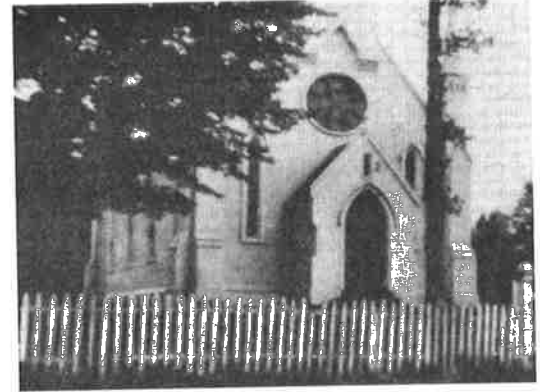
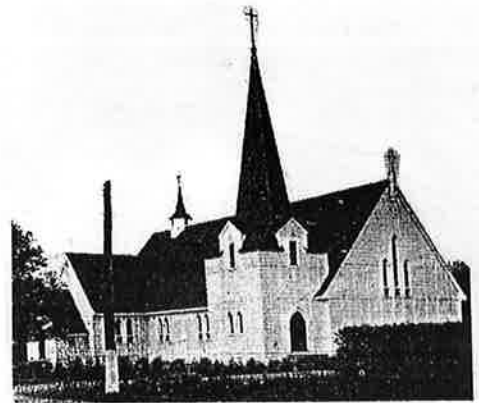


The first Catholic Church in Rothesay was built in 1857, inside the gates of the existing cemetery on Hampton road next to Sobeyes. The architecture was said to be of gothic style and of "unusual beauty" with stained glass windows. In 1877, St. Alphonsus was built in Hampton and both churches were administered by the Cathedral in Saint John. Priests serving the missions travelled by horse and buggy or by train. Mass was celebrated once a month in winter, and only when roads were passable. Most of the parishioners walked to Mass and some came by horse and carriage. A few kind souls went to church early to light the wood stove so that it would be warm for mass. In 1927, St. Alphonsus became a separate parish and the Mission of our Lady of Perpetual Help was served by Hampton. On June 8, 1941, a fire of unknown origin destroyed the church on Trinity Sunday.



The new church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was blessed on Sunday, July 19, 1942 by Most Reverend P.A. Bray, C.J.M., Bishop of Saint John. The contractor was John Flood & Sons. It was not until 1953 that Our Lady of Perpetual Help church became a separate parish. Fr. M.A. Harris was named the first resident priest and pastor. There were many changes since construction. The main entrance to the church was not the original. In 1974 renovations included a new altar and pulpit designed and built by Doug Kingston. In 1983 new insulation and siding was installed. A new pipe organ was installed in 1984. On May 31, 1985 Bishop A.J. Gilbert blessed and dedicated the organ in memory of those who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars.



Growth in the parish identified the need for a larger facility to minister to the needs of our parish family. A building committee was established to meet this new challenge of design and location. The new church was designed by Architect Blair A. Roma and construction was started in 2003. The contractor was John Flood & Sons. Most Reverend Faber MacDonald, Bishop of Saint John, laid the corner stone in June of 2003. The pipe organ was removed from the old church and installed in the new church. Woodwork and pews from the old church building were used to construct the interior of the chapel. On Sunday, June 6, 2004, Most Reverend Faber MacDonald, Bishop of Saint John, rededicated the new church to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

