

Churches



UPPER HIGHWAY AREA

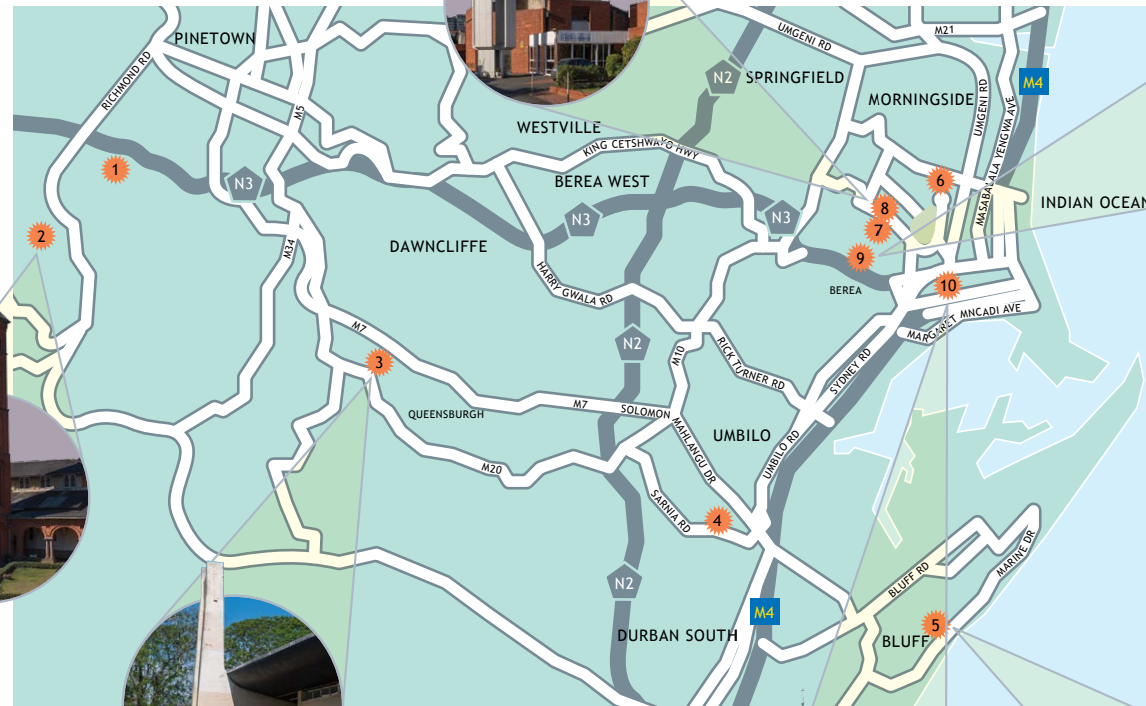
- 1. VICTORY FAITH CENTRE**
90 Seventh Ave, Ashley, Pinetown. Myles, Pugh, Sherlock, Murray, 1996, additions 2004.
- 2. MARIANNHILL MISSION STATION**
Abbot Francis Rd off Richmond Rd. (N3 Exit 23). Mariannhill. 1882-1919.
- 3. ST CATHERINE'S**
442 Main Rd, Escombe. O'Neill & Giraud, 1968.

DURBAN SOUTH AREA

- 4. CORRUGATED IRON CHURCH, SEA VIEW**
332 Sarnia Rd. c.1880.
- 5. ST FRANCIS XAVIER**
21 Sormany Rd, Bluff. Hallen Theron & Partners, 1978.

MARIANNHILL is the largest mission station in South Africa, established in 1882 as a monastery of the Trappist Order.

The monastery church, completed in 1887, consists of a simple timber structure, inserted within the walls of unbaked bricks made on site, with corrugated iron roofing. This church is basilican in cross-section and the clerestory windows allow for good daylighting while promoting the flow of air so necessary in the humid climate. In adjusting the church to the slope, the longitudinal cross-section resulted in the nave having three tiers, with functional advantages for the abutting monastic community, and practical ones – such as sight lines for the worshippers.



CITY CENTRE

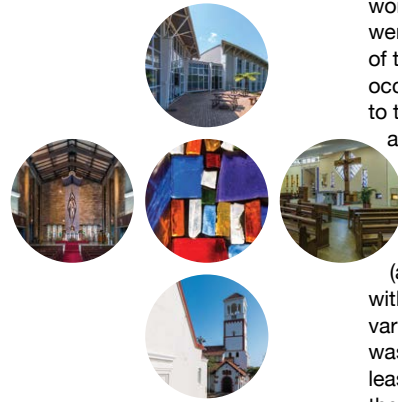
- 6. ST MARY'S**
8 Lilian Ngoyi Rd. Baker & Fleming, 1911-14.
- 7. HOLY TRINITY**
210 Musgrave Rd, Berea. Woodrow & Collingwood, 1958.
- 8. ST OLAV'S**
214 St Thomas Rd. Hallen & Dibb, 1967.
- 9. BEREA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**
29 Musgrave Rd, Berea, Collaborative, 2003.
- 10. EMMANUEL CATHEDRAL**
48 Cathedral Rd. Street & Wilson & Paton, 1902-04.



ST OLAV'S - Set back from the street, the campanile marks the forecourt to the centralised church. Designed as an auditorium, the octagonal plan has the roof supported on raked concrete beams which span the corners to define a Greek cross on plan, with their intersections over the nave marking the positions of the clerestory. Ventilation is enabled by horizontal openings in the cavity wall at seating level where the flow of air is controlled by wooden louvres, and stale air is extracted through windows of the clerestory.



Cloister of the monastery with campanile of the basilican church in the background.



STRUCTURAL HONESTY When dedicated buildings were designed for worship, plans in the shape of a cross were deemed appropriate because of the symbolism, with the nave occupying the long arm, transepts to the short arms and the altar in the apse. This longitudinal composition was usually accented with a belfry or bell tower, placed either on the axis or on the side. An alternative was a centralised plan (as the circle represented eternity), with the octagon as a favourite variation. The basilican cross-section was applied to both plan types, not least because of the association with the church bringing light into the world, while Romanesque and Gothic were the preferred styles due to their structural honesty.

FINDING Churches IN DURBAN

BUILDINGS OF WORSHIP A church is a Christian religious institution, and while the term refers to the assembly of the faithful who could convene anywhere, the general understanding of 'church' is a building used for religious activities, particularly worship. The first buildings used for Christian worship were disused basilicas in ancient Rome. These consisted of a central nave, with aisles on each side separated by an arcade or colonnade and, typically, terminating in a semi-circular apse. Basilicas were originally designed as courts of justice. As such, their windows were set along the aisles and above the arcade or colonnade in order to illuminate the nave, the typical basilican cross-section.



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COLONISTS, MISSIONARIES AND TRADERS BROUGHT VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE NEED FOR DIFFERENT PLACES OF WORSHIP HAS RESULTED IN THE EQUALLY DIVERSE ARCHITECTURE OF



Holy Trinity



FURTHER READING

Radford, D A Guide to the Architecture of Durban & Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town; David Phillip, 2002

Or go to: <http://bit.ly/dbn-c>

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