	1839-48	Rev. Fr. P. J. Moloney	1913
Rev. Fr. Patrick Magennis, PP	1849-57	Rev. Fr. J. Galvin	1914-17
Rev. Fr. Michael McAlroy, PP	1857-61	Rev. Fr. J. Carragher	1918
Transferred to Goulburn (June)		Rev. Fr. G. J. Bartley	1920-25
Rev. Fr. Patrick Bermingham	1857-61	Rev. Fr. M. Bugler	1926-28
Transferred to Carlow		Rev. Fr. Austin H. O'Connor	1927-28
Rev. Fr. James Hanley, PP	1861-68	Rev. Fr. Thomas Tarpey	1928
Transferred to Sydney		Rev. Fr. John Twomey	1929-32
Rev. Fr. Thomas O'Neill	1861-68	Rev. Fr. C. J. Whyte	1933
Rev. Fr. Henry Garrett	1863	Rev. Fr. Charles Gleeson	1935-36
Rev. Fr. P. O'Connel	1864	Rev. Fr. Thomas Moore	1935 & 45
Rev. Fr. Richard Duigan, PP	1868-70	Rev. Fr. Dominic F. Egan	1936-39
(d.26 June) Buried in Convent Garden		Rev. Fr. J. McCusker	1938
Rev. Fr. William O'Brien	1868	Rev. Fr. Jeremiah Downey	1939
Rev. Fr. Henry Finnegan	1870-71	Rev. Fr. Lawrence Gallagher	1939-40
Rev. Fr. P. Dunne	1870	Rev. Fr. Timothy O'Donoghue	1940-45
Rev. Fr. Patrick J. O'Keeffe, PP	1871-1906	Rev. Fr. Morgan O'Connor	1942
Rev. Fr. Ed McCarty	1871-72	Rev. Fr. William O'Shea	1945-47
Rev. Fr. M.J. Coffey	1872	Rev. Fr. Francis Casey	1945
Rev. Fr. L. Keating	1872	Rev. Fr. Bede McPhillips	1946-48
Rev. Fr. P. F. Maloney	1872	Rev. Fr. Cecil Patterson	1947-55
Rev. Fr. John Gallagher	1872-74	Bishop Guilford Young, PP	1948-54
Transferred to SPC Goulburn		Rev. Fr. L.C. McKenna	1949-50
Rev. Fr. A. T. O'Dwyer	1873-78	Rev. Fr. Parker Moloney	1951-55
Rev. Fr. R. J. Carr	1878-80	Rev. Fr. Henry Byrne	1954
Rev. Fr. T. Hanley	1880-81	Rev. Fr. Michael Casey, PP	1954-69
Rev. Fr. A. T. O'Dwyer	1881-82	Rev. Fr. Joseph Staunton	1958-61
Rev. Fr. Richard Kiely	1885-86	Rev. Fr. John Butz	1960-63
Rev. Fr. P. McCabe	1891-93	Rev. Fr. Val. M. Moroney	1963-66
Rev. Fr. P. F. Hanrahan	1893-96	Rev. Fr. Albert Havas	1966-67
Rev. Fr. R.T. Daly	1897	Rev. Fr. Daniel Greene	1969-70
Rev. Fr. F. Clune	1900	Rev. Fr. Terence Pigram	1969-73
Rev. Fr. Thos. Mullins	1900-02	Rev. Fr. Dermot O'Hurley, PP	1970-81
Rev. Fr. M.J. Crowe	1901	Rev. Fr. Denis Nickle	1973-76
Rev. Fr. E. J. Laide	1901&04	Rev. Fr. Brian Hassett	1979
Rev. Fr. T.D. Cleary	1901-03	Rev. Fr. Philip Buckley, PP (81-87)	1979-87
Rev. Fr. James Kennedy	1905-06	Rev. Fr. William Crahan, PP	1988-02
Rev. Fr. Alphonsus Coen	1905-06&11	Rev. Fr. Laurie Bent, PP	2002-08
Rev. Fr. James P. O'Reilly	1905-09	Rev. Fr. Mick Burke, PP	2008-
Rev. Fr. John F. Leonard, PP	1906-48		
(d.17 June). Buried Yass Cemetery			



DEAN PATRICK O'KEEFFE O.S.F.

