

# ST STEPHEN'S: THE LITTLE SCHOOL IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

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I have often wondered how many of the hundreds of people who walk through the Cathedral grounds each day realise the historical significance of the buildings they pass by. In particular, I wonder how many of them would be aware that the building now called *Mercy House* was once the fourth and final home of St Stephen's School, which was the first Catholic school in Queensland and probably the first school of any kind in the State.

The convict settlement of Moreton Bay was opened to free settlers in 1842. Early the following year, the Moreton Bay Correspondent of the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote:

Steps ought to be taken for the formation of a school. The town [Brisbane] is lamentably deficient in that respect, there being not a single place where the numerous children about the settlement can receive instruction.<sup>1</sup>

A similar lament in the same paper a few months later indicates that by May 1843, there was still no school of any kind in Brisbane<sup>2</sup>. December that year saw the arrival of Fr James Hanly as the first resident priest for the

district. By 1845, the first Catholic school in Brisbane was opened with 56 pupils, the teachers being husband and wife Michael and Mary Bourke. Their salary was £30 each per year and their school room has been described as ‘a primitive, slab-walled, bark-roofed building’ which was a disused government store<sup>3</sup>. This building also served as the first Catholic place of worship in Brisbane – I would hesitate to call it a church! Official records of the time are few, and not surprisingly, eye-witness accounts of those early days differ quite considerably in regard to where this building was actually located. After much painstaking research, Fr Denis Martin has concluded that it was situated somewhere near the rear of the present-day Myer Centre, probably in the middle of what is now Elizabeth Street<sup>4</sup>. The street alignment then was different to what it is now.

This school may not have been called St Stephen’s, but it was the forerunner of the school many of us were familiar with in our youth. Sadly, no records survive from this early school, so we do not know who the students were, and we can only imagine the primitive conditions under which it must have operated. It is recorded, however, that the Rev James Hanly, Mr. WA Duncan and Mr W Fitzpatrick formed the local board of supervisors for the school.

Governor Bourke’s Church Act of 1836 had made provision for church bodies to apply for a grant of land to

build a church, 'parsonage' and school. There were conditions attached to this grant, and since his arrival in Brisbane, Fr Hanly had worked hard to obtain the required one hundred adult signatures from his scattered flock and to raise sufficient funds to receive the £ for £ government subsidy for up to £1000 in total. The site allocated to the Catholic Church was opposite the old Female Factory (now the GPO). It had originally been marked out on St Stephen's Day 1847. The grant of 1½ acres was for Allotments 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, and 16 of Section 33 of the Town Plan – roughly half the size of the current Cathedral precinct. The application for the grant was lodged in 1849 and St Stephen's Church (later to become our first Cathedral) was blessed and opened on 12 May 1850. Built to a design provided by the renowned British architect, Augustus Welby Pugin, it is the oldest church of any denomination in Brisbane and is one of only three pre-Separation buildings still standing in the city.

Once the place of worship moved, the school moved too, but it seems that the building provided for this purpose was not up to the same standard as the new church! Again, eye-witness accounts differ re the details, but it was a slab building with a shingle roof, measuring 40 feet by 20 feet and 10 feet high. It was situated close to the Charlotte Street boundary of the property, pretty much where the front of Mercy House is today. An early photo, taken from the Windmill in 1862, clearly shows the location of both the church and the school.

Henry Ensor, a pupil in 1851, describes his old school in a memoir written in 1922:

One half of the school house comprised a bough shed, the other half was a bark humpy. On fine days the scholars enjoyed the cool shed and on wet days, they were dry in the humpy<sup>5</sup>.

Another early pupil, JJ Kelly, remembers: *The bottom of the window sill was about 18 inches off the floor, so that it was with ease the scholars could jump in and out.* Those scholars he describes as ‘outlaws’, *wild in the wildest sense*<sup>6</sup>. The windows, it seems, were unglazed, and so the building was partly open to the elements. There is no extant photo of this building, but recently an 1866 pencil sketch has come to light, and in it can be seen the church, the triangular bell tower and the school building with its low-set window. According to an early Brisbane identity, the belfry, consisting of three iron poles bolted together, was erected by Fr Hanly. The bell did duty for both church and school<sup>7</sup>.

