

LATE FATHER BREEN.**PROPOSED MEMORIAL CHURCH.
FOUNDATION STONE LAID.**

The foundation stone of the Father Breen Memorial Church, at Sinclair's Hill, East Brisbane, was laid yesterday afternoon by Archbishop Duhig. The gathering was a large one, and great interest was taken in the proceedings. The Archbishop who arrived at 5.20 o'clock, was received by the parish priest, the Rev. Father J. J. O'Connell. Members of St. Joseph's branch of the H.A.C.H.S. formed a guard of honor. There were present, the Revs. Fathers F. Darrigan, J. Gallinger, O'Keefe, Foley (of Armidale), and Mr. J. Eihelly (Assistant minister for Justice).

Father O'Connell welcomed Dr. Duhig, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Joseph's and expressed the gratitude of the people for his kindness and foresight in erecting this beautiful church for their convenience. When Father Breen, their much loved pastor died, a meeting was called in St. Joseph's Schoolroom, and it was decided to erect a monument over his grave in Nudgee Cemetery, and to build this church as a memorial to him. They could not have chosen a more fitting way of perpetuating his memory than by erecting a church to the glory of God, where the spiritual children he loved so well might day after day have the holy sacrament dispensed to them. His Grace had picked and donated the site, and as usual had selected the best to be had.

Mr. T. K. Morahan then read an address of welcome to the Archbishop from the priests and people of St. Joseph's. The ceremony of laying and blessing the foundation stone was then performed by the Archbishop.

The stone bore the following inscription:—"Father Breen Memorial Church. This Foundation stone of St. Benedict's Church was blessed and laid by James, Archbishop of Brisbane, on 18th March, 1917. Rev. J. J. O'Connell, P.S.".

Archbishop Duhig, addressing those present, said it was very gratifying to him to find himself that afternoon associated with the parishioners of St. Joseph's parish in laying the foundation stone of a new church to serve the people who were living at such a distance from the parish church as to be put to great inconvenience in attending Mass and the other services of the Church from time to time. The pleasure was enhanced by the fact that they were erecting a church not only to the glory of God, but also to the memory of one of the best priests that ever worked in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. For a number of years, almost ever since his arrival, as Co-adjutor Archbishop, he had noted the need of a church in this populated district, and he regretted he was not here when Mr. Sinclair's property was cut up because he felt that if he had been they would now be owning more of it. It had been said he had an eye for a good site, and he might say he had acquired as much of the hill as the finances would permit. He had the property at the back from which there was a very fine panoramic view.

He congratulated Father O'Connell and the parishioners on the success of their work. Everything appeared well for the successful conclusion of the work and a happy opening when the Church was completed. He thanked them for the very hearty welcome they had extended to him on this his first official visit to the parish since his accession to the See of Brisbane. He had been intimately associated with St. Joseph's parish, and had never yet been amongst the people without being edified by their spirit of piety and generosity, and he was certain the same spirit of generosity that had animated the people of St.

laid the same spirit of generosity that had animated the people of St. Joseph's in the past in the works they had undertaken and completed would mark their connection with the erection of this present building. Father Breen was a priest who led a very unostentatious life. He loved his God and his people, and after that his library, and it was there he spent most of his spare time. Whenever he went out, like his Divine Master, he went about doing good. It was useless to send him out collecting, for what he got he gave to the needy before he returned home, and sometimes he returned home with even less than he had taken out with him. He led such an exemplary life that it was well to perpetuate his memory, and no more fitting memorial could be erected to him than a building in which the spiritual children could come and receive Mass and the sacraments. He hoped that this would also be the centre in which the little children not able to go to St. Joseph's would be able to attend school, for he intended to donate the house at the back to the good sisters if they would undertake the work of carrying on a school in this district. (Applause.) The church was not to be merely a memorial. It was to be of the greatest use to the people. It was being erected in the very centre of a large population, and he for one would look forward with pleasure to the fact that it would ease the pressure on St. Joseph's Church. He understood the parish church was quite inadequate to contain the large congregations that flocked there three and four times on Sundays. For the last five years he had found himself confronted with the problem of trying to accommodate the large congregations in Brisbane. The Cathedral was crowded out, and with the idea of easing it he went around parts of Brisbane where no Catholic churches existed. They began with the parish of St. Joseph's. But the pressure was not eased off. They had to give an extra Mass on Sundays at St. Joseph's and an extra priest, and there were still 5000 or 6000 people attending St. Joseph's every Sunday, and even after the completion of this new church he believed the pressure on St. Joseph's would be as great as ever, and that Father O'Connell, instead of doing with two Masses would have to keep on three and perhaps get an extra priest.

Well, he would say, good luck to him, and his people if that was the case. (Laughter.) It only showed how marked was the progress of their religion in this great country of Queensland. The new church was named St. Benedict's, and they might ask why? Well, Father Breen's second name happened to be Benedict. Then the present Holy Father was Benedict the XV. Many of them lost sons and brothers at Gallipoli, and he would point out that they owed a deep debt of gratitude to his Holiness for saving from desecration the graves of their heroes in Gallipoli. The press of Queensland had taken very little notice of the Pope's action in this respect, yet, nevertheless, it was a fact that the graves of their heroes—Catholic and Protestant alike—on the Gallipoli Peninsula had been saved from desecration for all time by the Pope. His Holiness communicated with his Nuncio in Constantinople, and he intervened successfully with the Turkish Government, and got a promise, and he believed the Turks, who were brave enemies, would be faithful to their promise. Photographs of the graves had been received in Australia, and had been reproduced in some of the leading illustrated papers. Therefore, they were now paying a tribute not only to their priest, but also their Holy Father by naming this church St. Benedict. But above all that they owed a great debt to the great St. Benedict himself. He was the Father of Western Monasticism. It was from the Benedictine Monastery that in the year 595 St. Augustine and his companions

discipline Monastery that in the year 595 St. Augustine and his companions started out to evangelize England. So that it was from a Benedictine Monastery in Rome that the faith was sent to England, and in turn from them came some of the earliest pioneers out to Australia. The first Catholic Bishop in Australia was a Benedictine—the late Archbishop Polding. He hoped that as their church was named St. Benedict they would learn to love that glorious saint—to whom the Church and Catholicity owed so much. Through the Benedictine Monks schools were founded all over the land, and those monks, between times of prayer, transcribed the sacred Scriptures and the Classics and preserved them for their use to-day. But for those monks some of their most priceless monuments of Catholic learning would have been lost to the civilized world. Therefore, he was glad they were to have a church of St. Benedict here in Brisbane. In conclusion, he appealed to them to contribute towards defraying the cost of the new building, and so help in this Father O'Connell's first undertaking. He felt certain there would be a generous response, because in every part of Brisbane Father Breen, the late parish priest, was very much beloved. He might add that it had been decided to put a sanctuary into the church, and that would bring the total cost up to about £2750. The work was safe in the hands of Mr. G. H. M. Addison as architect and Mr. J. G. Hobbs as builder.

Donations were then invited, and at the close it was announced that these had totalled about £500.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Archbishop, moved by the Rev. Father O'Connell.