

Hawkesbury Historical Timeline

Year	Date	Event
1791		Gov. Phillip names Windsor - Green Hills
1795		First baby born in Hawkesbury - John Huskisson
1799	March	Flood - height 50ft
1800	October	Flood - height 38ft
1801	March	Flood - 40ft
1803	May 29	First Catholic Mass in Hawkesbury
1804	March	Convict uprising at Castle Hill - Catholic worship withdrawn
1806	March	Flood - 45ft
1808		Father Dixon returned to Ireland. No priest for 12 years
1809	May	Flood - 41ft
1809	August	Flood - 48ft
1810	November 30	Macquarie names Green Hills Windsor
1811	January 12	Macquarie orders burials in consecrated grounds
	February	Flood - 40ft
1812		Sever drought - food shortage
1816	June	Flood - 46ft
1817	March	Flood - 47ft Continuous floods. Food extremely scarce
1818	December 31	Hawkesbury Benevolent Society formed
1819	February	Flood - 44ft Arrival of two Catholic priests - Therry & Connolly
1820		Mass celebrated at Patrick Garrigan's; new Convict Barracks had chapel
1821	October	Macquarie lays foundation stone for St Mary's Cathedral
1823		Patrick Cullen - first Catholic buried in Catholic cemetery
1825		If no priest, teacher ordered to read service for 2/6 fee
1827	August 4	Patrick Sullivan complained Catholics locked up during Sunday service
1828		Great drought. Howes Bridge collapsed
1830	April	Flood - 36ft
1831		Father C.V. Dowling Parish Priest Services held in private homes, temporary chapel Macquarie St
1832		Father Ullathorne at Windsor

St Mary's Cathedral

1833		Land appropriated for Catholic cemetery
1834		Re-build Howes Bridge collapsed again
1834		James and Esther Cassidy offically opened first Catholic School in Windsor
1835		Father J.V. Corcoran parish priest
1835		Census reported 21,898 mainland and 7,000 Tasmanian Catholics
1835		Jan Separate register for Windsor commenced
1836		James Doyle dies, having bequeathed 700 pounds to Church
1836		Church Acts passed, following failure of Bourke's Educational Schemes
1836	May 1	Bishop Polding said Mass in old Barn in Macquarie St
1836		Catholic population of area reached 800
1836	December 28	Polding laid foundation stone at St Matthew's Church
1837		Road to Windsor so bad that coach drivers refuse to travel it
1837		Aug Fr Corcoran killed when driving his gig near Toll Gate
1837		Deeds issued for church and school cnr. Tebbutt and Church Sts
1838		Fr J. Brady Parish Priest
1838		Churches opened at Penrith and Lithgow: reduced demands on Fr Brady
1838		Ester Cassidy given permission to teach 37 girls and 64 boys on own
1838		104 scholars attending Catholic School, George St
1839		150 pounds raised through public subscription for building church
1839		Severe drought. Measles and whooping cough cause many deaths
1839	December 22	Dr Polding laid foundation stone of St Joseph's, Macdonald Valley
1840	August 30	Bishop Polding opened the Chapel of St Rose at Colo River
1840	October 21	St Matthew's Catholic Church opened by Bishop Polding
1840		Timber slab church, St Gregory's, opened in Kurrajong
1840		Transportation of convicts ceased
1843		Father Slattery arrived in Windsor
1843		Father W.J. Dunne parish priest
1843		Our Lady of Loreto built at Upper Macdonald
1844	July 11	Hawkesbury Courier first printed
1845		Father M. McGrath parish priest