Some of the teachers who worked in this building prior to the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in 1861 were: Mary Bourke (who left at the end of 1851), Richard Haynes, JA Herne, J Askins, J Tobin, Joseph Reilly and Denis Kelly<sup>8</sup>. Doubtless there were others whose names have not been recorded. A slab hut it may have been, but a letter to the Editor of *The Freeman's Journal* in 1850 praised the school for its *cleanliness and order*<sup>9</sup>. A report following an 1855 visit by the government Commission of Inquiry

into Education, however, gives a fuller and much less rosy picture of the school:

The school is ..... without glass or ceiling, and too small; even at the time of our visit (August), it was intolerably hot and close. The furniture is insufficient and badly arranged, the apparatus and books are scanty. ... The children read tolerably, have but little comprehension of the subject and spell fairly. Tolerable progress has been made in arithmetic, but little is known of grammar or geography. The answers in catechism are good, but they possess only a slight acquaintance with scripture. The children are irregular and unpunctual; clean but in bad order<sup>10</sup>.

Some of these problems undoubtedly stemmed from the fact that the school had been built to accommodate eighty children. By 1855, there were 151 on roll. This state of affairs had probably not improved by the time the Sisters of Mercy arrived six years later.

1859 saw tremendous changes to Brisbane, as with the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, the city became the seat of government for the new colony. For some time previously, rumours had been circulating that Brisbane would become a separate diocese, and a few weeks prior to the proclamation of the colony of Queensland on 6 June 1859, the new diocese of Brisbane was declared, and Dublin priest James Quinn appointed as its first bishop on 14 April 1859. It took the new bishop some time to gather a group of five priests and six Sisters

of Mercy to accompany him to his far-off diocese, but they eventually arrived in Brisbane on the night of 10 May 1861.

By mid-June, the Sisters had taken up residence in what had originally been the presbytery at the new Cathedral. In her reminiscences written some 60 years after the event, Mother Bridget Conlan, a member of the foundation group, stated that the presbytery was situated on the site of the *present* Cathedral sanctuary. In the 1862 photo mentioned earlier, this building is clearly visible. Mother Bridget continues:

The second story or attic of the presbytery was arranged as a dormitory for the Sisters..... The attic was not long enough to domicile all the Sisters, and until adjacent cottages were rented, SM Cecilia McAuliffe passed her nights in the little parlour below; the carpet brought out for the Convent Chapel being arranged as a couch and a carpet-bag as a pillow<sup>11</sup>.

This building has an interesting history. It was constructed at least partly with stones from the old government building which had served as the original church/school. Although built by Fr Hanly, he rarely lived there, preferring another stone cottage called *Castleracket* which he had built for himself in Boundary Street, on the site of the present St James's School, where there was more room to graze his horses. His successor as parish priest, Dean John Rigney, opted to return south after the Bishop arrived, so the presbytery building was made

available as the Sisters first convent<sup>12</sup>. The building was very cramped and totally lacking in privacy, but like the intrepid pioneers they were, the Sisters made the best of it. Along with a couple of nearby cottages rented later, it was to be their home until they moved to the present All Hallows' site on 1 November 1863. This date marked the end of the Sisters' residence at St Stephen's, but not the end of their ministry there. From 1864 until the school closed 101 years later in December 1965, the Sisters travelled each day from All Hallows' to the Cathedral to staff the school. The building they had used as their first Brisbane Convent was demolished in about 1871 as the present Cathedral was being built. The stones then had another life, but I am keeping that bit of their story for later!

