

Daly River Mission

1955 – 1977

Other Names: • Nauiyu

Details

The Daly River Mission was established by the Catholic Church on the Daly River in 1955. It operated a Mission School with dormitories for Aboriginal children aged 5 to 17 from 1957. The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were placed in charge of the girls and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart supervised the boys. The dormitories closed in 1977, however, the day school continued to operate.

The Daly River Mission was established by the Catholic Church on the Daly River in 1955. It was the second mission established on the Daly River, the first was the Queen of the Holy Rosary Mission, also known as Uniya, run by the Jesuits from 1886 to 1899.

After discussions with local Elders who wished for a health centre and school to be established at Daly River, Bishop O'Loughlin, the Bishop of Darwin arranged for the purchase by the Catholic Church of 4000 acres of land on the Daly River in 1955. The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart established a school and health clinic at the new Mission. The Mission School opened in 1957. It operated as a residential school for Aboriginal girls and boys aged 5 to 17 and provided accommodation, education, medical care and religious instruction. The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart supervised the girls at the school, while the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were in charge of the boys. According to *A Piece of the Story* children generally remained in the dormitories during school terms and returned to family over holiday periods.

As the community at the Daly River Mission developed and people lived closer to the school, residential care was no longer required. The residential part of the school closed in 1977. The day school at the mission, however, continued to operate.

Gallery



Daly River Mission

Description: This image shows a mural on a building at the Daly River Mission. The exact purpose of the building and whether or not it housed children in care on the Mission is not known.



Daly River Mission

Description: This image shows the church and garden at the Daly River Mission.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart \(1885 - current\)](#)
The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were in charge of the girls at the Daly River Mission.
- [Missionaries of the Sacred Heart \(1885 - current\)](#)
The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were in charge of the boys at the Daly River Mission.

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [Records held by Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of Darwin \(1882? - 1983\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/daly-river-mission-3/>