(Pastor of Yass 1871-1906)

Dean Patrick Francis Capistran O'Keeffe was born at Trim, County Meath, Ireland in 1837. He joined the Franciscan Friars in 1859 receiving the name *John Capistran**. Though he studied in Rome he was forced to return to Ireland by ill-health being ordained in Ireland in 1864. He was Superior of Friaries at Athlone and Carrick-on-Suir. He was recruited at Waterford by Bishop Lanigan, who was on a visit to Ireland at the time of the First Vatican Council in Rome 1869-70.

Patrick O'Keeffe came to Goulburn Diocese in 1870 probably only intending to stay for a limited period, but he was formally incardinated to the diocese in 1879. However he retained some legal and spiritual link to the Franciscans; for he had to send a copy of his will in 1888 to their Minister-General. After short periods at Burrowa, Deniliquin and other places he went to Yass where he was appointed pastor in 1871 and Dean in 1882.

When the Sisters of Mercy came in 1875 to Yass he vacated his presbytery for them until their convent was built in December 1877. His name became widely known when he opened a school for Aborigines, who had been rejected from the public school in 1882. He exercised great zeal but also wisdom in the cause of Catholic education.

As pastor of Yass for nearly 35 years he left his mark upon the people. His district included the areas of Gundaroo and Ginninderra, parts of which are now within the Australian Capital Territory. He took leave in 1906 for a trip home to Ireland but did not return, probably because of failing health. Dean O'Keeffe died during a visit to Rome about Christmas 1915.

With thanks to Rev. Brian Maher,
"Memories of Yass Mission"
ISBN 0 949807 59 1

* Saint John of Capestrano was a Franciscan friar and Catholic priest from the Italian town of Capestrano, Abruzzo.



Master and pupils outside the Boys' School c. 1880 (later Fr O'Keeffe's Aboriginal School)

Memories of Yass Mission. Fr Brian Maher



Church of St Augustine - interior 1920s

Memories of Yass Mission. Fr Brian Maher

Taylor Pipe Organ



The newly rebuilt pipe organ in the gallery of the Lovat Chapel, was installed in May 2018 by Trevor Bunning architect and organ builder of Nicholls ACT. It was originally built in 1912 by *avant garde* organ builder Frederick Taylor of Melbourne for the Ashfield Methodist Church in NSW. It is purportedly the only unaltered example of Taylor's manufacture in NSW. St. Augustine's Parish is very grateful to Trevor for installing the organ and allowing St Augustine's to have it on permanent loan.



Pray for Michael & Margaret Coen

SOUTH EAST

[South East or left side facing the altar]

Gospel side 1:

Window with the figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph was erected by Mr. M. Coen and Mrs. Coen.

COEN: On 5 December 1863, Michael Coen, aged 20, arrived in NSW on the ship "Hotspur". He was the son of Timothy and Mary Coen of Clunemare near Tuam Co. Galway. He became a shopkeeper at Dubbo and in 1869 he married Margaret M McLaughlin at Hartley. She died in 1877. Widowed he then married Margaret Trainer in Dubbo about 1878 and moved to Goulburn, then to Yass; where he set up shopkeeping. In time he became a local household word with his "Australian Stores". He was a town alderman and was Mayor three times, introduced gas lighting to the town and promoted the tram line to Yass Junction.

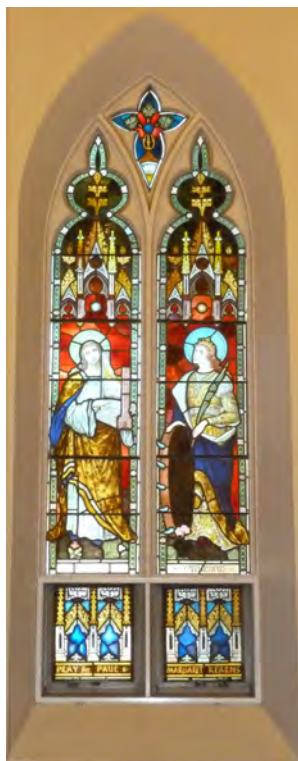


Pray for St Joseph's School

SOUTH EAST

Gospel side 2:

Window with the figures of St. Patrick and St. Brigid was erected by the children of St. Joseph's School.