Mother Vincent Whitty tells that the Sisters took over responsibility for St Stephen's School on 17 June 1861, with an enrolment of about 80. This number quickly grew to 150<sup>13</sup>. The school they staffed was not the substantial brick building we know, but the slab hut which had served as the school since 1850. Presumably they inherited all the problems noted above in the 1855 report! But it was to be their school building until 1880<sup>14</sup>.

A constant worry for M Vincent was the lack of Sisters to cope with the demands pressing from every side, particularly in the school. She was the only trained teacher in the group, and she found out very quickly that most of

her companions were not really cut out for the classroom. A plea for more Sisters was a constant refrain in her letters back to Dublin. Although the number of Sisters had increased to nine by 1863, the ill health of some of them, and the inability of others to adapt to the rough conditions of the fledgling colony presented particular challenges. The Sisters had also been asked to begin a school at Ipswich, and this request caused further staffing problems for the school at the Cathedral. Nevertheless, despite all her troubles, she could write back to Dublin in 1863: ‘... *we can get on very happily and do a great deal for God in a wooden cottage*’<sup>15</sup>.

JJ Kelly in the article referred to earlier, mentions the ‘refining influence’ of the Sisters, who, he says, succeeded in turning ‘outlaws’ into models of refinement<sup>16</sup>. Certainly, the curriculum was not all about the 3Rs. Mother Bridget describes a performance of Newman’s ‘Fabiola’ for Christmas 1862, and a joyous celebration of St Patrick’s Day in 1863 when she notes ‘*the old slabbed walls*’ of the school room were ‘*gleaming with their covering of glazed calico*’. She goes on:

School feasts at this time were exquisitely primitive! Magnificent shrubs of the castor oil tree abounded about St Stephens and one of the magnificent leaves served for a plate for each .... roomy enough for slices of pineapple and a bun<sup>17</sup>.



After the present cathedral was opened in 1874, the old Cathedral was taken over by the Christian Brothers who from 1875 to 1879 conducted a school for boys, which was the forerunner of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. In 1880 when the Christian Brothers vacated the site, St Stephen's school moved again - from the wooden hut to more spacious accommodation in the former cathedral. At last they had a substantial building which provided shelter from both sun and rain. Although the Cathedral itself was not very big, an annexe had been constructed in the late 1860s to accommodate the overflow of worshippers each Sunday.

With the opening of St James's school for boys in 1869 and the coming of the Christian Brothers in 1875, St Stephen's virtually became a school for girls only, although the Sisters still took boys up to Year 4. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some older boys continued to be enrolled at St Stephen's up till 1950, when, one of the 'old boys' told me recently, '*SM Teresita got rid of us all!*' A report in *The Australian* in 1884 notes that there were 322 pupils on roll, including 70 boys<sup>18</sup>, so space must have been limited even in these larger premises.

The announcement in 1891 that a new purpose-built school was being planned must have been a cause for great rejoicing among both students and teachers. The foundation stone of the new building was laid by

Archbishop Dunne on 26 March 1892. Dunne gave a stirring speech in which he lauded St Stephen's as *the mother of all the girls and infants schools in the colony*<sup>19</sup>. A detailed description of the building was given in *The Building & Engineering Journal of Australia & New Zealand*<sup>20</sup>. The following are some excerpts from that source:

The new girls and infants school for St. Stephen's ... will be a handsome three-storeyed building designed in the Gothic style. .... [it] will be an important and conspicuous addition to our city architecture.

After describing the architectural features of the building, this source goes on:

The whole of the building will be of buff-coloured brick with the ornamental work in cement.

It then describes the layout of the interior, saying that the ground floor will be devoted to the infant school, with a separate room for junior infants. The middle floor will house the senior girls' schoolroom, with a raised platform at one end for use on public occasions, while the top floor will be used for music lessons, gymnastics and dancing. The report goes on to say: *At present, nine pianos are in use .... besides violins and other instruments*. Mention is also made in this report of a separate building to be used for a teachers' dining room, kitchen and caretaker's residence. The architects were Simpkin & Ibler, and the builder Thomas Rees. The total cost of construction was

estimated as £3350 – quite a considerable sum back in those days! The building was blessed and opened by Cardinal Moran on 25 September 1892.

