
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GUNNEDAH.

Blessed and Opened.

BY THE BISHOP OF ARMIDALE,

On Sunday, 22nd ult., a new church at Gunnedah was solemnly blessed and dedicated by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale, in the presence of a crowded congregation. Immediately after the blessing, Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father D. Keane, of Gunnedah, assisted by Rev. Father W. Packer, C.S.S.R. (Waratah), as deacon; Rev. Father P. J. Dunne, D.D., (Gunnedah), as sub-deacon; Rev. Father T. Stephenson (Tamworth), acting as master of ceremonies. The Bishop presided, having as chaplains the Rev. Fathers C. J. Hunt, C.S.S.R., of Waratah, and the Rev. Father M. Bonayne, of Narrabri. The occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R.

St. Cecilia's Mass was beautifully rendered by the full choir of the Sisters of Mercy, the Offertory piece being an "Ave Maria," and after the Consecration the "O Cor Amoris" was sung with violin and violoncello obligato. At the conclusion of the sermon Father Keane read the financial statement in connection with the new church. He tendered apologies from the Vicar-General, and from several other clergy who were unable to be present. After welcoming his Lordship the Bishop and the visiting clergy, Father Keane said that the old building, which had done good service for about 45 years—all honour to those that erected it—had been found quite inadequate to afford the necessary accommodation and hence, for many years back it had been the intention of the parishioners to undertake the task of erecting a new and larger church. Many adverse causes militated against the project hitherto, but sheer necessity and his Lordship's material assistance and guidance were the principal factors in helping it through at the present time. From a financial point of view, they were in a fairly sound position at the beginning of the undertaking, and but for adverse circumstances, would have attained greater success. The building was

attained greater success. The building was begun when the disastrous European war was raging most fiercely. It was continued during the most droughty conditions that have ever affected the district, and it is now being completed during this dreadful epidemic, which has caused panic throughout the country. The contract price of the building was £4417, in addition to which a terazzo sanctuary cost £165. They also secured a marble altar at a cost of £425, making a total expense of £5007, exclusive of architect's fees.

Father Keane then read the list of donations received since the laying of the foundation stone, and after thanking all those who from the outset by their generous contributions made possible the erection of the church, he referred to the various gifts, which form so striking a feature of its furnishing and ornamentation. He also drew special attention to the fact that the fourteen Stations of the Cross were erected by the friends of deceased soldiers of the parish. The following is a list of the gifts referred to:

Stations of the Cross.

(1) By Private S. Freill, in memory of friends killed at Gallipoli; (2) by T. J. Bowen, jun., in memory of Private Lou. Bowen, died in England, 1918; (3) by Mrs. Cohen, in memory of Driver Cohen, killed on the Somme, 1918; (4) by the Fitzgerald family, "Huntsgrove," in memory of Private W. B. Fitzgerald, killed in France, 1918; (5) by Private W. J. O'Brien, in memory of friends killed at Lone Pine, 1915; (6) by F. Babbage, in memory of Private J. Babbage, killed in France, 1915; (7) by Mrs. Nelson, in memory of Private A. J. Nelson, killed at Gallipoli, 1915; (8) by T. McGuire, (of Boggabri) in memory of Private J. J. McGuire, killed in France, 1918, and Private C. F. McGuire, killed in Egypt, 1916; (9) by Mrs. Best, in memory of Private W. J. Best, killed in France, 1918; (10) by A. Turner (of Carrol), in memory of Private L. A. Turner, killed in France, 1917; (11) by E. Grace (of Tambar Springs), in memory of Corporal Roy Grace, killed in France, 1916; (12) by Mrs. Bloomfield, in memory of Sergeant J. Bloomfield, killed in France, 1917; (13) by J. L. Cushman, in memory of Private Dave Cushman, killed in France, 1917; (14) by Mrs. Ford, in memory of Private J. Ford, killed at sea, 1916.

Stained-Glass Windows.

