

<b>Building:</b>	St James Roman Catholic Church	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	rear 179 Somerset Street, Richmond	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2H E4
<b>Building Type:</b>	Church	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1900
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>	<b>Condition:</b>
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]	G[x] F[ ] P[ ]
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>	<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>
Victorian Heritage Register [ ]	Victorian Heritage Register [ ]
Register of the National Estate [ ]	Register of the National Estate [x]
National Trust [ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls [x]

## **History**

St James parish was established in the 1850s, and was based in a small timber church in Bridge Road, near the corner of Coppin (then Elizabeth) Street. The arrival of the Jesuits to Richmond in the 1860s saw the establishment of St Ignatius Church on Richmond Hill, and the subsequent demolition of St James Church, and incorporation of St James into the parish of St Ignatius. In 1900, St James parish was re-established—as an outpost of St Ignatius—to serve the Catholic residents of the north of Richmond and the western part of Kew. In 1923, the parish became a separate entity, but re-incorporation into St Ignatius parish is once again planned.<sup>1</sup>

The foundation stone of the present Church building was blessed by His Grace, Archbishop Carr, on 6 August 1900. The Church itself was blessed and opened by Archbishop Carr on 16 December 1900. St James Primary School was opened in August 1923.<sup>2</sup>

## **Description**

St James Roman Catholic Church, at the rear of 179 Somerset Street, Richmond, is a simple Gothic Revival building. It has face red brick walls with rendered parapet copings, buttress gablets. The building has a gabled terracotta tiled roof. The pointed arch windows have diamond-patterned leadlighting. The north elevation has a large circular window, circular tracery and a moulded architrave. Beneath this, there is a projecting gabled section with arched entrance doors. Both gable-ends are topped with rendered crosses and trimmed with blue, green and brown patterned glazed tiles; a glazed tiled string course also decorates the main gable-end at the level of the circular window. A transverse gabled section projects east from the south end of the building. The building's side walls have plain red brick buttresses with rendered gableted tops. The side walls have leadlit arched windows with cream brick dressings and brown and cream brick string courses at impost and sill levels.

A low, parapeted red brick room projects from between two bays on the east elevation; it has tall, narrow windows and rendered parapet coping and appears to be a later addition.

## **Comparative Examples**

Burnley Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church, 271 Burnley Street, Richmond

## **Significance**

St James Roman Catholic Church, at the rear of 179 Somerset Street, Richmond, is of local architectural significance. Whilst it is in many respects typical of small Gothic Revival churches, it is notable for its simple use of polychrome brickwork, and, in particular, for its incorporation of richly coloured glazed tiles into gable-ends and string courses.

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1 Peter Cooney. Pers. comm.

2 St James Parish. Church pamphlet. Richmond Filing Cabinet (2) 528, held at the Richmond Library.