When I read the description of how the school interior was laid out, my first thought was that you would never build a school like that these days! Why would you have one extra-large room taking up nearly the whole of one floor? It harks back to the way schools often operated back then. Many schools did not have a full complement of trained teachers but relied on pupil teachers to assist in the classroom. Under what was really an apprenticeship system, an experienced teacher was responsible for the supervision and training of one or more aspiring teachers. It was much easier to do this in one large room where she could keep her eye on them, so it was not uncommon for several classes to be going on in one big room at the same time. Records show that in the period following WW1, St Stephen's often had three or four pupil teachers at any one time. I found a list of them recently, and was surprised to see among the names, two young women, Eileen Dalton and Agnes Slattery, who later became Sisters of Mercy<sup>21</sup>. They were both very good teachers, probably thanks to the training they had received at St Stephens'.

The large room on the middle floor also served as an assembly hall, as a venue for school concerts, and as a meeting room for Catholic groups needing an inner-city gathering space. Prior to the building of the Francis Rush

Centre, the Church had no other large meeting space, and a search on *Trove* shows the variety of Catholic groups whose meetings were reported as being held in St Stephen's schoolroom. It was indeed a multipurpose room long before that term became fashionable!

Classes would have moved around over time, but in 1961 at least, the infant school was still on the ground floor, two classes were held in the big room on the first floor, with two other classes occupying built-in veranda space on either side. The top floor held two good-sized classrooms and a domestic science room. There was also another small building on the cathedral side of the school which provided an extra classroom and a play shed for the younger children.

There is another building which students of more recent times would remember, but which was not in existence back in 1892. This was the music building. At some time in the past, the music space originally on the top floor of the school must have been needed for extra classes, so another home had to be found for music. I mentioned earlier that the stones from the old government store had another life following the demolition of the former presbytery. Probably sometime in the early 1900's (we don't know when exactly), these stones were used to erect a building which eventually became the music rooms. I wonder how many former music teachers and students at St Stephen's realised that the walls around them had such

a long and interesting history? This building was demolished in 1987, but I am not sure what happened to the stones.

The school always had a good reputation for music. Concerts invariably received great praise in the local papers<sup>22</sup>. The names of those successful in passing annual music exams are also to be found in newspapers of the time. A photo from the 1930s shows that some of the successful music candidates were well past their primary school years, but it was the custom for music teachers to take older pupils before and after school hours. It was also an accepted part of the role of music teachers that they played the organ in the Cathedral on weekdays if the official organist was not available, and they were also expected to have a choir of students on tap for daily benediction and any other ceremony when the Cathedral choir was not there. The St Stephens' students certainly received good training in liturgical music.

There was originally a lowset building designated on the original plan as housing a kitchen, teachers' dining room and caretaker's residence. It was situated on Allotment 2 of section 33 of the town plan. Allotment 2 was not part of the original church grant, so how was the church able to build on it? I need to do some more research into this, but sometime prior to 1877 (we don't know exactly when), this block was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy. As well as the names of four Sisters on the title deeds,

there is also the name James Quinn – a reminder that back then it was difficult for women to purchase property in their own names<sup>23</sup>. We don't know the reason for the purchase, but it may have been intended for a future convent which was never built. I suspect this plot of land was eventually forgotten about until 1967 when a neighbouring business wanted to buy it. The Sisters eventually sold it to the Archdiocese in April that year for \$10,000 – about half its real value back then.

