

The Catholic Church in the Area

1840s & 1850s: Beenleigh is part of the Mission to the Logan - an area from Brisbane to the Tweed and from the coast to beyond Beaudesert. There are only occasional visits by travelling priests or by priests who come down from Brisbane to administer the Sacraments.

1865: The Church of the Assumption is erected at Logan Reserve. It falls into disuse in the 1870s when Catholics move to Tamborine and Waterford.

1875: The first resident priest, Benedict Scortechini, arrives. He is an itinerant priest, riding from Cleveland to Boonah and from Logan Village to the Tweed.

1875: What is now St Patrick's Hall is opened as a Church in Yatala. It had been built as a Masonic Hall.

1878: Father Scortechini opens churches at Nerang, Upper Coomera and Tallebudgera, and, in 1882, at Southport.

1884: Father Scortechini, highly regarded for his work as a botanist in the Logan, is invited to survey the plants of Malaysia. Having completed his work there, he dies suddenly in Singapore of some unknown tropical disease.

1884: Father Scortechini is replaced by Father James Enright, who comes and lives in Beenleigh.

1892: The Logan Mission is divided. Beenleigh goes into the new parish of Southport.

Late 1890s: St Patrick's Church is moved from Yatala to Wharf St., Beenleigh.

1925: A re-drawing of parish boundaries sees Beenleigh made part of the parish of Yeronga, with Father Owen Steele as Parish Priest.

1943: Beenleigh becomes part of the parish of Beaudesert, again with Father Steele, newly returned from the siege of Tobruk, as its Parish Priest.

1953: Opening of St. Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School, with the two-storied brick building serving as convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph and a boarding school.

1955: Beenleigh becomes a parish in its own right with Father Vincent Kiley the first Parish Priest.

1963: St. Patrick's Church is moved from Wharf St to the end of Tobruk St.

30.

Father Kiley has been succeeded by a number of priests:

1963-68:	James Quirk PP
1968-69:	Brendan Dooley Adm
1969-76:	George Ainslie PP
1975-76:	Phil Grace
1976-79:	Dermot Casey PP
1979-88:	Bill O'Shea PP
1979-82:	Thomas Elich
1982-85:	Brian Horton
1984:	Michael Campbell
1985-86:	Gary Russell
1986:	Gerry Kalinowski
1987-89:	Michael Doherty
1988-93:	John Kilinko PP
1990-92:	Jim Cosgrove
1993-94:	Gerry Monaghan Adm
1994:	Patrick McHugh Adm
1994-	Dan Grundy PP
1995:	John Sullivan
1995-97:	Des Effenev
1998-00:	Brian Burke
2001:	Jan Wewersowicz
2003-	John Hong

1980: The new St. Patrick's Church is opened.

1982: Trinity College is opened.

1986: Loganholme becomes the separate parish of St. Matthews with Father Gary Russell as first Parish Priest.

31.