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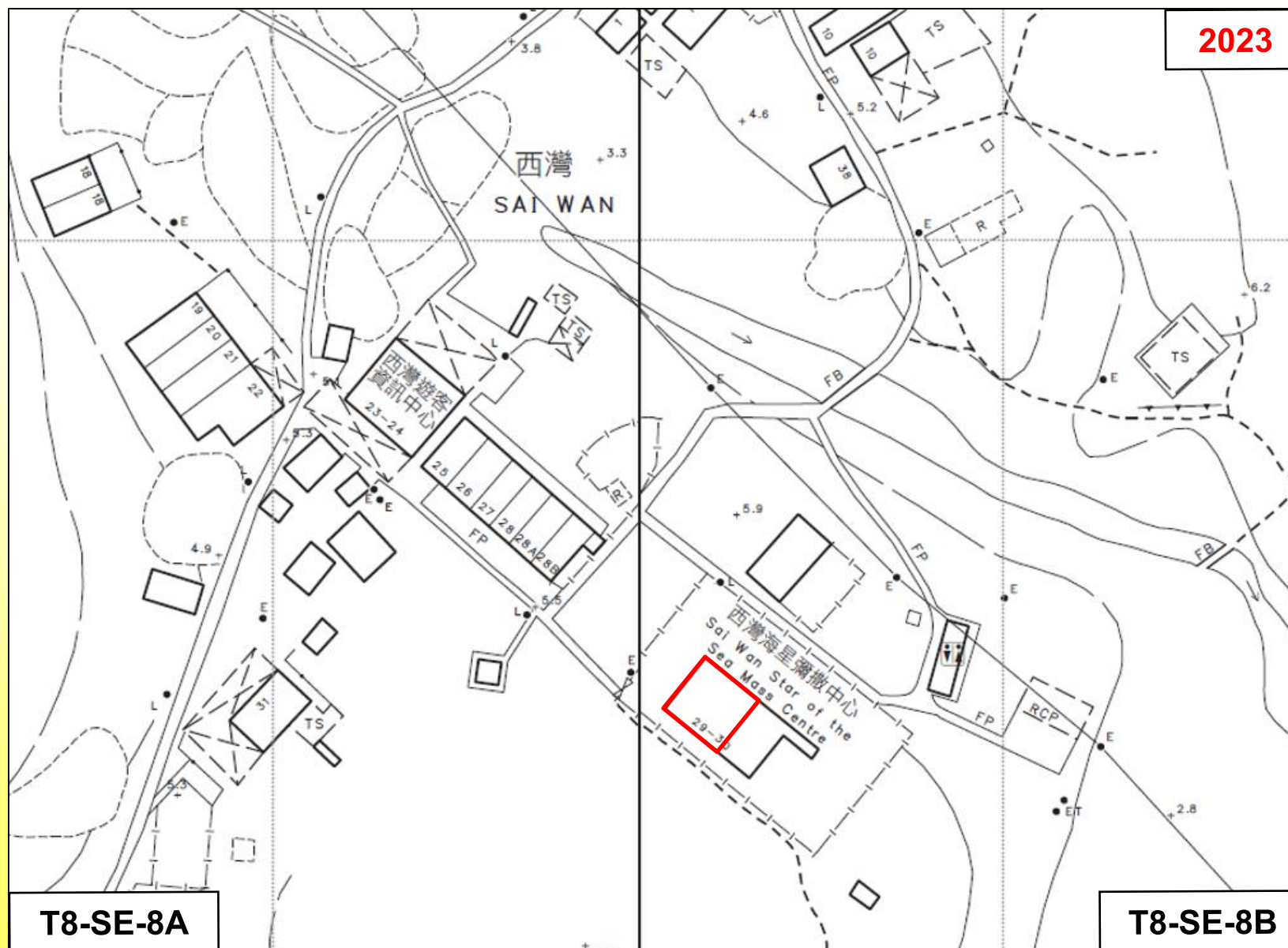
**新界西貢西灣29-30號海星彌撒中心
Star of the Sea Mass Centre,
Nos. 29-30 Sai Wan, Sai Kung, N.T.**

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擬議三級歷史建築
Proposed Grade 3

建於1953年
Built in 1953



只用於識別位置，並非確實範圍 For identification of location only, not exact boundary

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建築外部
Exterior of the Building



聖堂內部
Interior of the Chapel



學校內部
Interior of the School

Historic building Appraisal

Star of the Sea Mass Centre, Nos. 29-30 Sai Wan, Sai Kung, N.T.