Pray for Paul & Margaret Kearns

SOUTH EAST

Gospel side 3:

Window erected by Mr. Paul Kearns and Mrs. Margaret Kearns, bears the figures of Sts. Cecilia and Catherine.

KEARNS (KEARINS): Paul Kearns b. Ireland 1821 m. Katherine Lennox, daughter of a Scottish lord who had Irish estates. A family story claims that the marriage was an elopement. They came to Yass and raised a family of five girls and a boy. Katherine Kearns d. Yass 19 October 1871. Paul Kearns then m. Margaret O'Rourke (no issue). Paul Kearns died 11 February 1894 buried Roman Catholic Cemetery Plot F101. Margaret O'Rourke Kearns died 7 August 1907.



Pray for William & Jane Grogan

SOUTH EAST

Gospel side 4:

Window erected by Mr. W. J. Grogan and Mrs. Grogan has the figures of Sts. John and Stephen.

GROGAN: William Grogan arrived in NSW by ship "Isabella" 16 December 1823. He was the son of Brian Grogan and Mary Madden of County Kildare, Ireland. William's wife Ann followed in ship "Caroline" 6 August 1833 with son Bryan, or Bernard, aged 11. Seven more children were born from 1834. Bryan (Bernard) Grogan m. 1841 Sarah Cahery and in 1847 Mary Jordan. Son of the first marriage William J. Grogan m. Jane O'Brien, b. Kilrush, Co. Clare in 1863 and are the window donors. Grogan descendants recorded at "Grogansworth", "Limestone" and "Illalong".



P/f Patrick, Maurice & Anastasia Moore

SOUTH EAST



Pray for Very Rev. Dean O'Keeffe

SOUTH EAST

Gospel side 5:

Window with figure of the Annunciation erected by Mary Roche, of Blakney Creek, and P. J. Moore, of Yass, in memory Patrick, Anastasia and Maurice Moore.

MOORE: Patrick Moore was b. 1788, m.1828 Anastasia Roach, b.1807 Kilmanahan, Co. Kerry. Son Maurice b. 1830. Patrick, ship "Blenheim", arrived NSW 14 November 1834. Anastasia and Maurice ship "Ramillies" arrived NSW 11 July 1850. Joined Patrick at Blakney Creek, nr Yass NSW. Maurice Moore ("Mooreville") m. Winifred Tully 1854 (seven children). Second son Patrick Moore Jr. b. 1851, m. Julia Purcell 1874 (six children). Maurice Moore d. 1866 & Winifred then m. Thomas Roche (1 son: Thomas David Roche b.1874). Patrick Snr. and Anastasia Moore were innkeepers at Blakney Creek into old age.

Gospel Side 6:

Window erected by the congregation and friends as a tribute to the Rev. Dean O'Keeffe, V.F., "esteemed pastor of the Yass parish". It bears the figures of Sts. Ambrose and Jerome.

Like Fr (later Dean) Charles Lovat P.P. of Yass 1839 - 1849, Dean O'Keeffe was appointed Vicar Forane (V.F.) by his bishop. According to the Catholic Dictionary a 'Vicar Forane' is an experienced priest appointed by a bishop to exercise limited jurisdiction over a specific part of a diocese. He is charged with the care of the sick clergy, presides at conferences, supervises clerical discipline and diocesan property as well as other similar matters.



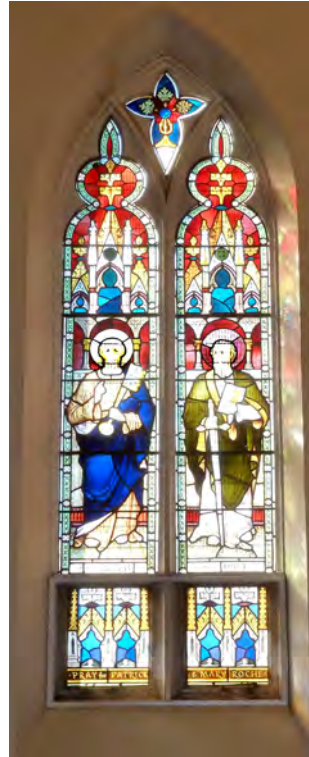
Pray for Sacred Heart School

NORTH WEST

[North West or right side facing the altar]

Epistle side 1:

Window has the figure of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and was erected by the children of the Sacred Heart School.