When I taught at St Stephen's in 1961, the building on this piece of land was still being used for a kitchen and the lay teachers' lunchroom, although by then the Cathedral priests were using the caretaker's residence for office space. I certainly remember the kitchen! As All Hallows' Convent had a hot meal in the middle of the day, there had to be some way of providing this for the Sisters who went out to school each day. I don't know how this was done in earlier times but in my day we had to collect the ingredients for the day's meal from the convent pantry. As the junior Sister on the staff in 1961, this was my job, and I used to deliver everything to this little wooden building at the rear of the school where an elderly lady by the name of Miss Murphy cooked a meal for us.

How did the Sisters get to and from school during the 101 years they commuted daily from All Hallows'? I suspect that originally they walked, or later, caught a tram. Sometime in the late 1940s, however, All Hallows'

purchased a large dark green vehicle which among other duties conveyed the Sisters to and from St Stephen's, St Patrick's in the Valley and Holy Spirit at New Farm<sup>24</sup>. It was quite a sight as it made its way through the city streets with our faithful driver, Harry Smelt, at the wheel. Officially called 'the coach', it was often irreverently referred to as 'the green hornet'.

An interesting feature of St Stephen's was that from at least the early 1900s until 1965 it offered a one-year post-primary commercial course. Although many primary schools did the same early on, St Stephen's was the last primary school to offer this opportunity. With the school leaving age as early as 14, it gave young women the chance to gain some clerical skills even if they did not wish to continue on to secondary school. Until well after WW2, early entry into the workforce was an economic necessity for many, and the commercial class certainly gave its students an opportunity they might otherwise not have had.

For 104 of its 120-year existence, St Stephen's had been staffed almost exclusively by the Sisters of Mercy, with a few lay teachers and trainees. Some of these Sisters would have been there for many years, some like me, only for one or two. Unfortunately, the names of most of these Sisters and lay teachers, particularly from the early days, have not been recorded. We know that Mother Vincent Whitty was the first Head Teacher, and that she was

followed by SM Rose Flanagan. An early name connected with the school was that of SM Celestine Riordan, who had joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1874 after spending some years as a lay teacher in the catholic school in Toowoomba. Her 1911 obituary states that she taught at St Stephens for nearly 40 years, most of them in charge of the school<sup>25</sup>. Other early Head Teachers were SM Austin Murphy (c.1917-1922) and SM de Britto Browne (1923-1927). The last three Head Teachers were SM Alphonsus Mahoney (1928-1949), SM Teresita O'Hagan (1950-1961), and SM Sylvester Cullen (1962-1965). I mention these three because I have often heard past students speaking of them. SM Alphonsus apparently was so zealous rounding up potential pupils from the Spring Hill area that Archbishop Duhig eventually provided a free bus to make sure they all got to school on time. But the gold medal for longevity on staff has to go to S Gabriel Mary Bourke. She commenced teaching the commercial class in 1923 and was still there when the school closed in 1965 – a total of forty-two years! She was never in charge of the school, but her gentle presence and homespun wisdom were appreciated by generations of St Stephen's students.

So far, I have been concentrating on the role of the Sisters of Mercy in the school, but the name of S Gabriel Mary reminds me of another Cathedral duty which fell to the Sisters. Right from the beginning, a Sister was designated as the Cathedral sacristan, and during her long time at St Stephens, that role was filled by S Gabriel Mary. Every



day before and after school, and sometimes during the day, she was at her post in the Cathedral - weddings, funerals, ordinations, high Masses, Easter ceremonies and many other devotions - she attended to the lot, and the various Cathedral Administrators she worked with were always grateful for her attention to detail and for keeping them on track. Among the Cathedral clergy, Gabriel Mary became something of a legend in her own lifetime.

In the days of the midnight fast, nuptial masses in the Cathedral were held early on Saturday mornings. While the wedding party was signing the register in the sacristy, the ever-thoughtful Gabriel Mary would appear at the door with a tray of tea and toast. Someone married there in 1942 recently told me that young couples would often joke that their first meal as man and wife was provided by the Sisters of Mercy in the sacristy of the Cathedral! Gabriel was short of stature and slightly built, so how she managed to put in place the huge brass vases of flowers I will never know. She also helped to train the altar boys, her favourite one being a young Clem Hodge, who later became the Administrator himself, but that was after Gabriel's time.

