

## SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL.

### Blessing of Memorial Windows.

On Sunday morning, His Lordship Dr. Ryan, Bishop of Townsville, blessed the new altars, statues, and stained glass windows that had been recently donated to the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The ceremony was attended by children from all the Catholic schools and colleges of Townsville. The children who filled the Cathedral to overflowing, also took part in the Dialogue Mass that followed, and that was celebrated by the Rev. Father M. Dougan.

During the course of the Mass, His Lordship spoke as follows:

"This morning we have assembled around the altar of the Living God to offer up, in a spirit of thanksgiving the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for those we number amongst our greatest earthly benefactors, the Bishops, Priests, Religious, and Laity who laid the foundations of the Catholic Faith in that part of Australia which is now the Diocese of Townsville—for those who were the pioneers of the Catholic Church in this part of Queensland.

"Before the commencement of Holy Mass, we took part in the blessing and dedication of three stained glass windows. These striking works of art, now adorning our beautiful sanctuary, are a fitting memorial to that noble-hearted band of Catholic pioneers we honor to-day. They will remain a permanent and imposing reminder to succeeding generations of the splendid faith and generous hearts of those who have gone before us, and who now, for the greater part, have crossed the threshold of eternity and now repose in the sleep of peace.

"The central window, as you see, pictures for us Our Lord under the attractive title of the Sacred Heart. It fittingly commemorates one who did so much for the Church in Townsville. It has been erected in memory of the late Father Walsh, who for thirty years was parish priest of Townsville, and who was responsible, with his loyal and generous people, for the erection of this Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. From the year 1878, until the year 1908, Father Walsh labored with great earnestness and zeal amongst the people of this parish. He is still remembered by many as a noble and saintly priest, whose shining example of Christian virtues drew around him a faithful flock who recognised in their pastor a true man of God. The Sisters of Mercy of the Diocese have graciously presented this window to the Cathedral, and we express our profound gratitude to them for honoring so worthy a priest, and at the same time for adding to the beauty of this Cathedral so loved by him.

"To the ladies of the Cathedral parish we are indebted for the striking window of St. Joseph. This has been erected in honor of Monsignor Bourke, who for twenty years was parish priest of Townsville. With many of the present congregation, his memory is held in benediction. The beautiful church of St. Joseph on the Strand, stands as a memorial to his priestly zeal, and it is indeed singularly appropriate that in the Cathedral church of the Diocese in which he so long and fruitfully labored, the memorial window of St. Joseph should bear his name.

"And now we come to the children's gift—the lovely window of the Immaculate Mother of God. This gift has about it some very attractive and imposing and moving features. It is the expression of gratitude from the hope of the future to the faith of the past. It links the coming generations

hope of the future to the faith of the past. It links the coming generations of Catholics represented by your children, with the deathless army of the past. The Catholic children of the Townsville Diocese have made a beautiful gesture of gratitude to those to whom they owe so much. They have provided this exquisite window of their Immaculate Mother, in grateful memory of their Clergy, Relatives, Friends and Fellow-Catholics who went through the hard days of the early settlement of this part of Queensland—the first Bishop, priests, Religious and Laity, who labored so well in founding the Catholic Church in our Land. That we now enjoy so many advantages and blessings coming to us through our holy Faith, is in great part due to them. Dear children, it is hard to realize fully the amount of the great debt we owe to our pioneer Catholics. We now have churches, priests, schools, brothers, and nuns—a splendid system of Catholic education—but remember how much it cost our early Catholics to make possible for us these great blessings. In those difficult days, churches were very few, priests had to make long and arduous journeys to visit their scattered flocks; droughts, floods, losses had to be faced; hardships to be suffered—but these brave people survived all and kept alive the flame of Faith and handed it on to us with many advantages that they themselves never could enjoy. The history of the early settlement in Australia is a grand and inspiring one. The stubborn fight against seemingly insuperable obstacles; the dreadful isolation in the great Australian bush; the endless struggle to support large families on slender returns—all tell us that the early settlers who conquered Australia from within were courageous men and women, of whom posterity must be proud. Notwithstanding their grim battle for a foothold in this young country, they kept alight the torch of Faith and handed it on with undiminished splendor to succeeding generations. The beautiful subject of the window donated by your dear children—the Immaculate Conception—is a very suitable one to commemorate these good Catholic pioneers. These good people placed themselves in a particular manner under the protection of the Mother of God. When they could not have Holy Mass they said the Rosary. Mass could be said only at long intervals, as the priest had to travel over great distances; but your loyal grandfathers and grandmothers—as many were—said the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin in their own houses and so preserved for themselves and for you the priceless gift of the Catholic Faith.

"The window of the Immaculate Conception adds greatly to the dignity and beauty of this Cathedral Sanctuary. The Mother of God is represented as she appeared on February 11, 1858, to the little Bernadette Soubirous, a girl of fourteen years living in the village of Lourdes in the South of France. You know the story. In all she appeared 18 times and in answer to the child's question as to her name, she replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Every Catholic child knows what that means—that never for a single moment ever had the Blessed Virgin the stain of original sin on her soul. She alone of all the human race, was from the beginning of her life—sinless. To that sinless and beautiful Mother, every devout Catholic prays for protection and love, for we know that her Divine Son will always grant in our behalf the request of His Mother.

"To-day we have blessed the altars, statues, and windows, so kindly donated by the members of the Congregation. The full list of contributions is now published. I wish to thank all who have given of their means to make this Cathedral of the Sacred Heart worthy of Him who dwells therein. God will bless you abundantly for contributing to the beauty and the splendor of His house,

abundantly for contributing to the beauty and the splendor of His house, and always and ever when you visit Him here he will show His gratitude to you by bringing into your souls that perfect peace which surpasses all human understanding."

The whole of the arrangements for the most famous horse race in the world are under the control of a clergyman, the Rev. E. E. Dorling. He is managing director of the Spanny Grandstand Association, which owns the race track where the Derby is run. The Dorling family has been connected with Epsom Downs since 1821. The Bishop of Guildford holds an annual parish service on the track on the Sunday before Derby Day.