

# Benedictine Missionary Sisters

1904 –

**Other Names:** • Benedictine Sisters

## Details

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The Benedictine Missionary Sisters were a group of Catholic religious women who ran what was known as St Joseph's Native School and Orphanage, New Norcia from 1904 to 1974.

The Benedictine Missionary Sisters were encouraged, according to Massam (2008, p.205) to value 'poverty, hard manual work, separation from family, obedience to a superior, and dedication to a demanding monastic timetable as a means of increasing their own capacity for holiness and growing closer to God'. These values 'governed the choices' made by the Sisters and the Benedictine monks at New Norcia in the way they ran the institutions and enclosed the children in their 'care'.

During their 70 years at New Norcia, 43 of the 53 Sisters were Spanish and did not speak English when they arrived.

In June 1974, after discussions about the ongoing viability of the community at New Norcia, the remaining nuns voted to close their house at New Norcia and return to Spain.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [St Joseph's Native School and Orphanage, New Norcia \(1861 - 1974\)](#)  
Date: 1904 - 1974

#### Related Organisations

- [Benedictines, New Norcia \(c. 1846 - current\)](#)

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