

## OPENING OF DARWIN CATHEDRAL.

On Sunday 26th. August 1962, the new St. Mary's Star of the Sea War Memorial Catholic Cathedral was officially opened and solemnly blessed.

Bishops and priests from all over Australia converged on Darwin for the ceremonies. It was the proudest occasion of the Church's history in North Australia. The Cathedral soars 103 ft. from the ground to the tip of the giant cross. It is built to seat 1000.

Unique features are Karel Kupka's famous painting of the Aboriginal Madonna, and the main stained glass window has aboriginal motifs.

The idea of a War Memorial Cathedral was first raised by troops stationed in the area in 1942. Japanese Zeros has strafed the old church repeatedly with machine gun fire.

Special features of the Cathedral beside the Aboriginal Madonna are the striking stained glass window, representing Our Lady Star of the Sea, the work of Mr. Bustard of Southport, Brisbane. A star has been placed at the top of

thw window fromwhich rays radiate downwards, immmediately under the star is the representation of the Madonna and Child. Then there is the expanse of sky through which three seabirds are flying, and underneath a symbolic representation offthe sea, with fishes and waves in blue. Three chrubs decorate the apex of the window. One is black to

represent the native people among the congregation. Alluvial gold panned at Santa Teresa Mission in Central Australia hhas been used to gild the altar cross and the Sedilia in the sanctuary are upholstered with leather made up from crocodile skins sent in by hunters from the Daly River Mission. The memorial character of the building is reflected in the three stained glass windows donated by each of the Australian armed Services, showing their respective emblems. These were donated by servicemen stationed in Darwin. The United States Army, Navy and Air-  
- forces also have presented a stained glass panel bearing the official seals of each service. A party of Americans flew from Canberra for the opening ceremonies.