



MEDIA RELEASE

The Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre to Open in June 2019

The Sisters of Charity of Australia, the nation's first order of women religious, will open The Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre, an exhibition space and archive in Potts Point, Sydney on June 6.

To be launched by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the Heritage Centre has been designed as a place to provide connection to the history and charism of the Sisters of Charity.

The Centre will showcase their significant contribution and achievements since the arrival of the five Pioneer Sisters in Sydney in 1838.

The Centre also includes a meeting room and contemplative spaces including the St Vincent's Chapel and courtyard.

"The Heritage Centre is designed to tell the story of the Sisters and the work they have done since arriving in Australia 180 years ago. The Heritage Centre celebrates the Sisters of Charity story and that of religious women," said Sr Clare Nolan, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of Australia.



In 1836, Sydney's Catholic Bishop, John Bede Polding, requested help from the Church to alleviate the dire circumstances of female convicts.

Five Religious Sisters of Charity from Ireland responded to the call, and embarked on the journey to Sydney. Those five Sisters form the nucleus of the congregation now known as



The Sisters of Charity of Australia.

The Sisters sailed into Sydney on New Year's Eve in 1838 and quickly saw they were needed in both education and health care.

Since that time, the Sisters have continued to read the signs of the times, and to respond to need not only in education, health, and aged care, but also in social welfare and social justice.

Founding many schools and hospitals across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the work of the Sisters of Charity has been nothing short of remarkable.



Today, the Sisters of Charity established ministries continue under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. However, Sisters



continue to be active in many fields, including for example: Sister Suzette Clark who advocates for the prevention of human trafficking; Sister Jacinta Fong at St Vincent's ER who has an uncanny knack of being able to calm down ICE addicts. Sister Clare Nolan and Sister Deidre Hickey run the House of Hospitality in Sydney for the families of patients staying at St Vincent's Darlinghurst NSW, Sister Cathy Meese is a counsellor in the Prison Ministry in Melbourne VIC, Sister Margaret Guy is with at the Jesuit Refugee

Service in Parramatta NSW, Sister Jan O'Grady who helps with Open support through St Vincent's Hospital. Sydney, to provide transport services to those in remote rural communities across NSW who need to come to Sydney for specialist treatment. Srs Anne Mayberry and Christine Henry minister in the bush with Remote and Rural, and Downs and West Community Support.

The Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre provides an exhibition space, as well as housing the Congregational Archive of the Sisters of Charity of Australia as well as an experiential display of key elements of the life and work of the Sisters of Charity in Australia.

Images of The Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre can be seen [here](#).

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