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# ST FIDELIS' CATHOLIC CHURCH & PRESBYTERY

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## Location

41-49 Clarendon Street, Coburg VIC 3058 - Property No 27705

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO206

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 19, 2004

### What is Significant?

St Fidelis' Catholic Church & Presbytery, designed by Fritsch & Fritsch and constructed in 1937-38, at 41-49 Clarendon Street, Coburg.

### How is it Significant?

St Fidelis' Catholic Church & Presbytery is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

### Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant for its strong associations with the development of the Catholic Church in Coburg. As the first permanent church erected by the Parish to replace an earlier building that formed part of the parish school, it illustrates the significant development of the parish following its establishment in 1927 and this part of Coburg during the interwar period. It is also important for its associations with the architectural firm of Fritsch & Fritsch. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2 and H.1)

Socially, it is significant for its strong associations with the local and wider community as the centre for catholic worship in this part of Coburg and has been an important community meeting place over a long period. (RNE criterion G.1)

Aesthetically, the church is architecturally significant as a fine example of the Interwar Romanesque style, which also includes the fine interior. Situated on a prominent site, it is a local landmark and the focus of the Clarendon Street precinct. (RNE criterion E.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Moreland - City of Coburg Heritage Conservation & Streetscape Study, Timothy Hubbard Pty Ltd, 1991; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;
Construction dates	1937,
Architect/Designer	Fritsch & Fritsch,
Hermes Number	59012
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

St Fidelis' Roman Catholic Church is a large clinker brick church in a simple Romanesque style. It has cream-painted rendered dressings to buttresses and gables and a gabled roof of glazed terracotta tiles. Windows are tall arched openings with red brick dressings and leadlight glazing. On the east facade, above a simple gabled entrance portico of rendered brick, is a large wheel window. To the east of the north transept is a tall clinker brick bell tower, square in plan at its base, but is chamfered to an octagonal plan at lantern level. The hipped octagonal roof is topped with a small stone cross.

St Fidelis' Presbytery is a two storey clinker brick residence with a brick quoins to the east facade, a hipped roof of glazed terracotta tiles and a projecting gabled entrance. Semi-circular terrazzo steps lead to the entrance porch, which has a leadlight glazed door beyond a rendered basket arch opening topped with a scrolled pediment. There is an arched window beneath the front gable; other windows are timber-framed sashes. There is a semi-circular bay window on the south elevation, a rendered string course beneath the eaves and clinker brick chimneys with corbelled brick tops. The massing and composition of the building indicate an neo-Georgian influence.

### Key Architectural Elements

#### St Fidelis Church

prominent siting and streetscape presence, landmark tower  
notable Romanesque brick and rendered facades  
terracotta tiled gabled roofs

#### St Fidelis Presbytery

Distinctive brick and render neo-Georgian facade  
hipped terracotta tiled roof

## Physical Conditions

Excellent

## Integrity

Intact

*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/>*