Originally known as the Star of the Sea Chapel (海星小堂), the Star of the Sea Mass Centre (海星彌撒中心) at Sai Wan (西灣) in Sai Kung was constructed in 1953 by the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. Designed to house both a chapel and a school within a single structure, the building embodies the diocese's dual commitment to missionary work and community service. Its establishment also illustrates the historical development of the conversion of the villagers of Sai Wan to Catholicism in the aftermath of the Second World War. **Historical Interest**

Located on the eastern coast of the Sai Kung Peninsula, Sai Wan was settled in the 17th century by the Lai (黎) clan, which traces its ancestral origins back to Jiangxi (江西).¹ For generations, the villagers relied on farming and fishing for their subsistence² and worshipped Tin Hau (天后), a popular patron deity of seafaring folk.³ Following the Second World War, Catholic pastoral work in Sai Kung was resumed by the Reverend Giorgio Caruso (文明德神父),⁴ whose dedication earned the trust of the Sai Wan villagers and inspired their conversion as a group to Catholicism within a few years.⁵

In December 1949, Bishop Enrico Valtorta (恩理覺主教) visited the village to administer the sacrament of baptism to 36 villagers.⁶ To

¹ 《新安大浪西灣黎氏族譜：黎德猷公房》，出版者不詳，1950 年。

² Sai Wan was recorded in 1898 as a small settlement of 40 Punti (本地) inhabitants. In addition to farming and fishing, the villagers produced charcoal to supplement their livelihood, building a charcoal kiln on the mountain above the settlement, cutting wood from the hillsides and transporting the finished charcoal to nearby markets. This small industry gradually declined with the rise of kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas as fuels, and the kiln eventually became obsolete. See Government Notification No. 204, *The Hong Kong Government Gazette*, 8 April 1899, from Hong Kong Government Reports Online, and 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅：《西灣與海星小堂》，香港：教區「古道行」工作小組，2021 年，頁 5-6。

³ 〈【古道札記】探西灣之源流 感先賢之艱辛（上）〉，《公教報》，2022 年 1 月 21 日，<https://kkp.org.hk/past/detail/47228/> (accessed on 27 July 2026).

⁴ 〈香港新界西貢區西灣村 新教友領洗領堅振誌慶〉，《公教報》，1949 年 12 月 18 日。

⁵ Catholic interest in the Sai Kung region can be traced back to the mid-19th century, when missionary activity began to extend into the New Territories. Catholic outreach came to Sai Wan in the early 20th century with the arrival of the Reverend Emilio Teruzzi (丁味略神父), but no villagers converted before the Second World War. See 〈香港新界西貢區西灣村 新教友領洗領堅振誌慶〉，《公教報》，1949 年 12 月 18 日，and 阮志偉、余嘉浩、許家朗、敖子亮：《先賢之路：西貢天主教傳教史》，香港：中華書局（香港）有限公司，2021 年，頁 137。

⁶ Before a proper chapel was established, priests celebrated mass in the home of a villager, which

accommodate the growing Catholic community, the diocese acquired a parcel of land, D.D. 372 Lot 371, at Sai Wan in 1952 for the construction of a chapel.⁷ Completed in 1953, the building was named the Star of the Sea Chapel to express the villagers' devotion to Our Lady, Star of the Sea (海星聖母).⁸ In addition to the chapel, the building housed the Star of the Sea School (海星學校), thereby also addressing the educational needs of the villagers.

Apart from a brief period following the interruption caused by Typhoon Wanda (溫黛) in September 1962 and the subsequent repair works, the building served the local community continuously from the 1950s through the 1980s.⁹ The Star of the Sea Chapel was served by priests from the Sacred Heart Church (聖心堂) in Sai Kung,¹⁰ while the adjoining school enrolled between 10 and 20 pupils each year, providing them with instruction in the Chinese language and the catechism. Beyond its religious and educational functions, the building also provided a communal space for the villagers¹¹ and, at times, operated as a clinic for local residents.¹²

also served as the site of a school that opened in 1948 with the assistance of Rev. Caruso and offered free education to the children of the village. See 〈香港新界西貢區西灣村 新教友領洗領堅振誌慶〉,《公教報》,1949年12月18日, and 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅:《西灣與海星小堂》,香港:教區「古道行」工作小組,2021年,頁8.

⁷ New Grant of Lot No. 371 in D.D. 372, No. 3226, 27 November 1952, and HKRS156-1-3585, "Lot No. 371, DD No. 372, Sai Wan, Sai Kung, N.T. - Sale of - For The Purpose Of School And Chapel", 30 September 1952 to 9 January 1953.

⁸ Our Lady, Star of the Sea is an ancient title for Mary, the mother of Jesus, that highlights her role as a guiding light and protector of coastal communities. The naming of the building was likely influenced by Sai Wan's character as a fishing village. See 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅:《西灣與海星小堂》,香港:教區「古道行」工作小組,2021年,頁9.

⁹ 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅:《西灣與海星小堂》,香港:教區「古道行」工作小組,2021年,頁24.

¹⁰ To attend to the pastoral needs of villages in the district, a priest departed from the Sacred Heart Church in Sai Kung Market in the morning. He first made his way to Sha Tsui (沙咀), where he celebrated an early mass, before continuing his journey to Long Ke (浪茄) to preside at another service. The priest usually arrived at Sai Wan before dusk; after offering mass in the building the following morning, he returned to Sai Kung Market by sailing boat. Villagers from surrounding areas would occasionally come to the building to attend the religious ceremonies. See 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅:《西灣與海星小堂》,香港:教區「古道行」工作小組,2021年,頁10.

