

Costello

Father Patrick Costello was ordained in Ireland in 1882, and came to New Zealand that same year. He was Parish Priest of the Pukekohe Parish from 1883-1895. Father Costello wanted a Catholic school in Pukekohe. In 1884 Bishop Luck invited the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions to open a school. They arrived in May 1885, earlier than expected, while Father Costello was visiting his parishioners in Waipipi. On his return, Father Costello organised a welcome ceremony, and a special train from Auckland brought Bishop Luck, and many Catholic Aucklanders, to celebrate Mass. A day later, on June 9th 1885, the first convent school, St Mary's, opened with 24 pupils. This school was situated near the site of the present convent. Father Costello supported and encouraged the Sisters in their work.