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# Stained Glass Window at East St. Kilda St. Mary's Catholic Church



East St Kilda St Marys  
catholic Joseph Infant Christ  
BVM M&G

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## Location

Dandenong Road, East St. Kilda, PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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Heritage  
Study/Consultant

Vic War Heritage Inventory - Stained Glass Memorial Windows Study, Bronwyn  
Hughes, 2013;

Architect/Designer

Mathieson & Gibson,

Hermes Number

196964

Property Number

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## Memorial Window References & Acknowledgements

AWM Roll of Honour; NAA: B2455, Colahan JM; *Argus*, 9 November 1917, p.1; 21 November 1918, p.6; *Ballarat Courier*, 1 September 1917, p.3; *Examiner*, 9 November 1917, p.3; Miles Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, 1991, p.84.

## Memorial Window Subject

St. Joseph Boy Jesus Blessed Virgin

## Memorial Window Text

n/a

## Memorial Window Inscription

John Maurice Orr Colahan Killed in the Great War 1917

## Memorial Window Description & History

St. Mary's Catholic Church, East St. Kilda was described by Miles Lewis as architect 'Wardell's most complete Australian parish church'. The First World War memorial was erected in a side chapel, probably in the 1930s or '40s, and many years after the death of John Maurice Orr Colahan in 1917. The right hand light was signed 'Mathieson & Gibson Melb' a firm that operated from 1930 for the next twenty years or more.

John Colahan was the second son of Surgeon Major General Colahan of 'Kangatong', Alma Road, St. Kilda, one of four sons and two daughters, and married to Mattie Orr Colahan. When he enlisted on 9 March 1916 at Prahran he was a 22-year old law student, with some years military experience in Senior Cadets and as a Corporal in the University Rifles. He landed at Plymouth, England on 10 February 1917, was among the reinforcements for 29 Battalion in France on 25 June 1917, and then joined 14 Battery Field Artillery as Gunner Colahan. At the end of July he sustained a gun shot wound to his right knee that required surgery and took him out of the action for the next two months. Back with his old unit for only two weeks, he was killed by a gas shell explosion at Sans Souci, Belgium on 14 October 1917. He was buried by his 14 Battery comrades not far from Zonnebecke and is now commemorated at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres in Belgium.

*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/>*