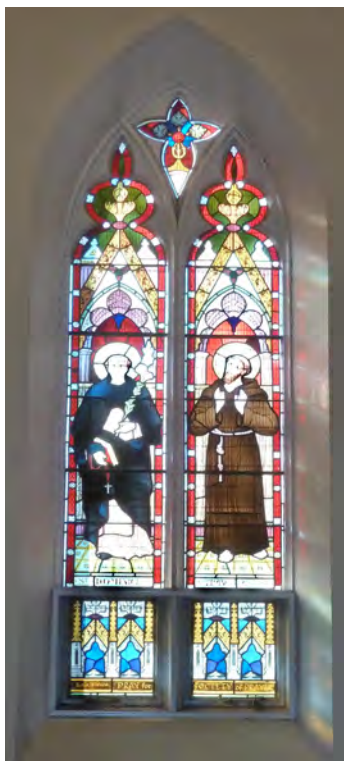
Pray for Patrick and Mary Roche

NORTH WEST

Epistle side 2:

Window has the figures of Sts. Peter and Paul, erected in memory of Patrick Roche and Mary Roche, by Mr. John Roche, Miss Kate Roche, Mr. Laurence Roche, Mrs. Garry (Mylora), & Mrs. J. J. Ward (Royal Hotel).

Patrick Roche with wife Mary (Brennan) and six children arrived at the colony of Victoria on the ship "Clangregor" on 14 February 1855, after it ran aground in Port Phillip Bay. They eventually settled as farmers at Chidowla near Bookham. The younger brother Laurence married Ann Dalton at Adelong in 1858, settling at Adelong where they raised numerous descendants.

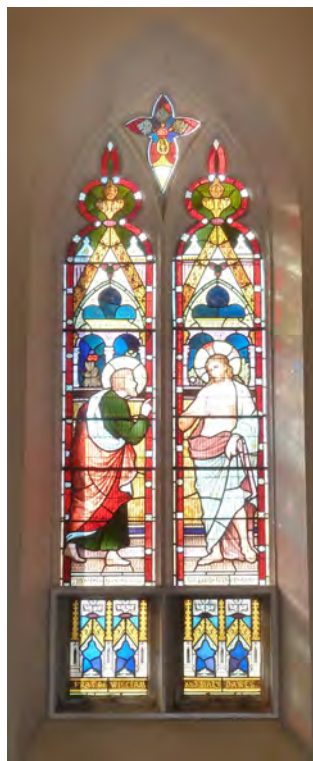


Pray for Society of Prayer

NORTH WEST

Epistle side 3:

Window has the figures of Sts., Dominic & Francis Assisi, and was erected by The Society of Prayer.



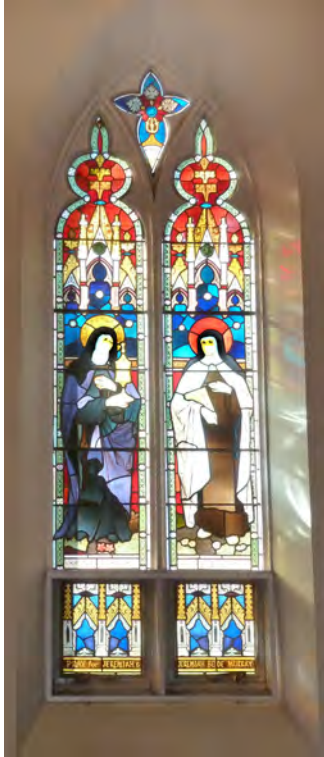
Pray for William & Mary Dawes

NORTH WEST

Epistle side 4:

Window has the figures of the Redeemer and St Thomas, and was erected by the Dawes family.

