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### **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.
- 1974 Cardinal Josef Mindszenty Cardinal of Hungary visits Wollongong on 9th November.
- 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**