Some Significant Events and Distinguished Visitors in the life of the Catholic Church in Illawarra.

1838 Fr. John Rigney - first priest assigned to Illawarra.
1840 Laying of the Foundation Stone for St Francis Xavier's Church.
1849 Official opening of St Francis Xavier's Church on 9th December.
1852 The Mission is divided into Illawarra North and South.
1873 Archbishop Polding's visit to establish Sisters of the Good Samaritan.
1874 Bishop Vaughan celebrated Confirmation in St Francis Xavier's.
1886 Cardinal Moran's first pastoral visit to Wollongong in September.
1902 Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Kelly's first visit on 8th July.
1939 Coadjutor Archbishop Norman Gilroy's visit on 23rd March.
1940 Centenary Celebrations - Most Rev. Giovanni Panico.
1951 St Francis Xavier's designated as a Cathedral on 15th November.
1952 Enthronement of Bishop Thomas McCabe on 24th February.
1953 Papal Legate Cardinal Valerian Gracias of Bombay official visit.
1966 Cardinal Josef Cardijn of Belgium attends Y. C. W.
1971 Archbishop Gino Paro Apostolic Delegate's visit to Scalabrinian Centre.
1975 Episcopal Ordination of Bishop William Murray on 21st July.
1980 Visit from Polish Cardinal Rubin at the Congregation of Eastern Religions.
1981 Marian Congress from 13th June till 28th June.
1988 Cardinal Josef Glemp-Primate of Poland - visit on 7th November.
1996 Bishop Philip Wilson 3rd Bishop of Wollongong enthroned on 10th July.
1999 Sesquicentenary of the Opening of St Francis Xavier's Church on 9th December.

1849 - 1999