



St Theresa's Primary School **Albion**

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes
Principal: Mr. Robert Costin
Number of students: 165
Address: 16 Drummartin Street, Albion.



Year opened: 1951
Officially opened by: Archbishop Mannix
First Principal: Sr. Malachy
The first parish priest: Fr. James Egan
Religious Orders associated with the school:
Sisters of St Joseph
Brigidine Order (In a minor role.)



The parish which included St. Theresa's was founded in 1927. This parish included the districts of Sunshine, Albion, Braybrook, Deer Park, St. Albans and part of Brooklyn. In 1935, Fr Ryder commenced as parish priest and was responsible for the design and construction of St. Theresa's church and school which was composed of two classrooms. This building was completed in 1950. It was opened on the 17th August, 1951 by Archbishop Mannix.

A significant factor which contributed to the population growth of the local area was the establishment of industries such as the Sunshine Harvester Works, Darling's Flour Mill and later, after World War 2, the Maribyrnong Ammunition Factory and Monsanto Chemical Company in Brooklyn. The year of proclamation of Sunshine as a City in 1951 marked the first arrival of large numbers of migrants who gained employment in the aforementioned industries. By 1956 the school housed 135 children in the two rooms of the school. In 1961 the parish of St. Theresa's was cut off financially from the parish of Sunshine and by 1971 had become an entity in its own right. In 1969 a pre-fabricated classroom was built to help accommodate the children enrolled at the school. By 1971 the enrolment at the school had reached 198 children. In 1978, the Sisters of St. Joseph, who had been involved in the school since 1950, withdrew from the school due to decreasing numbers of sisters being available to staff it.

In 1981 a grant was approved for a new building project to extend the school. On the 4th of December, 1983 the school extension was officially opened and blessed by Archbishop Little. In 1985 the present parish priest, Fr Barry Hughes arrived. The school building served the needs of the school community until the year 2000 when a major building and refurbishment project was commenced with the assistance of a \$555,000 Commonwealth Capital Grant. This project included the building of a new multi purpose learning centre, staffroom, administration area and computer laboratory as well as the refurbishment of all existing classrooms. Further extensions and improvements have continued to ensure that St. Theresa's has excellent facilities for the children of Albion.

The spelling of the name of St. Theresa's School has caused some controversy over the years. Early documents record the name of the school as St Teresa's (of the Child Jesus). In 1983 the spelling was altered to St. Theresa's reflecting the original intention of the parish and referring to the French child St. Therese of Lisieux. (The Little Flower.)

St. Theresa's Primary School, Albion. "Do Small Things Well"