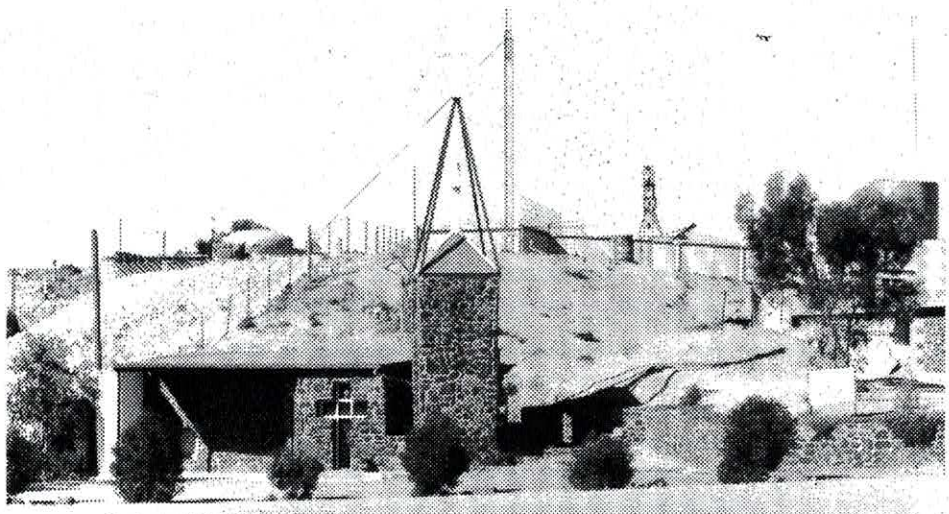


COOBER PEDY TIMES TOURIST LIFTOUT

Underground St Peter & St Paul Catholic Church

Opened and consecrated on 15th June 1967, the underground Catholic church in Coober Pedy commemorates the Saints, Peter and Paul. This dugout church was hand dug by local miners who volunteered their time for the spiritual needs of their town. Father Frank Cresp was the first resident priest in Coober Pedy and his duties involved working with local people and others ranging far and wide, north, south, east and west of Coober Pedy. Today Father Paul Bourke attends to the spiritual needs of the local and wider community.



St Peter & St Paul's underground Catholic Church on Hutchison Street.



Looking to the altar, inside the church

Visitors to Coober Pedy's underground church will usually find the door open and are requested to respect the church when entering and leaving. Lights should be turned off and the door closed. The altar, made from local sandstone, features in the centre of the church, and the rough hewn walls have been coated with a clear bonding paint to show off the natural beauty of the ground. A couple of years ago the church underwent major extensions and a new verandah was installed at the front, a bell tower completed and a bell installed. Also the seating capacity of the church

was expanded with alterations made through the priest's rectory/residence. A final touch was added at the front with a beautiful stained glass window being installed in May 1987. The late afternoon sun shines through this window, built in honour of St Anthony of Padua, and spills the colours on to the floor giving a stunning opalesque effect to the foyer and entrance to the church. The window symbolises the Blessed Trinity. A postcard featuring the outside, the window and the inside of the church is available in the foyer and payment is on an honour basis.

St Vincent de Paul's
The CLOTHES HORSE
 Open Wed. & Thurs.
 11am — 3pm
 at TAFE



Afternoon light shines through the stained glass window.