I recently found in the Archdiocesan Archives a picture of the back of the school. I don't know when it was taken, but it shows the closed in verandas on the middle floor where two classes were housed, and the grotto which was a feature of the Cathedral grounds until the 1980s. Past

students from the 1940s and 50s have told me that they clearly remember having their first communion photo taken in front of the grotto.

First communion brings me to talk about the special relationship that Archbishop Duhig had with St Stephen's School. It was essentially his parish school and he would have officiated at the First Communion Mass for the St Stephen's children year after year. It was not uncommon to see him in the grounds surrounded by groups of children. He was never without some lollies or other treats. I remember that every First Friday, the Archbishop would arrive around 10.30 with a large slab of Webster's fruit cake for the children and a tin of peaches for the Sisters. One of my former neighbours, who used to work at Websters, told me that she remembered him driving up to the factory each month with his chauffeur to collect the cake. We then had to divide it into enough slices for everyone! In the Archdiocesan Archives is a collection of about thirty letters written to the Archbishop by the children of St Stephen's from 1919 to about 1960, either for his feast day, or thanking him for various gifts such as the ice cream he provided for the annual school picnic, and, on one occasion, for arranging for them to go to the circus! It is no wonder that SM Alphonsus could write to the Archbishop when he was on a visit to Rome in 1947: *They really think here at St Stephen's you are their private property*<sup>26</sup>.

St Stephen's was never to become a very large school. Its cramped inner-city location meant there was no room for expansion, and as the population of Brisbane moved out into the suburbs, new schools were built. It was a popular choice of school for girls whose fathers worked in the city, or who had older siblings at St James, Terrace or All Hallows'. In 1961, there were 204 students enrolled – 167 girls and 37 boys. The School Inspector's report for that year was high in praise of the organization, administration and discipline of the school and the standard of student work<sup>27</sup>. [As an aside, the inspector also noted that there were 500 books in the library!]

A cursory examination of the St Stephen's Admission Registers from 1914 onwards shows that as time went on, girls came, not from the city and Spring Hill areas as they had originally, but more from the new suburbs which grew up on the rural-urban fringe, particularly after WW2. By the 1960's, and perhaps well before that, it was obvious that the vast majority of the students were not from the Cathedral parish or its inner-city neighbours. Increasing traffic and the noise it created were also becoming problematic<sup>28</sup>. At the same time, the Archbishop wanted more office space for the various church agencies which needed a central city location. So sadly, a decision was taken to close the school. 3 December 1965 marked the end of an era for Brisbane's first Catholic School which had educated thousands of

girls (and some hundreds of boys as well) in the 120 years since its beginnings in 1845.

Because it was their first home and place of ministry in Queensland, St Stephen's holds a special place in the life of the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy. So, it was fitting that their long connection with the site has been recognised in two significant ways. In 2008, the then Administrator, Fr (later Bishop) Ken Howell, had a plaque placed on the former school building detailing the historic connection of the site with the Sisters of Mercy, and in 2013, Archbishop Coleridge renamed the former school building *Mercy House*. In paying tribute to the Sisters, he said:

Mercy House is not just a name pulled out of a hat.....  
The previous name said what the building had done,  
not who had done the work there. .... [This name] was  
carefully pondered and selected as a tribute to the  
unforgettable contribution of the Sisters of Mercy in  
the Archdiocese<sup>29</sup>.

The Sisters of Mercy, teachers and students of St Stephen's School are long gone, but it is nice to know that for the hundreds of people who work here or who walk through the grounds daily, there are these two reminders of the little school which once operated right in the heart of the city.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, January 22 1843, quoted in Susan Mary Tobin, *If I Have Not Love: Catholic Education in Queensland Vol 1*, Queensland Catholic Education Office, Brisbane, 1987 p2.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, May 25 1843.

