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# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church



HO87 - Our Lady of Perpetual  
Help Catholic Church, 46-48  
Ballarat Road,  
Maidstone.JPG

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## Location

46-48 Ballarat Road MAIDSTONE, Maribyrnong City

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO87

## Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church is significant aesthetically within the Western Region because:

- it is an uncommon but successful use of the Baroque/Byzantine revival architectural styles, both externally and internally, judged among other churches in Melbourne's western suburbs (Criterion B2, F1);

- it is a highly visible landmark along Ballarat Road and is a visually striking church in comparison with other western suburban churches (Criterion F1);
- it is the last Catholic church to be designed by the noted church architect T G Payne in the western suburbs and, with its highly mannered execution, provides an interesting contrast with his earlier work (Criterion H1);
- the church is a striking representative of a phase which saw the movement towards building a church worthy of God after initial parish concerns, such as establishing a modest place of worship and a school, had been achieved (Criterion A4);
- the construction of the church, presbytery, parish hall and parish centre together, as a complex, and sited away from the original parish site and parochial school, makes the complex a distinctive yet highly representative Catholic church complex for the period (Criterion A3); and
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help church is socially significant within the Western Region of Melbourne as the product of over a decade of fund raising and prayer by the St John's, West Footscray, parishioners and Parish Priests Fathers Morrison and Gilhooly, as expressed by the exterior and the public parts of the interior (Criterion G1).

#### Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) criteria

The Australian Heritage Commission criteria consist of a set of eight criteria which cover social, aesthetic, scientific, and historic values. Each criterion has sub-criteria written specifically for cultural or natural values. The relevant criteria are:

B.2 rarity

F.1 design or technological achievement .

H.1 association with important person or group

A.3 richness and diversity of cultural features

A.4 demonstrates well the course and pattern of history, important historic events

G.1 social importance to the community

Heritage Study/Consultant	Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder & Gary Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1962, 1984,
Other Names	Maidstone Catholic Church,
Hermes Number	28872
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The church has been designed in an unusual style for the era and the area. It is a landmark building and adjoins a contemporary residence to the east. Byzantine-influenced design is unique among Catholic western suburbs churches.

The church is broadly rectangular in shape, built of cream brick and has a terracotta tiled pitched roof. Red and

white marble is used on the facade, edged by brick pilasters, and a skillion roofed eastern wing contains the sacristy. The detached belfry, with its distinctive oval bell turret, is 18 metre high and on the western side of the facade. Glass entry doors are flanked by four Belgian rouge Ionic columns; above this a circular stained glass window depicting Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Arched side windows are of coloured glass.

Externally the church combines elements of neo-Romanesque, Byzantine and the Baroque elements often seen in Spanish architectural styles. Internally it reflects the influence of Byzantine design with broad and impressive archways. Behind the altar is a Venetian mosaic, flanked by two smaller mosaics.

There were interior renovations in 1984 but the original character is evident and still dominant. The presbytery was refurbished in 1985.

Next to the church is a custom designed and visually related cream brick complex which includes a residence, hall (also 1962), car park and toilet block: these elements are of contributory significance to the church.

## Physical Conditions

Good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

## Integrity

Intact/minimal intrusions

## Physical Description 2

Located on major arterial road among a mixed largely unrelated residential area, with some Edwardian-era villas and Bungalows adjacent.

## Historical Australian Themes

### Thematic context

**Australian Principal Theme:** Forming associations

**PAHT Subtheme:** Worshipping together

**Local Theme(s):** Worshipping

## Physical Description 3

**Map (Melway)** 41 J1

**Boundary description** Extent of current allotment including the church exterior and public parts of the interior, with emphasis on fabric from the 1960s. Also contributory contemporary buildings including the residence, hall, car park and toilet block.

**Heritage Significance:** Regional

**Creation date(s):** 1962, 1984

**Local Government Area:** City of Maribyrnong

**Ownership Type:** Private

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*