

ST. MARY'S R.C. CHURCH.

HONOR BOARD UNVEILED.

At St. Mary's R.C. Church, on Sunday morning last a special retreat which had been in progress during the week was brought to a close. At the nine o'clock mass which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Fitzpatrick, the members of the Hibernian and Catholic Young Mens' Societies together with the other male parishioners went to holy communion.

Subsequently, an adjournment was made to the school hall where the usual breakfast was held. There was a splendid attendance of men, some of whom were representative of Lindenow, Bengworden, Wy Yung, Nicholson and Swan Reach.

Mr Mat. O'Byrne presided over the repast, who, in opening the proceedings, stated that he was delighted to see such a number of men present. After the toast of the Pope and the King had been honored, Mr O'Byrne proposed the health of the Clergy coupled with the names of Arch-bishop Mannix, Bishop Phelan, Rev. Father Cremin, P.P., and Father Fitzpatrick, S.D.

In reply, the last named priest thanked the company for the enthusiastic manner in which the toast had been proposed and honored, as where such enthusiasm existed it proved that the union must be a great one, and showed that the clergy and people worked in perfect harmony. As their spiritual director he felt honored, at being in a position to lead men while he was still more gratified at the knowledge that the parishioners followed his advice. The names of Archbishop Mannix and Bishop Phelan were looked upon with respect and although there were some who had insulted and endeavored to ridicule the first-named prelate still they, as Catholics, knew full well that what he fought for was for truth and justice, and consequently the Archbishop did not fear to speak out. (Applause.) By the recent death of Archbishop Carr the Church had lost a great and good man who from the time he reached these shores from his native country had fought hard to better the educational system. Men, and great men, oft-times differed on many points, including matters appertaining to religion. It should be remembered that they were all trying for the same place and therefore it was a pity that all creeds could not live peaceably. Though bigotry at times came down like a cloud, it made

times come down like a cloud, it made Catholics cling all the stronger to their religion, knowing that come what may they had God on their side.

Cr. T. W. Murphy, President of the Bairnsdale Shire Council, expressed pleasure at being present that day, and also to note the excellent manner in which the men responded to their religious duty. The toast he had to propose was "Absent Friends." They all knew who he referred to. "the young men who had gone forth from this district to assist in the gigantic struggle in which the Empire was engaged." It had been suggested in some quarters that the Roman Catholic body had not contributed its share in response to the Empire's call for men. Speaking for this district of Gippsland, however, and for this particular part of the district and themselves, he had no hesitation in saying that the Catholic portion of the community had responded nobly. The Honor Board which he would unveil later on contained the names of 79 parishioners of St. Mary's Church who had enlisted for active service, a fact which would dispel any doubts which were held or might have been held regarding the Catholic enlistments here. Some of the lads had given their lives in the great cause and he was sorry to state that he felt a great percentage of young soldiers some of whose names appeared on the Roll of Honor would be absent for all time. Nevertheless, whilst these thoughts grieved us, it sent a thrill of pride through one to know that those men had worthily upheld the traditions of the Irish-Australian race. (Applause.) In the great game of war there was, as a matter of course, sacrifice of lives, and he hoped that the Lord would have mercy on the souls of those who had fallen and who might be lying cold and stiff on the battlefield that morning. President Murphy also asked those present at the communion breakfast to say a little prayer for the deceased and also for those still taking part in the world's battle. No words, no matter how grand, could sufficiently express the gratitude due to the men who had made such self-sacrifices to answer the country's call. It was something worth fighting for; the great heritage that had been given us to live in a free country. Associated with the war would be the satisfactory settlement of vital questions, such as the Repatriation of Soldiers. This was a question that would have to be handled delicately, and at the same time it must be realised that it was our duty that these

ly, and at the same time it was realised that it was our duty that these men must be repaid for the noble sacrifice made on our behalf. In concluding, the speaker trusted that soldiers engaged on active service would have Divine guidance.

The President then drew aside the Union Jack and exposed to view the honor board. The board was the gift and handicraftmanship of Mr Tierney, of Paynesville, while the names of the soldiers were inscribed by Mr J. Slater, of Bairnsdale.

After the unvelling ceremony, the company rose and sang "God Bless Our Splendid Men."