St Matthew's

1846		St Matthew's broken into and desecrated
1847		Father J.J. Therry parish priest. Lived in sacristy of church
1848		Sydney Railway Co. built line to Windsor
1848		Public education began - bitter opposition by Anglicans and Catholics
1848		Father J. Grant parish priest
1851		Father N.J. Coffey parish priest
1852		Father P. Hallinan parish priest
1852		The Pope conferred the Degree of Doctor of Divinity on Rev J. Grant
1853		35 hotels in Windsor
1853		Fitzroy Bridge replaces Howes Bridge
1853		John Tebbutt built observatory
1857	August	Flood - 37ft
1857		Mr M. Hynes began teaching at Windsor's Catholic School
1859	January 3	Archbishop Polding laid foundation stone for St Monica's, Richmond
1859	May 4	St Monica's opened by Rev. Therry
1860	April	Flood - 37ft
1860	July	Flood - 37ft
1860	November	Flood - 36ft
1863		Railway line opened to Richmond
1863		Mr William Langton began teaching at Catholic School, Windsor
1864	June	Flood - 48ft
1864	July	Flood - 36ft
1865	December	Last Mass said at St Rose's chapel, Colo River
1866		Henry McQuade left "Fairfield" estate in grandfather's Will
1867	June	Record Flood - 63ft
1867	June 26	Burial of 12 members of Eather family, who lost their lives in flood
1868	June 21	William McQuade donated the Statue of Our Lady - address by Polding
1869	May	Flood - 36ft
1869	September 7	Sir Henry Parkes laid Foundation Stone - Windsor Public School
1870	April	Flood - 45ft
1870	May	Flood - 35ft
1871	May	Flood - 36ft
1871		Mr James Anderson, Headmaster of Windsor Public

St Matthew's

		School for 21 years
1873	February	Flood - 41ft
1874	December 23	Great fire of Windsor - 53 houses lost
1874		Father J.S. Sheehy parish priest
1875		Sisters of Good Samaritan opened convent
1875	June	Flood - 39ft
1877		Richmond became separate parish
1878	June	New presbytery became habitable, and old one became St Joseph's convent
1879	September	Flood - 43ft
1879	September	Second Flood - 34ft
1882	January 1	Pipe organ used for first time at St Matthew's
1882		Church renovated
1883		Catholic school amalgamated with local public school
1883	January 15	Mr Langton opened Riverstone Public School - 60 scholars
1884		Gaslight in Windsor streets
1886		Father J. Hayes parish priest
1886	September	Dean John Kenny bequeathed 100 pounds to Windsor parish
1888		Richmond and Windsor Gazette first published
1889	May	Flood - 38ft
1889		Windsor's water supply system began
1890	March	Flood - 39ft
1890	March	Second Flood - 34ft
1890		Proposed dams for Nepean and Warragamba Rivers
1891	June	Flood - 35ft
1893	December 3	Henry McQuade died, aged 41; Hon. W. Walker pall-bearer
1895		Church reroofed and handsomely decorated internally
1898		Father B. McDonnell parish priest
1900	July	Flood - 46ft
1901		Federation of Australian States
1904	July	Flood - 40ft
1904		Heat wave - temperature 120 degrees F in shade
1914		Great War
1915		Gaslighting ceased
1916	October	Flood - 36ft
1919		Flu outbreak - people asked to wear masks
1924		Father P. Gavin parish priest
1925	June	Flood - 37ft
1929		First depression

St Matthew's

1936		Centenary of laying of foundation stone
1939		World War II
1940		Father W. O'Flynn parish priest
1941		Warragamba Dam constructed
1943	May	Flood - 33ft
1947		Father M. Coffey parish priest
1949	June	Flood - 39ft
1952	July	Flood - 38ft
1953		Father L.S. Murphy parish priest
1956	February	Flood - 45ft
1956	February	Second Flood - 38ft
1961	November	Flood - 49ft
1963		University of Sydney Newman Society worked to preserve St Joseph's
1964	June	Flood - 48ft
1969		Men land on the Moon
1974	May	Flood - 34ft
1975	June	Flood - 37ft
1976		Bad bushfires
1976		Father J.E. Dooley parish priest
1978	March	Flood - 47ft
1993		Father Maurice McNamara parish priest

St Matthew's