

Christ Church, Birregurra

While not the Mother Church of the Parish, Christ Church Birregurra can nevertheless boast the distinction of being the original and the oldest Church in the Parish, having been built during the period 1869-71 and opened for divine worship on 22 January 1871. While it had been intended that Birregurra would serve as the centre of a combined Parish of Birregurra and Colac (the original Vicarage also being located at Birregurra), this arrangement only lasted until 1872 when a separate vicar was stationed in Colac. Birregurra continued as a standalone parish until 1962 when it was combined with the Parish of Colac. Christ Church is appropriately located on Sladen Street, Birregurra, named for the prominent solicitor and pastoralist Sir Charles Sladen, who played no small role in raising the funds and sourcing the materials required to build Christ Church (and who also continued to contribute a third of the incumbent priest's stipend until his death in 1884). Christ Church features a number of architectural gems – artistically carved reredos, pulpit, and stalls; a carved wooden altar (the handiwork of a former incumbent); and magnificent stained glass windows by the acclaimed firms Ferguson & Urie of Melbourne and Burlisson & Grylls of London. Christ Church is recognised by the National Trust as a building of important Regional Significance, and features as a stop on the Birregurra Heritage Walk.