

TURRAMURRA CHURCH HALL IS WAR MEMORIAL

The North Shore building firm of Girvan Bros. Pty. Ltd. began last week the construction of the new War Memorial Hall for St. James' Church, Turramurra.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday the foundation stone will be set by the Governor, Sir John Northcott, and dedicated by the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr. Mowll.

The building, in brick and tile, will cost about £21,000, of which £8,500 has already been raised.

Designed by Fowell, Mansfield and Maclurcan, it will implement a scheme, long urged by the rector, the Rev. G. T. Earp, for the construction of a self-contained parish hall and youth centre in the church grounds. It will be joined to the church by a covered in stairway and porch.

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St. James' is one of Sydney's finest suburban churches, set among lofty trees in secluded King Street. It is noteworthy for its great timber roof, its profusion of modern stained glass windows and a magnificent peal of six bells.

A half-muffled peal will be rung just before the dedication service on Saturday.

The new building, situated at right angles to the church and designed in the same red brick, will cover 62 squares with a hall holding 400 people as its central feature. This hall measures 57ft by 35ft, exclusive of a stage 16ft by 35ft, and a cinema projection room. On either side of an approach passage is a men's vestry, a larger women's vestry, a library, and a kitchen with an 8ft service hatch into the main hall.

CLASSROOMS

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Steps lead down under the stage to a large storeroom and three classrooms divided by sliding doors, which covert the rooms when needed into a large children's playroom 35ft by 19ft.

When the belfry is added to the building it will contain the old Sunday school bell, which for the last 12 years has been suspended from the branch of a gum tree in the church grounds.

In style the building has a Georgian flavour, the reddish face bricks laid in Flemish bond, Marseilles tiles being selected to match those of the church.

The walls of the major section of the building have 6½in cavities with 1ft 6in x 4½in internal piers. The main roof has bent rolled-steel joist principals, with internal silky oak beam casing. Light face bricks will be used for the walls of passages and hall dado, and in the classrooms.

Girvan Brothers were also the builders of the present brick church, erected in 1941-42.

Honorary supervising architects are E. Lindsay Thompson, Spooner, and Dixon.