

## Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills

Our Lady of Pentecost Parish was established on 26 October 2024, through the amalgamation of the Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle. The parish includes the worshipping communities of All Hallows, Balwyn, Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deepdene, Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Wattle Park. Each church within the new parish continues to retain its original name.

Prior to the creation of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish in 2024, Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills was part of a series of partnerships that evolved since 2010 under the leadership of Parish Priests, Fr Mark Reynolds and Fr Brendan Reed:

June 2010 – Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deepdene and All Hallows Balwyn formerly partnered and in January 2013 became a single parish.

January 2016 – Fr Brendan Reed became Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell in addition to Balwyn Deepdene Parish.

2017 - Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Wattle Park formed Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parish following their amalgamation in 2017.

May 2020 – Fr Brendan was appointed Parish Priest of Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Wattle Park Parish in addition to Camberwell and Balwyn Deepdene Parishes.

### History

In 1901, Fr George Robinson, Parish Priest of Camberwell purchased the present site of Our Holy Redeemer Church, Surrey Hills, which at the time came within the Camberwell Parish. The owner of the land was reluctant to sell to the Catholic Church, but Miss Amy Castles, a noted singer and friend of Fr Robinson, purchased the land in her own name and then transferred it to the church. A statue of Our Lady of Victories donated by Miss Castles stood in the church for many years. On 11 May 1902, the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer (the original title of the church) was blessed and opened by Archbishop Thomas Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne. The architect was A. A. Fritsch. The cost was £3,500.

In 1904, Fr. Robinson constructed a weatherboard school-hall where the present hall now stands. It was blessed and opened by Archbishop Carr on 20 November of that year. In January 1905, the Sisters of St Joseph took charge of the school.

Our Holy Redeemer became a separate parish when Fr David Gleeson, an Irish-born priest, was inducted as its first resident Parish Priest on 5 February 1911. On 19 July 1914, a new presbytery at 4 Barton Street was blessed and opened by Archbishop Carr. It cost £1,500.

Archbishop Mannix opened and blessed the new brick school on 10 November 1918. In 1922, a new Convent was built on the corner of Mont Albert Road and Wilson Street, on land purchased for £275 pounds. This was opened by Archbishop Mannix on 14 January 1923. The Sisters of St Joseph who taught at the school had until then walked each day from Kent Road. During 1935–1936, the present brick hall was built. It was officially opened by Archbishop Mannix on the 15 March 1936.

### Parish Name & Patron Saint

Although Christ has always been recognised by the Catholic Church as the King of Kings, the Feast of Christ the King did not receive official recognition until it was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. It was celebrated in October but after the Second Vatican Council, the feast was moved to the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical calendar. The change was made to emphasise that Christ will reveal to humankind the fullness of his glory as King only at the end of time. (*Fr Trac's Homily 2020*)

### Parish School

[Our Holy Redeemer School](#), Surrey Hills, was established over 100 years ago by the Sisters of St Joseph. The first lay principal was appointed in the late 1970s. The school continues to operate as an integral part of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish. The school provides programs which cater for the spiritual, academic, physical, social and emotional development of all students. There is considerable parent involvement in the school through fundraising, social events and parental involvement in the classrooms.

### Parish Priests at Our Holy Redeemer

1911-1933	Fr David Gleeson
1933-1941	Dr W. M. Collins
1941-1972	Fr Tim Fitzpatrick
1972-1976	Mons Kevin Toomey
1976-1987	Fr Michael Burke
1987-1998	Fr John Brosnan
1998-2005	Fr Peter Priestley
2005-2010	Dr Anthony Hicks
2011-2017	Fr John Dowling
2017-2020	Fr Mark Reynolds
2020-Nov 2024	Fr Brendan Reed
Nov 2024-continuing	Fr Sang Ho