

## **VERY REV. FATHER J. T. CLANCY, P.P. *Tenterfield's Tribute.***

Tenterfield did not stint its tribute to its pastor, Very Rev. Father J. T. Clancy, P.P., on the occasion of his sacerdotal golden jubilee. The celebrations opened with Solemn High Mass at 9.30 a.m., which was attended by a great congregation, which filled the church to overflowing. A most edifying sight was the great number of men who left their work to be present. Stores and offices allowed members of Father Clancy's flock the time off to attend High Mass. The celebrant was the jubilarian; the deacon, Rev. Father F. Hogan (Quirindi); sub-deacon, Rev. Father B. O'Brien (Bundarra); master of ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Coleman (Armidale). The Right Rev. Monsignor Tobin, P.P., V.G., of Glen Innes, presided. The priests in the sanctuary were Very Rev. Dean O'Neill, P.P., V.F., Very Rev. Father J. K. Collender (Tamworth), Very Rev. Father J. J. English (Moree), Rev. Fathers R. Condon (Barraba), P. Walsh (Bingara), D. G. Carrol (West Tamworth), C. Donleavy (Inverell), J. O'Connor (Moree), P. McDermott (Tamworth), D. Hiscox (Wee Waa), J. McDermott (Werris Creek), J. Stevenson (Armidale), M. Tully (Narrabri), James Kelly (Stanthorpe), Joseph Kelly (Roma, Qld.) and W. McGovern (Stanthorpe).

A magnificent gold chalice, presented by the priests of the diocese to Father Clancy, was used by him in the celebration of Mass. Miss Grace Kelly gave a beautiful rendition of Millard's "Ave Maria." An illuminated address, signed by his Lordship Bishop O'Connor and the priests of the diocese, was presented to Father Clancy.

After Mass the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent School, under the direction of the Sisters, gave an entertainment, with a delightful programme, which included: "Highland Wreath," convent orchestra; Jubilee Ode, "Ireland I Love You," by the children; Highland Fling, by the Misses E. Leis, J. Dwyer, B. Clark and J. Petrie; a recitation, "Our Pastor," by Barney Bergin, aroused much applause. The recitation was apropos of Father Clancy's love of horses, and his re-

the recitation was apropos of Father Clancy's love of horses, and his refusal of a motor car. It is generally known that Father Clancy owned a Melbourne Cup winner, "Posinatus." Following are the words:

#### OUR PASTOR.

The Priest to a sick call riding fast,  
On his way was ruminating:  
"A horse for me to the long, long last,  
And a car—not worth debating.  
My tryst with a dying man to keep  
On the lonely mountain siding,  
Where would I be on the rocky steep,  
But for this grand beast I'm riding?"

A shearer rode on an outback track,  
On his "take down" quietly pacing,  
When he met a priest on a lively hack,  
And it turned his thoughts to racing.  
"That's a likely looking one you ride  
If you'd care to back your fancy,  
I'll give you a spin for a pound aside."  
"You will!" said Father Clancy.

They spun along for a mile or so,  
With the distance roughly reckoned,  
The race was won by a hundred yards,  
And the shearer finished second.  
"You've taken me down," in wrath, he cried,  
And I never thought you could do it."  
"This is Posinatus," Father Clancy replied;  
But, of course, I thought you knew it."

Oh, 'tis Father Clancy beats them all,  
And when it comes to the race's finish,  
Sure, never once, did he ride a fall,  
Or the rate of his speed diminish.  
May another Cup winner his fortune be,  
And luck never prove a rover.  
Here's to his health, with a three times three,  
Father Clancy the wide world over.

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A fine exhibition, Plume drill, by the senior girls, and Wand drill by the boys, comic song, "The Country Barber," by Paul Michael; the "Dear Little Shamrock," by Misses Jean Curry and Daphne Bergin; a jig by two little mites, Norma and Patricia Fitzgerald; chorus by junior girls; "Bush Children," a four hand reel, by Misses Margaret Sweeney, Dossie Murphy, Daphne Bergin and Jean Curry; the "Old Sundowner," character song by the boys; a drama, "Aunt Virginia's Ear Trumpet," rendered by the senior girls; Hornpipe, Daphne Bergin and Dossie Murray; chorus, "A Toast to Australia."

