

## A Brief History of Catholic Deaf Education in New Zealand

1857 St Joseph's School for Deaf Boys, Cabra Dublin. Christian Brothers took on the work.

1863 Mother Dympna Kinsella OP, a Cabra Sister, established the Grimley School for Deaf in Capetown, South Africa.

1875 Sr Gabriel Hogan OP, a Deaf teacher of the Deaf from St Mary's Cabra started the school for Deaf in Waratah N.S.W Australia.

1890 Two Dominican Sisters started the School for Deaf in Chinchuba in Louisiana U.S.A.

1922 St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys in Castle Hill, Sydney, N.S.W.

1943 Sr M Stanislaus Gavin OP and Sr M Rose Noble-Campbell OP went to Rosary School for Deaf, Waratah N.S.W for 1 year to be trained as teachers of the Deaf. They learnt the Irish finger spelling and sign language.

1944 St Dominic's School started in Island Bay, Wellington New Zealand

1947 St Mary's School for Deaf was founded in Portsea Victoria.

1953 Moved to Fielding, living in old buildings.

1954 Official opening of the classrooms and dormitory.

Prior to the opening of St Dominic's School for Deaf, the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand used to sponsor the Catholic Deaf Children to Rosary School and St Gabriel's School for Deaf.

Also in Sumner School for Deaf (now Van Asch College), Miss Marie Richards used to teach the Deaf Boarders their Catholic Faith and prepared them for their 1st Communion and Confirmation. Sisters Stanislaus and Rose brought back the Irish Sign language for the Deaf children to learn but some weeks later they were told Sign Language is forbidden in New Zealand.

Miss Marie Richards taught the Sisters an oral method in 1944 and again in 1948 then taught Sr Louise.

