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# OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC CHURCH



209382\_Heathcote\_Ebden  
Street\_59-61 Our  
Lady\_img01



209382\_Heathcote\_Ebden  
Street\_59-61 Our  
Lady\_img03



209382\_Heathcote\_Ebden  
Street\_59-61 Our  
Lady\_img05



209382\_Heathcote\_Ebden  
Street\_59-61 Our  
Lady\_img08



209382\_Heathcote\_Ebden  
Street\_59-61 Our  
Lady\_img09

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## Location

59-61 EBDEN STREET, HEATHCOTE - PROPERTY NUMBER 209382, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO755

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 24, 2023

### What is significant?

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church including the 1917 fabric and interior is significant. Later alterations such as the memorial windows are also significant. The bell and tower, and columnar cypress trees are included. The toilet block is not significant.

### How is it significant?

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church is locally significant to the City of Greater Bendigo.

### Why is it significant?

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church is of historical significance for its role in the large Kilmore Mission created by the Bishop of Melbourne, James Alipius Goold in 1849. Our Lady Help of Christians is tangible evidence for the continuing development of the Heathcote parish throughout the later nineteenth century, finally becoming second in importance to the cathedral city of Bendigo. *Criterion A*

The English-made ship's bell by J.Warner and Sons is historically significant as a link with the previous Catholic church in Heathcote. *Criterion A*

Our Lady Help of Christians is aesthetically significant for its demonstration of the principal elements of the Neo-Romanesque style including the uses of red brick and stucco and nested concentric arched windows. The application of concrete technology to the design of window is of note. The interior contains high quality joinery in the gallery, hammerbeam trusses, ecclesiastical furniture and fitments. The stained glass memorial windows designed by William Weildon of Brooks Robinson are of particular interest. The cypress trees are aesthetically significant by contributing to the setting of the church. *Criterion D*

Our Lady Help of Christians is of social significance for the Heathcote community as a place of continuous worship for over 90 years. *Criterion G*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Former Shires of Mclvor and Strathfieldsaye Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2008;
Construction dates	1917,
Architect/Designer	Kempson & Conolly,
Other Names	St Mary's Roman Catholic Church,
Hermes Number	32711
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The church is designed in the Neo-Romanesque style and built in 1917. The same architects, C.G.Kempson and W.P.Connolly were responsible for the Presentation Convent in Pohlman Street built the church at 59 Ebdon Street. There are stylistic similarities with the design of both buildings.

Features of the Romanesque Revival include the use of red brick and stucco and the use of semi-circular arches that are often concentric and resting inside one another. Another feature of the Neo-Romanesque style is the solid panel semi-circular arch above the entrance door. In the case of Our Lady's this is evident over the side door.

The nave windows have semi-circular arches subdivided into three. The side door has a circular motif in dressed stone, however the window detailing is of cast concrete in a stylised and standardised design that is both traditional and strikingly modern. The window to the front gable is also quite unusual with a tall arch window in the middle flanked by smaller arches either side.

The church is designed with pinnacles at the front corners constructed in moulded bricks and capped with stucco domes, in a simplified version of the brick Baroque style.

## **Physical Conditions**

Excellent

## **Integrity**

High

## **Historical Australian Themes**

8.0 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

*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/>*