

DEDICATION CEREMONY

New Fence At St. Michael's, Wollongong

Notwithstanding the welcome rain, there was a large congregation present at St. Michael's Church, Wollongong, on Sunday morning, when the new fence around portion of the church property was dedicated by his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney.

Included amongst those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. Lang), Mr. Bell (Town Clerk) and Mrs. Bell, and Mr. Fowles, representing Mr. H. P. Lazzarini, M.H.R.

The Rector (Rev. E. Walker) and Rev. G. Mottram (Rector of West Wollongong) took part in the service.

The service was a shortened morning prayer.

During the service, the Rector said that the service that morning was different from ordinary Morning Prayer. He extended a welcome to His Grace, the Archbishop, who had come down for a double purpose, first to dedicate the new wall, and secondly to administer the rites of Confirmation at Wollongong, West Wollongong and Albion Park. The Rector asked the Deputy Mayor (Ald. J. W. Lee) as Church Warden, to address the congregation on the subject of the wall. He said that Ald. Lee had a great deal to do with the erection of the wall. He had given an enormous amount of his spare time and also a good deal of his labour on four Saturdays, associated with a number of men of the Parish, in putting the church grounds in order.

Ald. Lee said he had to thank Mr. Walker for the kind reference paid to his work. What he had done he felt to be his duty to the church. That day was a red letter day in the history of St. Michael's, for the new wall partly erected around the church property would be dedicated. It would be agreed that the wall is an embellishment to the church property, and an adornment to the town of which the citizens should feel proud. He desired to pay a tribute to Mr. Midmer, who constructed the wall, and the men associated with him for the excellent work put into the wall. It cost under £600, and the manner in which it had been constructed spoke of the honest workmanship of Mr. Midmer and his men. The job had been done by day labour, and he could truly say that Mr. Midmer had given them an honest job. For four Saturdays a wonderful band of workers had met to put the church grounds in order. They had to thank Mr. Vormister for presenting lamps for the entrance gate. Now that the wall had been built, it would have to be paid for. For those who had given donations they were grate-

have to be paid for. For those who had given donations they were grateful. Mr. Lee read out a list of donors, and said he would not specify the amounts given. He referred to the great assistance received from the Ladies' Guild, which had donated £225 to date, and he knew there was another £100 to be handed in that day. To all the good people he said "Thank you." It was to be regretted that they could not hold the function on a Saturday afternoon, as more people would be present, and they would get more money, but His Grace would not have been able to be present with them on a Saturday, consequently they had decided to hold it on a Sunday. They were very grateful to His Grace for attending. The wall could not be paid for out of the Parish Funds. The Parish had recently been divided, and when they heard that the portion of the Parish now known as West Wollongong had raised £1,000 last year, they would understand that portion of the revenue of the Parish had been diverted. The officers of St. Michael's Church were hoping that His Grace would be able to return to Sydney with the knowledge that the wall had been built and paid for.

His Grace, accompanied by the clergy, choir and congregation, proceeded to the church grounds, where the dedication ceremony took place.

His Grace first unveiled the tablet on the steps leading into the Rectory, which is dedicated to the clergy who had worked in the parish and Rural Deanery; following that, the tablet at the entrance gate was unveiled and dedicated to the pioneers of the Parish; a panel at the corner facing the Police Station, was dedicated to the Ladies' Guild; the steps leading in from Market-street were dedicated to the memory of Norma Ruth Leaney by her husband Eric Leaney and son Michael; near the Sunday School a panel was dedicated to the memory of the late W. H. Owen. The entrance from Market-street north was dedicated to the memory of the late Mary Road.

His Grace took as his text, "So we built the wall ... for the people had a mind to work." Neh. iv. 6. He said it was a happy day for the parishioners of St. Michael's, that they could come together in the church in which they had worshipped for more than two generations in order to celebrate the building of the wall.

The building of the wall had been somewhat delayed, as he thought that the wall should be built of stone, similar to the church. Unfortunately, the price of stone had increased, which made its use prohibitive, and it was found necessary to use synthetic stone, which looks very well. The work is a great improvement to the church property.

His Grace went on to refer to the manner in which Nehemiah had undertaken to restore the wall around Jerusalem by getting each person to build the portion of the wall in front of their own dwelling. This the people did, some doing a little more, with the result that the wall was built in '52

did, some doing a little more, with the result that the wall was built in 52 days. The speaker referred to the prayer offered by Nehemiah, as contained in the 1st chapter, and said that it was a model prayer. If we desired our prayers to be effective, they should be modelled on that prayer, for Nehemiah did not pray as a matter of form, but because he felt the need for prayer. After he had prayed he set about seeing what his task was. He was a practical man. The third chapter let us into the secret of how Nehemiah accomplished in 52 days what others had looked upon for half a century and had not been able to do anything. Nehemiah was successful because he was capable of inculcating a sense of individual responsibility. He got the people to build over against their own houses. This was a case of individual co-operation. In addition the people all built on the old foundation, and the result was that in 52 days the impossible was achieved. Many persons during the past week had been privileged to listen to the broadcast of the King's speech. It will be remembered that in that speech the King referred to the National Walls of England. It was not the actual walls which make the city. It is the people who live there. The walls may be battered, but the people are undismayed. There would always be an England, protected by

walls of people whose hearts were resolute and undismayed.

His Grace went on to refer to the spiritual walls of the Church and then went on to refer to missionary work.

In referring to the spirit of the people of England, and the effect the war had on parochial life, he said that he had a letter from a sister in Dover who said that she had only one child in her Sunday School class, all the others having been evacuated. He mentioned the case of one parish where the revenue fell owing to the war, and the rector decided to undertake missionary work, with the result that now all the activities of the church were financial.

To illustrate the point of his sermon, His Grace told the story of a man who had gone to a village in France where there was no electricity, but at night time on a Sunday he was amazed at seeing little points of light all over the village, and on going to church he was surprised to see each villager holding a small kerosene lamp, and this helped to illuminate the church. Each person had been given a lamp as his own personal property. He was not to lend it to anybody, and if he remained away from church as the result of illness or neglect, the people suffered as a result of his absence. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven," said His Grace in conclusion.

The collection amounted to about £180, £100 of which came from the Ladies' Guild.