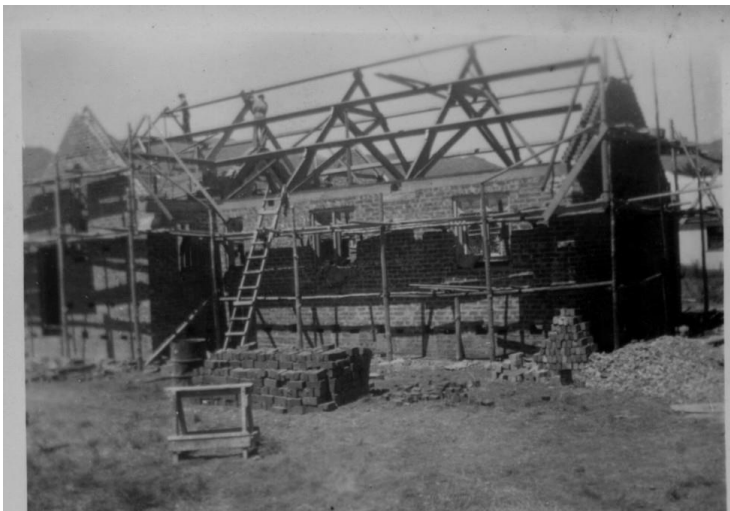


St Mary's Catholic Church



Father James O'Connell (1811 - 1893) started a work circle in Ceres in 1875 consisting of 6 members. Up to the early 1950's there was no church building for the catholic community in the area. A master builder, Mr J.A. Peters was contracted to build a church which was finished in 1953. Mr Jan Peters was an immigrant from the Netherlands who arrived in South Africa on 10 January 1951 and settled in Ceres with his wife, 3 sons and a daughter. Mr Peters built the church at cost, without profit. The building was designed by

John Peter Duppe Grant. He lived on the farm, Waterval, in the Ceres area during 1948.



According to the books 1061 baptisms, 110 weddings and 302 funerals took place in the church up to end of January 2003.

The list of priests

Fr James O'Connel (1875-)

Fr Sneekers (1951 -1963)

Fr Janses (1963 -1966)

Fr Dudler (1967 – 1995)

Fr Behlich (April 1995 -2001)

Fr Lawrence Mubiru (2001 –2010)

Fr Mbekwa (2011-2014)

Fr Hermanus Swartz (2014 – 2020)

Fr Ewan Swartz (2021 -2023)

Leonie Aviat Convent and creche

The Leonie Aviat Convent, just next to the Catholic Church was founded in 1958 by two Sisters, Thérèse Victor Brunnel, from France, and Françoise Elizabeth Shadwell from Port Elizabeth. The convent was initially started as an orphanage for children, but later it was also set up as a day-care centre, now creche. The monastery still operates as a day-care centre. The convent is named after Saint Leonie Aviat.

St Mary's Katolieke Kerk

Vader James O'Connell (1811 - 1893) het in 1875 'n werkkring in Ceres wat uit 6 lede bestaan het begin. Tot in die vroeë 1950's was daar geen kerkgebou vir die katolieke gemeenskap in die area nie. 'n Meesterbouer, mnr J.A. Peters is gekontrakteer om 'n kerk te bou wat in 1953 voltooi is. Mnr. Jan Peters was 'n immigrant uit Nederland wat op 10 Januarie 1951 in Suid-Afrika aangekom het en saam met sy vrou, 3 seuns en 'n dogter in Ceres hulself gevestig het. Mnr Peters het die kerk teen kosprys gebou, sonder wins. Die gebou is ontwerp deur John Peter Duppé Grant. Hy het gedurende 1948 op die plaas, Waterval, in die Ceres-omgewing gewoon.

Volgens die boeke het 1061 dope, 110 troues en 302 begrafnisse tot en met die einde Januarie 2003 in die kerk plaasgevind.

Die lys van priesters

Vr James O'Connel (1875-)

Fr Sneekers (1951 -1963)

Fr Janses (1963 -1966)

Fr Dudler (1967 – 1995)

Fr Behlich (April 1995 -2001)

Fr Lawrence Mubiru (2001–2010)

Vr Mbekwa (2011-2014)

Vr Hermanus Swartz (2014 – 2020)

Vr Ewan Swartz (2021 -2023)

Leonie Aviat Klooster en kleuterskool

Die Leonie Aviat-klooster, net langs die Katolieke Kerk, is in 1958 gestig deur twee susters, Thérèse Victor Brunnel, van Frankryk, en Françoise Elizabeth Shadwell van Port Elizabeth. Die klooster is aanvanklik as 'n kinderskool vir kinders begin, maar later is dit ook as 'n dagsorgsentrum, nou creche, ingerig. Die klooster funksioneer steeds as 'n dagsorgsentrum. Die klooster is vernoem na Saint Leonie Aviat.



Vader Sneekers during holy communion.