DAWES: William Henry Dawes b. Kia Parish, Cornwall (1835-1908) m. 1857 Mary Anne Flanagan (b. 1833 Co. Galway, Ireland. d. 1899). Met while employees of William Connolly, miller of Goulburn. Later 'Good Hope', Yass graziers. 9 children: Ellen Jane (1860-1942), John Henry (1861-1920), George Thomas (1863-1895), Eliza (1865-1923), William Patrick (1866-1995), Annie Josephine 'Nance' (1868-1956), Fergus (1870-1938), & Mary L 'Polly' (1871-1895) 1 male deceased.



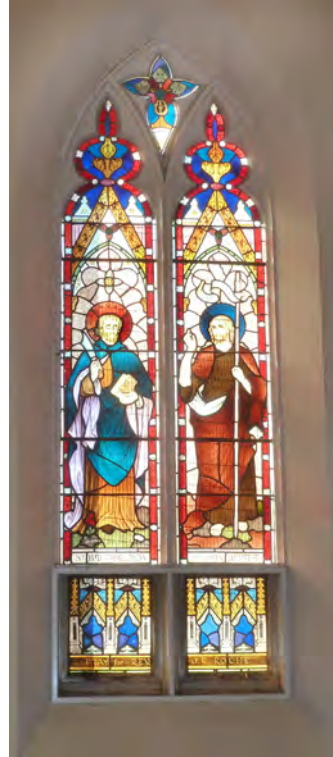
Pray for Jeremiah & Jeremiah Bede Moore

NORTH WEST

Epistle side 5:

Window has the figures of Sts Clara and Theresa, and was erected by Mrs Ryan in memory of her husband Jeremiah Murray, and of her son Mr Jeremiah Bede Murray.

MURRAY: 'Darby' Jeremiah Murray (1772-1853), an Irish Rebel, arrived as a convict on the ship 'Tellicherry' in 1806. He applied to Governor Brisbane for 200 acres of land in 1825. Later he held depasturing licenses variously in the Lachlan, Gunning and Yass districts between 1837 and 1844. m.1839 Martha Dwyer, later Ryan (1809-1889). 3 children: Anne Maria (1840-1925), Charles Henry (1841-1930) and Jeremiah Bede Murray (1843-1884) who was gazetted as the publican of the 'The Rose, Shamrock & Thistle' Bowning in 1872 (when there were twenty-one licensed houses in the Yass District).



Pray for Rev. J. R. Roche

NORTH WEST

Epistle side 6:

Window has the figures of Sts., Bartholmew and John the Baptist, and was erected by Miss Maria Roche, of Bowning, in memory of her uncle, the Rev. J. R. Roche

ROCHE: James Roche from Cooleen, Thomastown, County Kilkenny came to N.S.W. as a student for the priesthood. He arrived on the ship "Templar" on 9 March 1843, accompanied by Bishop Polding who recruited the young student in Ireland. James Roche took the name 'John Paul' in the Benedictine Order, being ordained during 1846 at Sydney, St Mary's Monastery. By 1850 he was pastor at Campbelltown, N.S.W., but retired through ill-health in 1877. He was cared for in retirement by his niece Bridget Garry at "Mylora" near Bookham, where he died on 9 November 1880. His tombstone in Yass cemetery records "Rev. J. P. Roche O.S.B. qui obiit apud Mylora".

Church History

'Memories of Yass Mission' by Rev. Brian Maher 1988 (updated)