#### Monsignor Tobin's Address.

Right Rev. Monsignor Tobin, addressing the pupils, said he was delighted to be there, and associate himself with the Sisters and the children to do honour to Father Clancy. "Fifty years as God's faithful servant is a long time. Very few of us are spared to celebrated a golden jubi-

lee; God has spared your beloved priest, and I sincerely hope that God will be pleased to spare him to celebrate his diamond jubilee. I congratulate the children and the good Sisters of St. Joseph on their exhibition. I have always had great admiration during the many years I have been associated with the Sisters of St. Joseph for their work. I know the work of the Sisters for the Church and Catholic children of Australia. In every nook and corner a branch of this community will be found teaching the principles of religion and fitting the children for every walk of life by education."

Miss Daphne Bergin read an illuminated address, and Very Rev. Father English, senior priest of the diocese, made a presentation from the convent school children, of a richly embroidered cope and humeral veil, and from the Sisters of St. Joseph, Tenterfield, a beautiful lace alb.

The Very Rev. Father Clancy, on rising to respond, received an ovation. He said he assured Father English, the good Sisters of St. Joseph and the children that he spoke from his heart in appreciation. He owed a great deal to the Sisters of St. Joseph, not only in Tenterfield, but in other parts.

#### **Public Demonstration.**

In the evening a conversazione was held in the School of Arts to allow the people of Tenterfield to pay a public tribute of esteem to the reverend jubilarian. The hall was crowded. There were 23 priests of the Armidale diocese who joined in the celebrations, and the Minister for Local Government, Lieutenant-Colonel Bruxner, journeyed from Sydney to be present. An outstanding feature was the large number of representative men of other denominations.

The Mayor (Ald. S. Armstrong) occupied the chair, and had on his right the guest of the evening and Lieutenant-Colonel Bruxner; on his left Monsignor Tobin and the Deputy Mayor. The Mayor extended a welcome to the visitors, who had come, he said, from near and far to do honour to a very worthy citizen of Tenterfield.

Right Rev. Monsignor Tobin thanked the Mayor for his welcome. He expressed the hope that Ald. Armstrong would long remain the chief citizen of Tenterfield. There was one regret attached to the function, and that was their beloved Bishop (Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor) was unable to be present. The demonstration that night at

... was unable to be present. The demonstration that night, at the church in the morning, and at the school that afternoon, where his brother priests and citizens had gathered to do him honour, showed that Father Clancy's work was appreciated. Fifty years was a wonderful record in the service of the sacred ministry; it was a record that very few were spared to celebrate. His work had not been easy; during his pioneering days he had many difficulties to contend with.

Whole days and nights were spent in the saddle in the service of the Church. No priest in the Commonwealth had worked harder or more unselfishly than the priest they were honouring that night.

#### Public Men's Tributes.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bruxner, in his opening remarks referred to Father Clancy's love for horses, and expressed his appreciation of that fact. Colonel Bruxner said he was pleased to be present at the celebration of Father Clancy's jubilee, not only as a Minister of the Crown, but as a citizen of the town of Tenterfield, to pay respect to a man whom he was sure owned the respect, confidence, and love of every man, woman, and child in the district.

Ald. R. L. Walker (Deputy Mayor) spoke on behalf of the Municipal Council. He said that Father Clancy had been an example and an inspiration for the younger priests to follow. "Page after page could be written of his work in the comfort of the sick, the poor and the downtrodden. Father Clancy has gone right ahead in the half century of work for the King of Kings, and I hope he will gain his reward in the city of the King of Kings. Our prayer for him is that he will be spared to work for many years amongst his faithful flock, and I sincerely hope to see him celebrate his diamond jubilee," concluded Ald. Walker.

Rev. F. W. Paul (Presbyterian), and Rev. T. May (Anglican) praised Father Clancy's work.

Very Rev. Dean O'Neill (Gunnedah) said he was pleased to be associated with the citizens of Tenterfield in doing honour to one to whom honour was due. Continuing he said, during those 50 years of service Father Clancy had laboured in many districts throughout New South Wales, and he could say, without doubt, that in every district in which he served he commanded

district in which he served he commanded the respect and esteem of all the citizens.

Very Rev. Father J. J. English (Moree) said he had come from Moree to take part in the jubilee celebrations of Father Clancy. He was pleased to be able to unite with the people of Tenterfield in the celebrations. He had known Father Clancy for 37 years, and had laboured beside him in an adjoining parish. He had proved him to be a sincere friend; they had been very much to each other.

