

YEAR OF JUBILEE

Diocegan Art Trail

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 45 ARAWA ST, OHAKUNE

The present church was the second St Joseph's church built in Ohakune, and was opened and consecrated by Archbishop O'Shea on 3 August 1930.

Father E Sweeney, parish priest from 1928-35, and Father Schaeffer, a German missionary of the Society of Mary, had together planned the new church. Fr Schaeffer designed special sections of this neo Gothic building, as he had done for other Catholic church buildings in New Zealand. The timber was almost all heart rimu from locally milled timber.

This church at 45 Arawa Street, Ohakune, was built by Harry Delamar who worked for contractors Goldfinch and Co. He also built the baptismal font, and frames for the Stations of the Cross. The altar rails were removed post Vatican II, and upcycled into the altar.



ST JOSEPH'S OHAKUNE
NORTH VIEW

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 45 ARAWA ST, OHAKUNE

Significant in the interior church are the panelled wall linings. The stations of the cross are reproductions of artwork by Luigi Morgari (1857 to 1935). The large statues came from the original church at 2 Arawa Street and were imported from France by the early French priests. The two windows in the sanctuary are dedicated to prayers for Fr Sweeney's relatives and Pville L C Richardson who died in 1918. A plaque in the church credits St Joseph for saving the Ohakune area from burning in the 1918 Raetihi fire.

Alterations were made in 1985 to accommodate a changed liturgy and need. Large glass windows and doors divided the building to provide a foyer, toilet and kitchen.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW &
STATUE IN THE SANCTUARY



PANELLED WALL LININGS
BEHIND THE ALTAR

SET APART EXHIBITION 58A MIRO ST, OHAKUNE

The Set Apart Exhibition is a collection of 20 fibre artworks by Merrillyn George, inspired by the life of Venerable Suzanne Aubert. First opened in Whanganui in 2014, the exhibition later travelled across New Zealand and overseas, showcasing Suzanne Aubert's work and her legacy with the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion.

The exhibition is now permanently housed at the Gallery, 58A Miro Street, Ohakune. Viewings are available by appointment – please call 027 348 8508.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit pndiocese.org.nz/YearofJubilee2025
or scan the QR code