- 1834 Father Therry visits Yass
- 1835 Father Therry visits Yass
- 1836 Oct. & Nov. Father Therry visits Yass
- 1837 Mar. Father Therry visits Yass
- 1837 Bishop Polding applies to Govt for Grant of Land
- 1837 Subscriptions raised for building church
- 1837 Father Therry visits Yass (Jun/Jul.)
- 1838 Father Therry visits Yass
- 1838 Foundation stone laid Bishop Polding (Eve of 28 Aug.)
- 1838 Bishop consecrates a Catholic cemetery ground beyond Rossi St. (11 Sept.)
- 1839/42 Presbytery built
- 1843 Church in use
- 1843 Archbishop Polding blesses new Church. (14 Feb.)
- 1857 Church enlarged by 37 feet with tower, spire and chancel
- 1858 Grube Painting of Yass
- 1860 Extensions & improvements opened (9 Sept.)
- 1867 Yass included in diocese of Goulburn
- 1868 Bell consecrated in memory of Fr Lovat
- 1875/78 Sisters of Mercy live in Presbytery
- 1882 Presbytery extension northern end (including bull-nosed verandah & cast-iron posts)
- 1888 Church wall raised several feet, shingle roof replaced with slate. Vestry, chancel & convent chapel added. Also new stained-glass windows & marble altar (from Ireland)
- 1889 Church improvements blessed & opened by Bishop Lanigan (20 Jan.)
- 1890 Church tower extended by 14 feet [4.3 m]
- 1954 Foundation stone laid for "new" church (11 Apr.)
- 1956 Church opened by Dr Guilford Young, former PP of Yass (29 Apr.)
- 1956 Sisters of Mercy take over "old" church as convent chapel & take down spire & gallery, which were unsafe. Slate cleaned. Parquetry floor laid & oak gallery added.
- 1960 Father Lovat's bell installed in "new" church.
- 1987 Renovations to "old" church. Slate repaired or replaced, spire replaced.
- 1988 Sesquicentenary Celebrations
- 1998 Mt. Carmel Convent vacated
- 2011 "Old" church investigated for termite damage
- 2013 "Old" church renovations completed. Renamed Lovat Chapel 28 August 2013

Lovat Chapel

Parish Dinner

to celebrate chapel restoration and renaming

30 August 2013

In the 1950s the then Parish Priest of Yass, Bishop Young, later Archbishop Sir Guilford Clyde Young of Hobart, decided that St Augustine's Church was not adequate to accommodate the number of parishioners, so he decided to build another church. He was given land by a parishioner, J B Grogan, on the other side of Meehan Street opposite Mt Carmel Convent. Work was commenced and in 1956 the Bishop returned to Yass from Hobart, where he was the recently appointed Co-adjutor Archbishop, to open the new St. Augustine's church.

The old church, which adjoined the convent, was transferred to the Sisters of Mercy as their Chapel and was named St Augustine's Chapel. The nuns refurbished the interior with parquet flooring round the altar, carpet on the main floor and heating for winter. The original pews were also replaced with fewer new ones. Mass was said there every day and parishioners were encouraged to attend.

In 2009, when Mt Carmel School received grants from the Federal Government and the Catholic Education Office to improve the school facilities, the builders found the Chapel had several infestations of termites and it was temporarily closed. Yass Parish Priest, Fr Mick Burke, the Parish

Council and parishioners decided, as it was such an historic building, it should be conserved. The affected flooring was removed down to the original flooring, which being tallow wood, was itself almost free of the termites. This floor was beautifully restored and a handsome new stairway to the choir loft was built.

The entry steps to the Church were redesigned and the foyer tiled. The Chapel was not deconsecrated and it was decided that the building would be used for the Yass community. Several weddings have been held there as well as other community events. The chapel's acoustics being excellent, concerts have taken place and there are plans *inter alia* to use the chapel for a school of music. Recently, a wonderful new organ gifted by Canberra organ maker, Trevor Bunning, has been installed in the former choir loft.

As he has often remarked, Father Burke, is an admirer of the saintly, original Parish Priest, Father Charles Lovat and like many parishioners feels Fr. Lovat's spiritual presence. As he wrote in the introduction to the recently republished life of Fr. Lovat, 'Shepherd of Shepherds', amazing blessings have followed his visit to Fr. Lovat's grave in Rookwood Cemetery.



A peaceful Sunday afternoon near the 2018 winter solstice.



Scenes from the Parish Dinner celebrated on 30 August 2013 in the Lovat Chapel attended by community and ecclesiastical leaders and many parishioners.



Wikimedia Commons

St. Augustine of Hippo

Simone Martini was an Italian painter born in Siena. He was a major figure in the development of early Italian painting and greatly influenced the development of the International Gothic style.

Wikipedia