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# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception



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## Location

18 FOSTER ROAD, FISH CREEK, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 23, 2022

### What is significant?

The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, designed by TA Payne and opened on 11 December 1904, at 18 Foster Road, Fish Creek, is significant. It is a Federation Carpenter Gothic Church of typical design with a gabled nave, a project gabled chancel and the gable front porch. Contributory features include:

- Lancet (pointed arch) windows with diamond leadlight glazing.
- Timber doors with pointed arch heads in the porch and side wall of the nave
- Circular window with quartrefoil glazing the gable end.
- Simple tie beam to the gable end and Celtic Crosses at each end of the roof ridge.

Internally, the building is lined with v-jointed tongue and groove boarding, vertical to the dado mould, diagonal to the body of the wall to the picture rail level and with a horizontal panel above to the pitching line. The ceiling is lined diagonally, possibly in Kauri timber, and there is an exposed frame of stop-chamfered posts with neck moulds, dressed rafters with collar tie frames reinforced with steel T section arches. Around the walls, the timber-framed Stations of the Cross have painted panels.

Non-original alterations including the cement sheet weatherboards are not significant.

#### **How is it significant?**

The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

#### **Why is it significant?**

Historically, this building is one of the oldest buildings in Fish Creek and is associated with the development of the town and district in the early twentieth century. As the second oldest surviving Catholic Church in the Shire, it demonstrates the early development of the church within South Gippsland. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, it is a fine example of a Carpenter Gothic church with typical form and detailing including the steep pitched roof, gabled porch, and lancet windows and doors. Of note are details such as the quatrefoil window, Celtic crosses and the fine timber interior. Situated on a prominent elevated site, it is an historic landmark within Fish Creek. (Criterion E)

Socially, it is significant for its continuous use as a church for over 110 years and has played an important role in the development of the Fish Creek community. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1904, 1904, 1904,
Architect/Designer	Payne, TA,
Other Names	Extra, -,
Hermes Number	30582
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception at 18 Foster Road, Fish Creek is a Victorian Carpenter Gothic Church of typical gabled weatherboard form with a projecting gabled chancel and gabled front porch with side doors. The gable end has shingled weatherboards, a simple end frame (possibly not original) and a circular window with quatrefoil glazing. The nave has lancet windows with diamond lead lighting, but the architrave tips have unfortunately been cut off with the addition of the Hardiplank cladding to the body of the walls.

The interior of the church is a fine example of timber detailing in original condition. It has an exposed frame of stop-chamfered posts with neck moulds, dressed rafters with collar tie frames reinforced with steel T section arches. The whole interior is lined with v-jointed tongue and groove boarding, vertical to the dado mould, diagonal to the body of the wall to the picture rail level and with a horizontal panel above to the pitching line. The ceiling is lined diagonally, possibly in Kauri.

The timber-framed Stations of the Cross have painted panels.

(Note: A detailed interior and exterior description of the church when it opened is contained in an article in the 14 December 1904 edition of the "Great Southern Star".)

*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/>*