

Panagia Gorgoepikoos Monastery (former Novitiate of the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate), 31-43 Monastery Court, Lovely Banks

Statement of Significance

May 2025

Heritage Place:	Panagia Gorgoepikoos Monastery (former Novitiate of the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate) 31-43 Monastery Court, Lovely Banks	PS ref no:	HO2047
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025

What is significant?

The property at the corner of Monastery Court and Bluestone Bridge Road, Lovely Banks, otherwise known as the Panagia Gorgoepikoos Monastery (former Novitiate of the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate), is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Elements of significance include:

- The 1934 novitiate.
- The original landscaping, comprising the original tree-lined driveway and roundabout.
- The original novitiate cemetery.
- Exterior render and colour scheme.

Elements of non-significance are:

- The later structures and infrastructure, comprising the Greek Orthodox Katholikon;
- The juvenile plantings on the northern and western property boundaries.
- All boundary fencing.
- The solar panels on the roof of the novitiate.

How is it significant?

The Panagia Gorgoepikoos Monastery is of historical, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The Panagia Gorgoepikoos Monastery, formerly the Novitiate of the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate, at the corner of Monastery Court and Bluestone Bridge Road, Lovely Banks, is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact interwar Catholic novitiate designed to house Catholic novices training to

become missionaries. The former novitiate, constructed in 1934, represents the historical emergence of the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate in Victoria in the early twentieth century following their initial arrival in Freemantle in the late nineteenth century. (Criterion A)

The former Novitiate is of aesthetic significance as a highly intact and substantial interwar Arts and Crafts novitiate, designed and constructed to house novice missionaries from the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate. The building has aesthetic values for its: strong emphasis on rectilinear form and symmetry, featuring a substantial hipped roof clad in terracotta tiles with a front-facing projecting gable and parapet. Further, the decorative use of render, square-based tower, repeated fenestration and central processional entrance steps feature Spanish Mission influences, which were especially popular in the interwar period. The scale of the building paired with the original carriage drive and mature coniferous driveway all contribute to the place's aesthetic significance. (Criterion E)

The former Novitiate of the Oblate Brothers is of associative significance as a highly intact design prepared by the architect Gerald W. Vanheems. (Criterion H)

Primary sources

Panagia Gorgoepikoos Monastery (former Novitiate of the Oblate Brothers of Mary Immaculate), author: Benjamin Petkov, May 2025, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy, May 2025. *Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.*

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