

Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills

Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parish was created in 2017 with the amalgamation of Our Holy Redeemer and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Churches in Surrey Hills.

History

In 1901, Fr George Robinson, Parish Priest of Camberwell purchased the present site of Our Holy Redeemer Church, Surrey Hills, which at the time came within the Camberwell Parish. The owner of the land was reluctant to sell to the Catholic Church, but Miss Amy Castles, a noted singer and friend of Fr Robinson, purchased the land in her own name and then transferred it to the church. A statue of Our Lady of Victories donated by Miss Castles stood in the church for many years.

On 11 May 1902, the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer (the original title of the church) was blessed and opened by Archbishop Thomas Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne. The architect was A. A. Fritsch. The cost was £3,500.

In 1904, Fr. Robinson constructed a weatherboard school-hall where the present hall now stands. It was blessed and opened by Archbishop Carr on 20 November of that year. In January 1905, the Sisters of St Joseph took charge of the school.

Our Holy Redeemer became a separate parish when Fr David Gleeson, an Irish-born priest, was inducted as its first resident Parish Priest on 5 February 1911. On 19 July 1914, a new presbytery at 4 Barton Street was blessed and opened by Archbishop Carr. It cost £1,500.

Archbishop Mannix opened and blessed the new brick school on 10 November 1918. In 1922, a new Convent was built on the corner of Mont Albert Road and Wilson Street, on land purchased for £275 pounds. This was opened by Archbishop Mannix on 14 January 1923. The Sisters of St Joseph who taught at the school had until then walked each day from Kent Road. During 1935–1936, the present brick hall was built. It was officially opened by Archbishop Mannix on the 15 March 1936.

Parish Name & Patron Saint

Although Christ has always been recognised by the Catholic Church as the King of Kings, the Feast of Christ the King did not receive official recognition until it was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. It was celebrated in October but after the Second Vatican Council, the feast was moved to the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical calendar. The change was made to emphasise that Christ will reveal to humankind the fullness of his glory as King only at the end of time. (*Fr Trac's Homily 2020*)

Parish School

[Our Holy Redeemer School](#), Surrey Hills, was established over 100 years ago by the Sisters of St Joseph. The first lay principal was appointed in the late 1970s. There are nine classes and a number of support staff. The children learn in a community environment where the older children care for the younger children. There is considerable parent involvement in the school through fundraising, social events and parental involvement in the classrooms.

Our Holy Redeemer School is a small Catholic coeducational, multi-age school of approximately 170 students. Its size allows the students from Prep to Grade 6 to interact with each other and develop friendships in a way that may not be possible in a larger school. The school promotes the teachings of the Catholic faith and assist parents to educate their children in developing an understanding of and relationship with God. As a Catholic school, providing students with a life-centred Religious Education is central to the mission.

Parish Priests at Our Holy Redeemer

1911-1933	Fr David Gleeson
1933-1941	Dr W. M. Collins
1941-1972	Fr Tim Fitzpatrick
1972-1976	Mons Kevin Toomey
1976-1987	Fr Michael Burke
1987-1998	Fr John Brosnan
1998-2005	Fr Peter Priestley
2005-2010	Dr Anthony Hicks
2011-2017	Fr John Dowling
2017-2020	Fr Mark Reynolds
2020-continuing	Fr Brendan Reed