Cr. Murphy next proposed the toast of the President, Mr Mat. O'Byrne, coupled with the name of Cr. Frank Deery. Mr O'Byrne made a suitable response and mentioned that whenever the O'Byrnes took part, or assisted, in any object they did so in a wholehearted manner, while at the same time they considered that they were only doing their duty and therefore desired no praise.

Cr. Deery said that it had been sta-

ted that the Catholics had not done their duty in the way of supplying recruits. He knew for a fact, however, that such statements were untrue, while he also knew of several Catholic families in this district who were worthily represented at the war and some of the men would never return. Cr. Deery who spoke with great feeling, and who had recently had a brother killed on active service, begged to be excused from making further remarks.

Mr Denis Doyle in an appropriate and happy manner proposed the health of the ladies who kindly supervised the arrangements at the communion breakfast.

Mr Keith McLean responded, and referred to the sectarian strife that had been much in evidence. He was of opinion, however, that that balloon which had its head with Snowball and Company had suddenly burst. What had recently happened was nothing short of a sectarian scandal which he hoped would never again be heard of. In Queensland, the Catholic enlistments were greater than their quota of population. In Victoria, he had heard on the best of authority that taking 25,000 as a rough estimate of the total enlistments, the Catholic recruits was right up to the standard. He wished it to be known that he was

He wished it to be known that he was patriotic in every way, but at the same time, he contended that it was a man's conscience whether he volunteered for active service or not. In his opinion, it was the heads of the nations who were the primary cause of the war and he would like to see them fight it out amongst themselves. It was a great pity that the conflict was ever commenced, and the only way that it would be stopped was by the masses refusing to fight. This had evidently already happened in Russia. There was not the slightest doubt that Germany was the aggressor, and even if the war could be terminated, he hoped that Germany which had outraged Catholic Belgium, would first of all get a "good thumping." Until conscription was established in Australia, every man, if he so desired, could stay at home. Further, nobody had the right to dictate to others as to their line of conduct as to whether they should go to the war or not. Conscription was the fairest way to deal with the question, for by that means the poor and rich were treated alike. He hoped, however, that before conscription came about in Australia that the war would have terminated successfully..

Mr J. Murphy proposed the toast of the Press, while Inspector Ahern moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr M. O'Byrne. The proceedings then terminated.

The Very Rev. Father Cremin was unable to be present at the communion breakfast owing to his being in Sale on clerical duties. Nevertheless, the Rev. gentleman was present in spirit, and the splendid attendance of men was due and in no small measure to his untiring efforts.

Appended are the names of the members of the Catholic societies of St. Mary's Church, Bairnsdale, which appear on the Honor Roll.

- Rev. Father R. Buckley, C. Ahern, M. Aitken, W. Aitken, L. Andrews, R. Andrews, C. J. Bennett, T. C. Bishop, J. Blake, E. Bourke, T. Bourke, A. Brabet, A. Bruckner, D. S. Burns, M. Burns, G. Byrne, H. Byrne, H. F. Byrne, L. Byrne, W. Byrne, H. Clarke, M. Clarke, S. H. Clarke, T. Clarke, K. Corney, E. Cottrell, W. Cottrell, C. *Deery, P. Dwyer, F. Duke, R. T. Dunbar, H. Fitton, W. *Fitton, T. Gammon, B. Gibney, P. Goodman, H. J. Green, V. F. Green, V. *Grogan, J. Guiney, D. Hanley, J. Hanley, P. Hanley, J. Hayes, M. Hogan, G. Holly, A. Johnstone, S. Johnstone, J. Kelleher, L. Kenny, D. McCarthy, S. R. *McCarthy, O. A. McCarthy, J. *McRorie, G. McDonald,

McCarthy, J. *McRorie, G. McDonald,
B. McMahon, W. Miller, A. Miller, J.
B. Mooney, Jno. Mooney, Jos. Mooney,
P. L. Murdock, R. J. J. *Murdock, J.
*Mulligan, J. J. *Murphy, V. Murphy,
J. L. O'Loughlin, T. J. O'Loughlin, M.
O'Mara, L. J. Payne, K. B. Pendergast,
C. Peel, R. Simpson, R. Turton, J. R.
Twomey, T. P. Twomey, W. Sukroo,
W. H. O'Shea, W. Williams.

The names marked with an asterisk
(*) have made the Supreme sacrifice.