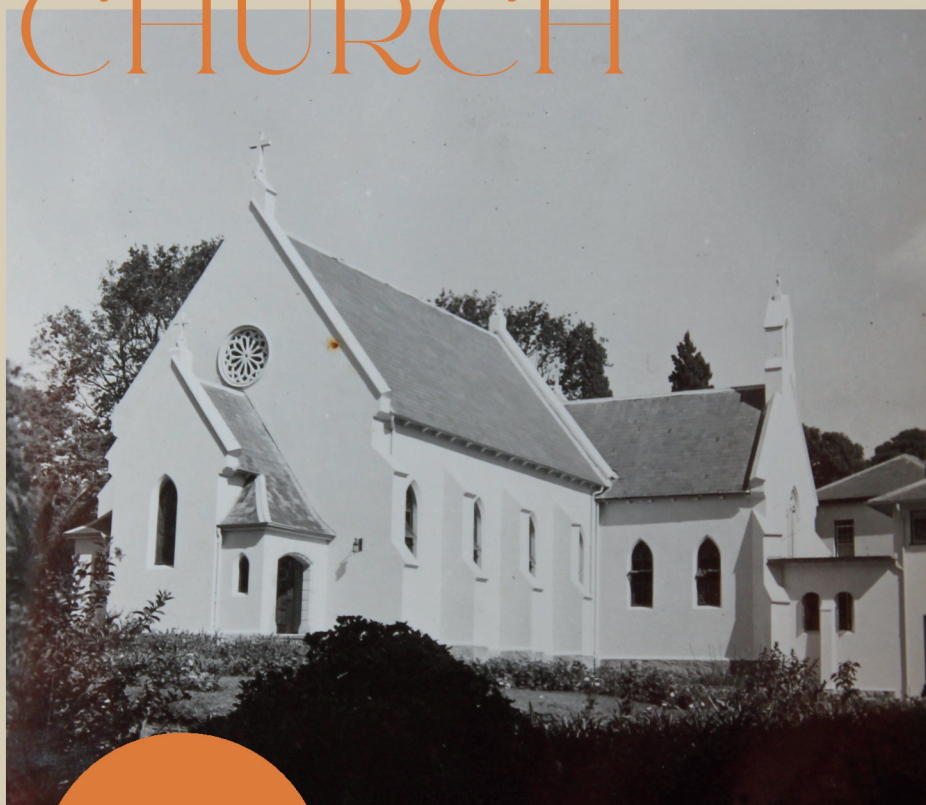


ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH



145 YEARS

1880-2025

SPRINGFIELD CONVENT
SCHOOL

WYNBERG



A BRIEF HISTORY

ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH WAS BUILT AS THE ORIGINAL PARISH
CHURCH OF WYNBERG.

THE IRISH DOMINICAN SISTERS ARRIVED IN CAPE TOWN FROM
IRELAND IN 1863, AND THEY ACQUIRED THE SPRINGFIELD
PROPERTY IN 1871. BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS BUILT, MASS WAS
CELEBRATED IN A ROOM THAT IS NOW KNOWN AS ST. JOSEPH'S
PARLOUR IN THE PRESENT CONVENT.

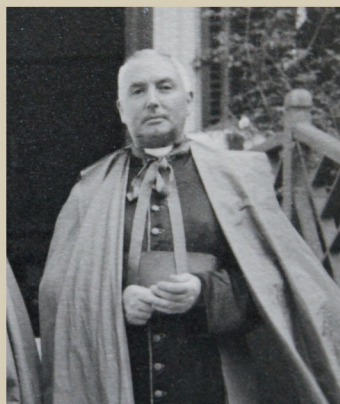
THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE
CHURCH WAS LAID ON 8 DECEMBER
1876. ST. DOMINIC'S WAS
OFFICIALLY OPENED ON 21 JANUARY
1880, BECOMING THE FIFTH PARISH
IN THE VICARIATE OF CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE.

SINCE 1882, ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH
HAS BEEN UNDER THE CARE AND
OWNERSHIP OF THE DOMINICAN
SISTERS.





FR. BERNARD MCMAHON, WHO PROMOTED THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH, BECAME THE FIRST PARISH PRIEST OF ST. DOMINIC'S. HE DIED IN 1882 AND IS BURIED IN THE NAVE. FR. JOHN O'REILLY SERVED AS THE SECOND PARISH PRIEST OF ST. DOMINIC'S FOR 53 YEARS UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1935. MONSIGNOR JOHN O'ROURKE WAS THEN APPOINTED TO THE PARISH. THESE WERE THE ONLY THREE PARISH PRIESTS IN WYNBERG WHILE ST. DOMINIC'S WAS THE PARISH CHURCH.



ST. DOMINIC'S REMAINED THE PARISH CHURCH OF WYNBERG UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF CORPUS CHRISTI IN WITTEBOME IN 1937, WHEN IT BECAME A CHAPEL-OF-EASE.

MSGR JOHN O'ROURKE

MAJOR RENOVATIONS OF THE CHURCH TOOK PLACE IN 1943. THE ENTRANCE WAS REBUILT, AND THE DOORS WERE SWUNG AROUND TO FACE INTO THE GROUNDS OF SPRINGFIELD. A NEW MARBLE SANCTUARY, ALTAR AND BALDACCHINO WERE INSTALLED. PARQUET FLOORING WAS LAID IN THE AISLE. RELICS OF POPE CELESTINE, POPE INNOCENT AND ST. DOMINIC WERE FIXED IN THE ALTAR STONE. AFTER VATICAN II, THE SANCTUARY WAS CHANGED TO WHAT WE SEE TODAY.

THERE ARE A FEW BEAUTIFUL STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS IN THE CHAPEL, THE MOST RECENT BEING THE WINDOW OF ST. DOMINIC WHICH WAS COMPLETED FOR SPRINGFIELD'S 150TH BIRTHDAY IN 2019. UP UNTIL THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THERE WAS DAILY MASS AT ST. DOMINIC'S, BUT NOW THERE IS ONLY A SUNDAY MORNING MASS.

ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH CONTINUES TO SERVE THE DOMINICAN SISTERS, THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND LOCAL PEOPLE TODAY.

