

Statement of Significance: St Peters Catholic Church, 581 Toorak Road, Toorak (March 2022)

Heritage Place: St Peters Catholic Church, Toorak	PS ref no: HO763
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(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

What is significant?

The property at 581 Toorak Road, Toorak (otherwise known as St Peters Catholic Church) is significant. Specifically, the built form, scale, detailing, internal layout, stone baldacchino and organ of the 1933 Interwar Gothic Revival church is of local heritage significance, as well as the nave and tower base that was completed in 1965. The landscaping, and later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

St Peters Catholic Church is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is associated with the well-known architect Ole Henry Jorgensen as well as the noted stained glass studio Mathieson & Gibson.

Why is it significant?

St Peters Catholic Church is historically significant as an Interwar Gothic Revival church that was erected following the continued growth of the Catholic denomination in an area formerly dominated by wealthy Protestants. Its construction coincided with the expansion of the Catholic school system within the area, and took place following the erection of Loreto Mandeville Hall and St Kevin's College in Toorak. The stone baldacchino is also historically significant as one of the first in the country at the time. It is of further historical value as a feature purchased using community funds donated by influential Catholic figures such as Sir Frank Gavan Duffy, a prominent Australian judge and the fourth Chief Justice of Australia. (Criterion A)

St Peters Catholic Church is aesthetically significant as a visually prominent Gothic Revival church with landmark value in Toorak. Key features contributing to its aesthetic value include its distinct barrabool stone, well anchored form, broad parapeted gable front featuring a stained glass window designed by Mathieson & Gibson, as well as its stone dressing emphasising fenestration forms and decorative detailing. The interior of the church is also of aesthetic importance for its layout, organ and stone baldacchino, all of which contribute to the ecclesiastical setting of the church. (Criterion E)

St Peters Catholic Church is significant for its association with the well-known Melbourne architect Ole Henry Jorgensen, as well as the noted stained glass studio Mathieson & Gibson. (Criterion H)

Primary source

St Peters Catholic Church, 581 Toorak Road, Toorak, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, March 2022.