Deputy Shire President (Councillor W. H. Smith (on behalf of the Shire Council), Mr. W. Warner (on behalf of the Picnic Race Club), Mr. A. V. Hynes (president of the Tenterfield Show Society); Mr. Andy Miller (president of the Poultry Club), Mr. S. J. Hoskins, of the Hospital Committee; Dr. J. L. Digby, on behalf of the School of Arts; Mr. Peter Hannay, co-trustee of Father Clancy for the Tenterfield Cemetery; Mr. G. H. Mitchell (Caledonian Society); Mr. A. W. Percival, on behalf of the Parents and Citizens' Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Press; Mr. Swan (Headmaster, Public School); Mr. James Donnelly (chairman, Pastures Protection Board), and Mr. C. Boston (secretary, Rugby League), all joined in felicitating Father Clancy.

#### **The Presentation.**

The Mayor then presented Father Clancy with a cheque for £270, amid cheers.

#### **Father Clancy's Reply.**

Greeted with loud applause, Father Clancy said it was difficult to find language to express his thoughts in appreciation and gratitude of what the people had done. He was pleased with that magnificent demonstration, and that the Mayor had taken part in the function. He dreaded that day, but when he looked around this spacious hall, and saw all the smiling faces, he was more than recompensed for the suspense. "A jubilee," he said, "has several

benefits to a community. First of all, it brings the members together in one common bond. This has done that, and the whole town and district has come to honour me. They have come and mingled in the social sphere, and since they have come we are all as brothers and sisters. (Applause.) The Mayor said there was no room for bigotry. Well, I think the varied elements and organisations represented here have proved that. We have Catholics mingling



and organisations represented here have proved that. We have Catholics mingling with the other people, and their felicitations prove that we, at least, can get on together. I think the spirit of bigotry will die out, and I hope the spirit that is witnessed to-night will be witnessed everywhere. I thank my fellow-priests for their felicitations. One thing a priest values is the esteem of his fellow-priests. To-day they assembled and presented me with a beautiful golden chalice. I trust that this golden tribute of their esteem will always remain to remind me of this day.

"Next to the priests, I associate the Rev. Mr. Paul, and the Rev. Mr. May; they have come here and made complimentary speeches. They have also mingled with my fellow-priests; I assure them that I value that. I am also pleased that Lieutenant-Colonel Bruxner came along, at considerable inconvenience to himself. We welcome him to Tenterfield, and pay the courtesy and respect his high office entitles him to. I also thank the representatives of the various institutions who are here. I thank you for this cheque of £270. I will never forget this demonstration."

After hearty cheering by the audience, Father Clancy rose and said: "I value the spirit in which this presentation is given, and I trust that the donors will not be disappointed or angry with me. I would like you to let it be devoted to an ornamental brick fence around the church grounds. This suggestion was greeted with great applause.

In accepting the cheque on behalf of the church committee, Mr. R. D. O'Grady (Town Clerk), thanked Father Clancy, and, continuing, said that Father Clancy's action was only typical of his Christian spirit.

#### **Musical Items.**

There was a number of musical items interspersed with the addresses, that were much enjoyed. The proceedings opened with the strains of several Irish melodies by the orchestra, the performers being Miss I. Garr (piano), Miss R. Reid and Mr. E. Glover (violins), Mr. C. C. Bergin (trombone), and Mr. F. Cornford (banjo-mandolin); Mr. R. S. Brush sang "Berwick Market," and as an encore, "My Prayer." Miss Grace Kelly sang "Killarney" and "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms." Miss Monica Donoghue rendered "The Harp That Once" and the "Lilac Tree." Alderman F. Col

gnue rendered "The Harp That Once" and the "Lilac Tree." Alderman E. Cullen sang "That Old Irish Mother of Mine" and "Love Sends a Little Gift of Roses." Miss Stella Roberts played selections of "Mother Machree" and "Ring of Bells." Miss M. Donnelly sang "The Snowy-Breasted Pearl" and "You'd Better Ask Me." Miss Joan May (daughter of Rev. May) gave a recitation, "The Owl Critic," and as a recall number "The Serial Story." Miss Winifred Percival sang "A Light Song, a Bright Song" and the "Little Old Shop." Mr. A. D. Donnelly (C.P.S.) contributed "Tim Rooney's at the Fight-in" and the "Corporal's Ditty." Mrs. A. D. Donnelly had charge of the musical programme, and acted as accompanist in her usual delightful manner.

The task of providing for over 600 persons was in the hands of Mrs. R. Lillierap, assisted by a large band of ladies, who worked throughout the evening.

The general arrangements were in the hands of a large committee, presided over by Mr. R. D. O'Grady, with Mr. D. Mul-lane as secretary, assisted by Mr. Edmund Curry.