

# Catholic Schools in Aotearoa: A History

1841

Aotearoa New Zealand's first Catholic school was opened by lay people in Auckland in 1841.



1850

The Bishops sought members of Religious congregations to establish schools throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. First to respond were the Sisters of Mercy, arriving in 1850. Other orders followed, and over the next century a network of Catholic schools developed across the country.



1877

After the withdrawal of government assistance to Catholic schools in the 1877 Education Act, bishops persuaded various religious orders from European Catholic countries to establish and staff schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.



1900

By 1900 Catholic schools were staffed almost exclusively by members of Religious congregations, who gave their lives to this service, supported by their parish and the local community.



1950

By the late 1950s the impact of the post-war baby boom, inflation and the need to employ more lay teachers placed ever-increasing pressure on the system. State Aid was needed urgently if the Catholic school system was to survive.



1975

In 1975 the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act was passed by the New Zealand Parliament. This Act created a partnership between the State and the Church, integrating private schools into the state system in such a way as to preserve and safeguard their 'special character'.



1983

By 1983 all Catholic schools were integrated, their running costs being met on the same basis as state schools.



2021

We have 66,900 students in Catholic Schools. We have 187 primary schools and 48 secondary schools.



# Catholic Life and Schooling in Aotearoa: A History

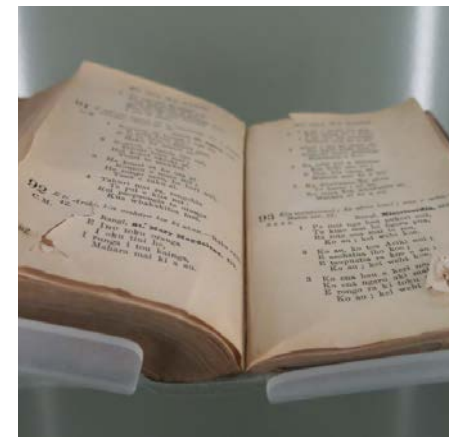
1814

Māori elders invited Christian missionaries. Rev S Marsden arrived 1814. Many Māori became Christian.



1828

An early faithful European Catholic couple arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand in 1828, and they lived at Tōtara Point, Te Karae. They travelled to Sydney to plead for a Catholic priest to be sent to Aotearoa New Zealand.



1838

Frenchman Bishop Pompallier arrived, accompanied by a Marist priest and brother. Arriving in Hokianga, he went to the home of Thomas and Mary Poynton and celebrated the first Mass in Aotearoa New Zealand on 13 January 1838.



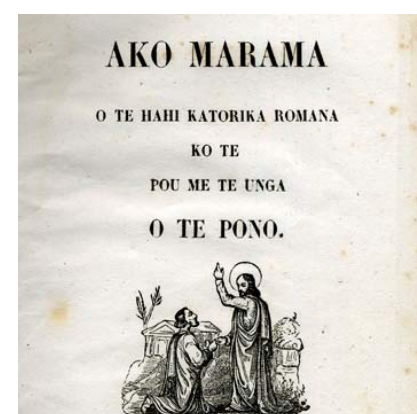
1841

The first Catholic schools in New Zealand included a school opened by lay people in Shortland Street in Auckland (it was the only school in Auckland at the time).



1843

By 1843 45,000 Māori were Catholic. By 1845 there were 60,000 te reo Māori Bibles in circulation.



1847

Wellington's first school, opened by Fr O'Reily in 1847, was staffed by lay people.



1850

The first religious teachers to reach Aotearoa New Zealand were the Sisters of Mercy, in 1850.



1865

There was already a small Catholic school in Nelson when Fr Garin arrived there in 1850. Christchurch's first Catholic school was founded by Mr E. O'Connor in 1865.