¹¹ Oral history interview with Rev. Choy Wai Man, Vicars General of Hong Kong, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 28 July 2026.

¹² The building once functioned as a temporary clinic, with the open ground next to it serving as the landing site for the flying doctor service that was launched by the Medical and Health Department in 1961. See 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅:《西灣與海星小堂》,香港:教區「古道行」工作小組,2021年,頁22-23.

As the population of Sai Wan began to decline, the Star of the Sea School was closed in 1985,¹³ and the building was renamed the Star of the Sea Mass Centre in 1990 to indicate that regular Masses were no longer held there.¹⁴ In 2021, following a major restoration undertaken by the Diocesan Working Committee for “Following Thy Way” (教區古道行), the building was revitalised as a venue for spiritual retreats and formation activities.

Architecturally, the building is a traditional vernacular one-hall-two-bay structure. Its walls are constructed of locally sourced irregular rubble masonry finished with beige plaster and carry a flush gable roof supported by timber rafters and purlins and covered with Hakka-style tiles.

**Architectural
Merit**

The front elevation of the building is distinguished by religious design elements, most notably a full-width stepped pediment centred on a simple cross and bearing the year of repair “1963” together with the Chinese characters “天主堂” (Catholic chapel). Beneath the pediment, two entrance doorways lead to the chapel on the right and the school on the left, each with an inscription above: “海星聖堂” (Star of the Sea Chapel) and “海星學校” (Star of the Sea School). The doors and windows on the front elevation are surmounted by modest arched hoods with decorative mouldings. The chapel entrance features a Latin cross, while its windows display crosses pattée. The entrance to the school carries a bell motif and its window is decorated with a floral design. Similar arched hoods also appear on the gable walls, providing architectural consistency across the exterior.

The interior of the building is utilitarian in design, with few decorative features. Divided by a central wall, the two bays present neatly plastered surfaces internally. In the chapel, the aisle is paved with square tiles, while the flanking areas are finished in cement screed scored with lines to mimic the tiled pattern. In the school bay, the flooring is simply finished in plain cement screed, while a partition wall at the rear separates the classroom from the teacher’s room, where a short staircase leads to a timber cockloft that once served as the teacher’s accommodation.

¹³ The school was last mentioned in the Hong Kong Catholic Directory and Year Book for the Year of Our Lord 1984. See Catholic Truth Society. *Hong Kong Catholic Directory and Year Book for the Year of Our Lord 1984-1985*. Hong Kong: Catholic Truth Society, 1984-1985.

¹⁴ 阮志偉、曾家明、鍾素珊、李英梅：《西灣與海星小堂》，香港：教區「古道行」工作小組，2021年，頁24，and Oral history interview with Rev. Choy Wai Man, Vicars General of Hong Kong, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 28 July 2026.

Repairs undertaken in 1962-63 following Typhoon Wanda included re-roofing, exterior plastering and the alteration of the pediment inscription from “1952” to “1963”, together with the Chinese characters “天主堂”.¹⁵ The ancillary buildings at the rear were reconstructed in the mid-1970s,¹⁶ but the architectural form of the façade remains intact. The dilapidated roof and cockloft were restored with new materials, and both the internal and external walls, including all decorative features, were repainted in 2021, enabling the building to continue to serve the Catholic community.

***Authenticity &
Rarity***

The building stands as the embodiment of the shared faith and collective memory of the villagers of Sai Wan. It once functioned as a communal hub for the residents, fulfilling their spiritual needs, providing education and serving as a venue for community activities. Since its restoration and reopening, the building has continued to serve the wider Catholic community as well as visiting pilgrims and tourists.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

The building, together with other historic Catholic chapels on the Sai Kung Peninsula, including St. Joseph’s Chapel in Yim Tin Tsai (鹽田仔聖若瑟堂), the Holy Family Chapel in Chek Keng (赤徑聖家小堂) and the Rosary Mission Centre in Wong Mo Ying (黃毛應玫瑰小堂) (all Grade 2), the Immaculate Conception Chapel in Tai Long (大浪聖母無原罪小堂), the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in Pak Sha O (白沙澳聖母無玷之心小堂), the Epiphany of Our Lord Chapel in Sham Chung Tsuen (深涌村三王來朝小堂), Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows Chapel in Sheung Yiu (上窰聖母七苦小堂) and the Nativity of Our Lady Chapel in Long Ke (浪茄聖母聖誕小堂) (all Grade 3), hold group value as they collectively bear witness to the initial spread and subsequent development of Catholicism in the district.

Group Value

¹⁵ 〈西灣海星聖堂〉,《教區「古道行」工作小組教區「古道行」工作小組 Youtube》, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFNT0Avd950> (accessed on 23 July 2026), Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, Aerial Photo No.: F43_600-0004, dated 17 January 1961, and Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, Aerial Photo No.: 1963-9057, dated 17 February 1963.

¹⁶ Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, Aerial Photo No.: 02995, dated 30 January 1973, and Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, Aerial Photo No.: 14952, dated 22 August 1976.

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