

The Sisters of Mercy opened the doors of their schools in Kilbeggan on January 10th 1880 and by the end of the month there were 200 pupils on the rolls of the poor school and forty in the pension school. The pension schools had been started by Catherine Mc Auley in Carlow and Cork in 1839.



Extension to Primary School 1955

The foundation stone for a new convent and school, St. Joseph's, was laid in 1891 and in 1896 the building was completed and the Sisters moved into their convent. The convent chapel was built in 1906.

In 1899 an Act was passed establishing the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland and in 1901 the Kilbeggan Sisters established St. Anne's Industry. The industry developed from the classes in technical subjects which were added to the school curriculum after 1901. The industry continued successfully for a number of years until, gradually, the numbers decreased - many of the girls setting up on their own and going to work in larger towns and cities.

MISSION FOUNDATION

The first mission outreach from Kilbeggan was the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy to the USA - to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1843. During the Civil War the Sisters of Mercy established a convent at Vicksburg, Mississippi and immediately began to care for the wounded.



Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Greenville,
Mississippi

On 15th August 1964, the Sisters founded the Convent of Mercy in Greenville, Mississippi. It seemed in most need of Sisters to staff its primary school. Teaching in the primary school began straight away and each year the number of pupils increased. Today over 400 pupils, black and white, Catholics and members of other Christian churches, attend the school. Sisters continue to work among the people and one sister is active in parish ministry.



Section of Secondary School



Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Greenville, Mississippi