<sup>3</sup> Holthouse, Hector *Looking Back: The first 150 years of Queensland Schools*, Dept. of Education Queensland, Brisbane, 1975, p7.

<sup>4</sup> Martin, Denis W *The Foundations of the Catholic Church in Queensland*, Church Archivist's Press, Virginia, 1988, pp51-55.

<sup>5</sup> *Brisbane Courier*, November 21 1922, quoted in Martin DW, *op. cit.*, p10.

<sup>6</sup> Kelly, JJ, writing in *The Age*, Saturday 3 October 1925.

<sup>7</sup> *Hayes Memoirs*, (undated), St Stephen's Archives.

<sup>8</sup> Martin, *op cit.*, pp110 and 146.

<sup>9</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, Thursday October 17 1850.

<sup>10</sup> *New South Wales Legislative Council Records 1855, Vol 1*, dated 27 August, quoted in Martin *op cit*, p121.

<sup>11</sup> Conlan, Mother Bridget *Reminiscences*, undated manuscript, Sisters of Mercy Archives, Brisbane.

<sup>12</sup> The stories of *Castleracket* and the original presbytery are told in some detail in Martin *op cit*, chapters VI and VII and also pp 64-166.

<sup>13</sup> M Vincent Whitty to MM of Mercy Norris (June 9 1861) in Hetherington, Anne and Smoothy, Pauline, (eds.) *The Correspondence of Mother Vincent Whitty*, UQ Press, Brisbane, 2011, p137.

<sup>14</sup> Archbishop Robert Dunne, speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of the new school building, said that after the Sisters moved to All Hallows' in 1863, the former convent was used as the school. Although he had arrived in Brisbane in December 1863, it is possible that Dunne is mistaken here. No other sources support this claim. There are several other factual errors in this speech reported in *The Queenslander*, Saturday March 26 1892.

<sup>15</sup> M Vincent Whitty to MM of Mercy Norris (April 17 1863), in Hetherington & Smoothy, *op cit.*, p151.

<sup>16</sup> Kelly *op cit*.

<sup>17</sup> Conlan, *op cit*.

<sup>18</sup> *The Australian* February 9 1884, Archdiocesan Archives.

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<sup>19</sup> *The Queenslander*, Saturday March 26 1892.

<sup>20</sup> *The Building & Engineering Journal of Australia & New Zealand*, microfilm Reels 5-8, 2/1/1892-31/12-1892, State Library of Queensland.

<sup>21</sup> Their religious names were SM Monica (Dalton) and SM St James (Slattery).

<sup>22</sup> See, e.g., report in *The Catholic Advocate*, December 20 1913 p4.

<sup>23</sup> This property, subdivision 1 of Allotment 2 of Section 33 of the Brisbane Town Plan had an area of 18 pers, with a 33ft frontage to Charlotte Street and a depth of 148 ft. In 1923, the only two remaining signatories to the original purchase, Emily (SM Bridget) Conlan and Bridget (SM Joseph) Murphy executed a Nomination of Trustees document adding the names of Mary (MM Patrick) Potter, Jane (SM Borgia) Byrne and Margaret (MM Alban) Salmon to the trustee list for the property.

<sup>24</sup> Until 1970 there was no Convent at New Farm.

<sup>25</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, September 21 1911 p6.

<sup>26</sup> Mahoney, Sr M Alphonsus to Archbishop Duhig, 27 November 1947, Brisbane Archdiocesan Archives.

<sup>27</sup> Report on the Inspection of St Stephen's School, 28 Feb-2 March 1961, Department of Public Instruction. (Copy held in Brisbane Archdiocesan Archives.)

<sup>28</sup> As far back as 1930, Archbishop Duhig had indicated that St Stephen's might have to close because of increasing traffic in the area. (See report in *The Brisbane Courier* December 2 1930)

<sup>29</sup> Archbishop Coleridge in *The Catholic Leader* December 22 2013.