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# ST LAURENCE'S CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY



St. Laurence's Presbytery  
(2020)



St Laurence's Presbytery  
(2000)

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## Location

31 OGILVY STREET, LEONGATHA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Presbytery, constructed in 1904, is a Federation brick bungalow constructed of red brick with glazed terracotta tiled hipped roof that extends to form a three-sided verandah. This building has an original projecting hip with a larger hip added in the late Interwar/early Post-war period, single double hung windows and rendered string courses, that are now painted. The presbytery also has symmetrically arranged chimneys with double moulded caps and tabs and turned verandah posts with neckmoulds and front scroll brackets supporting bracketed eaves, standing on low brick pads.

How is it significant?

St. Laurence's Catholic Church complex is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, the complex demonstrates the development of St. Laurence's after it was elevated to a Parish in 1901 under the leadership of Dean Coyne, who is commemorated by the memorial at the front of the church. This scale of this complex demonstrates the status of Leongatha as a regional hub within South Gippsland. (Criterion A)

It is significant as a representative Catholic Parish centre based around a place of worship, with an associated residence, convent and school. The convent and school demonstrate the importance of education to the Catholic Church and the expansion of catholic education in the early to mid-twentieth century. (Criterion D)

Aesthetically, the church is significant for the unusual blend of Romanesque and Anglo-Dutch/Spanish Baroque architectural detailing, and for elaborate plaster decorated interior, which is of an exceptional standard and of a scale that is rare within the Shire. It is complemented by the finely detailed front fence and memorial. The presbytery and convent are fine examples of Federation bungalows with characteristic form and detailing including the dominant hipped roofs extending to form return verandahs with original details. The finely chimneys to the presbytery are also of note. The school has distinctive form and detailing including the stepped tower feature and the fluted band to the parapet, while the dominant tiled hip roof visually related to the adjoining presbytery and convent. Collectively, the four buildings form a distinctive landmark grouping. (Criterion E)

St. Laurence's has social value for its strong and enduring associations with the local community through its use as a church, school and parish centre, which has been a focal point of the local congregations for over 100 years. (Criterion G)

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004; |
| Construction dates        | 1904,   |
| Architect/Designer        | Payne, TA,  |
| Other Names               | House, thematic,  |
| Hermes Number             | 30845   |
| Property Number           |   |

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## Physical Description 1

The Catholic Presbytery at 31 Ogilvy Street, Leongatha is a brick hipped roof Federation Bungalow with the wide three sided verandah contiguous with the main roof at a slightly lesser pitch. It has a small original projecting hip at roughly the centre of the west side and a larger hip added in the interwar or early post war period at the north west corner. The roof is of glazed terra cotta tiles of possibly immediate post war origin. These alterations may conceal more substantial changes such as the change of roof form and roofing material from corrugated iron to tiles and the removal of the verandah to the north west corner. Early photographs need to be studied in order to understand this building. The other major change is the loss of the original verandah valance, assumed to have been of timber. Other surviving significant elements include:

- Symmetrically arranged chimneys with double moulded caps and tabs.
- Turned verandah posts with neckmoulds and front scroll brackets supporting bracketed eaves and standing on low brick pads.
- Single double hung windows.

- Rendered string courses (now painted) - Concrete verandah floor, possibly originally of asphalt.

*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/>*