

Media release November 2020

Award winning Christ Church Grammar School Chapel turns 50

On Saturday Christ Church Grammar School celebrated the 50th anniversary of the construction of the School's iconic chapel.

Over 200 guests gathered in the forecourt of the Chapel before attending a special service held within the Chapel marking the occasion. The service was led by School Chaplain Reverend Nicholas Russell and was punctuated by a sermon delivered by Archbishop of Perth Kay Goldsworthy AO.

The ceremony also served as a fitting opportunity to recognise School Chaplain Revered Frank Sheehan's 35 years of service to the School and community in light of his retirement at the end of this year.

Known for its innovative design and remarkable views of the Swan River, the chapel was the centrepiece of an ambitious masterplan to re-shape the campus in 1967 and a highlight of Peter Moyes' 30-year tenure as Headmaster of the School.

After a building-fund appeal to implement the plan exceeded funding expectations, construction of the chapel commenced in 1969.

The chapel was designed by John Lidbury of architecture firm Hobbs Winning Leighton and Partners, and was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Bronze Medal in 1970. In 1995 the Council of the National Trust of Australia (WA) resolved that the Christ Church Grammar School Chapel be classified and entered in the Trust's List of Classified Heritage places.

An extensive renovation in 2013 by school architects Donaldson & Warn resulted in seating capacity expanding to 1200 people and improvements to the chapel's audio-visual capabilities and ventilation. The faithful re-design retained much of the original design, including the Sanctuary Cross, candlesticks and door handles designed by local sculptor Hans Arkevald.

For further information:

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