

Christian Brothers

1868 – 1885

Details

The Christian Brothers arrived in Victoria from Ireland in 1868 and in 1874 they were appointed to manage what became known as St Vincent de Paul's Boys' Orphanage in South Melbourne. In 1879, the Christian Brothers assumed responsibility of St Augustine's Orphanage at Geelong. In 1885, the Australasian Province of the Christian Brothers was formally established.

The Congregation of the Christian Brothers was founded in 1802 by Edmund Ignatius Rice in Waterford, Ireland. Rice was inspired by the work of Nano Nagle, founder of the Presentation Sisters, and supported their school and convent in Waterford from 1797. Rice was a Roman Catholic and believed that education was the best way to help children who lived in poverty and founded the Religious Order to provide free education to boys.

From their origins in Waterford, the Christian Brothers spread throughout the world to establish schools and institutions with an educational mission.

The Christian Brothers first came to Australia in 1843, arriving in Sydney. They came to Melbourne in 1868. The Australasian Province of the Christian Brothers was not formally established until 1885.

More info

Chronology

- **Christian Brothers (1868 – 1885)**
 - Australasian Province of the Christian Brothers (1885 - 1953)
 - St Patrick's Province of the Christian Brothers (1953 - 1967)
 - Holy Spirit Province of the Christian Brothers (1967 - 2007)
 - Christian Brothers Oceania Province (2007 - current)

Related Entries

Ran

- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage for Boys \(1874 - 1967\)](#)
- [St Augustine's Boys' Orphanage \(c. 1855 - 1939\)](#)

In 1878, the Christian Brothers took over management of St Augustine's Boys' Orphanage from the Geelong Friendly Brothers' Society.

Date: 1878 - 1939

Resources

- Twigg, Karen, [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage](#), eMelbourne: the city past and present, 2008

- Coney, Chris, [*Christian Brothers*](#), eMelbourne: the city past and present, 2008
 - Blenkiron, Peter and Group, [*Transcript of Peter Blenkiron and group's presentation to the Family and Community Development Committee: Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations*](#), 28 February 2013
 - [*Arrival of Clergymen and Christian Brothers*](#), Advocate, 21 November 1868
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