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Rev. Father D. Keane, Mrs. Keys, Nowland family, Rev. Father M. Ronayne, Mrs. Moylan, Mr. J. Kenniff, Children of Mary, Kelly and O'Neill family, Mrs. Melville, J. Donoghue, J. B. Fitzgerald, Mrs. O'Rourke, Rev. Father J. Walsh.

Furnishing.

Standing sanctuary lamp, Mirow and Sons; seven-branch candelabra, Mrs. Waters; pair of cruets, Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner; large crucifix, Mrs. Coll; pair of cruets, Mrs. King, senr.; five-branch candelabra, Alfred Carroll; processional crucifix, Mrs. McKenzie; ciborium, Mr. Dwyer, Mullaley; pyx and lunette, Mr. and Mrs. Little and family; brass credence table, Mrs. H. Nowland; brass crucifix for high altar, Mr. T.

Gollan; Bishop's chair, convent boarders; memorial to Dean O'Sullivan, by Sister Benignus, parishioners and C. O'Sullivan; prie-dieu, by Sister Evangelist and primary school children; picture, Mrs. Roberts; pair of stools, high school children; picture, Sisters of Mercy; brass stand, Miss L. Keys; altar vases, Miss E. Keys; chalice, by Mrs. Marsden, senr. per F. J. Marsden); lectern, Mrs. J. J. Smyth; altar cloth, Mrs. J. E. Keys.

The Subscription List.

The Bishop, in a few words, having exhorted the people to reduce the deficit as soon as possible met with the following response:

His Lordship Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor £25; Sports Fund, £30; Estate late Dan Towers, £25 12s 1d; William Hicks, £25; Rev. D. Keane, £20; Estate late J. H. Fitzgerald, "Huntsgrove," Manilla, £100 Mrs. McKeough, Curlew Social, Alfred Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. Egan, W. Neader, £10 10s each. Rev. M. Ronayne (Narrabri) J. E. Keys, E. J. Wallace, Joe Gaynor (Curlewis), £5 5s each, Right Rev. Monsignor Tobin, Rev. J. McDermott (Bundarra), Redemptorist Fathers, Rev. Dr. Dunne, M. O'Brien (Kelvin), R. Kennedy, T. J. Bowen, junr., W. Best and Family, Mrs. Leonard (Breeza), Mrs. W. Neader, J. Corrigan, F. J. Bishop (architect), Bert Ferrill, J. H. King, £5 each. Rev. F. Lloyd (Moree), P. Kennedy (Kelvin), Mrs. Cushman, £3 3s each. Rev. L. Mahony, £3. Very Rev. T. Harrington, P.P. (Quirindi), Rev. D. Carroll (Armidale), Rev. T. Stephenson (Tamworth), Rev. P. McGrath (Uralla), Rev. P. Condon (Barraba), Dr. Capples, Mrs. Tudor, J. Marsden, Joe Gaynor (Curlewis), Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Westerweller, M. Doherty, Geo. Bowen, Mr. M. Audet, Mrs. E. Keys, £2 2s each. Rev. F. Hogan (Wee Waa), Miss J. Links, Master J. Links, Master Key Links, Master Hill-Links, Master Ray Links, M. Egan (Emerald Hill), William Egan, junr. (Emerald Hill), Mrs. John Turner (Carroll), £2 each. Rev. B. O'Brien (Tenterfield), Miss L. Cushman, Miss M. Cushman, Dr. Riolo, Mrs. G. Riolo, G. Pritchard, Mr. Lewis, J. Nolan, Mrs. Livermore (Curlewis), J. Kenniff, W. Gallen, Mrs. W. Gallen, Mr. Clohessy, W. Stapleton (Curlewis), V. Newell, Mrs. Waters, E. R. Kirchner, Miss B. Gallen, Mrs. J. Gallen, B. Burke, H. Mullane, J. Willis, A. Friend, Mrs. Launder, B. Warmoll, J. P. Mulli-

J. Willis, A Friend, Mrs. Launder, B. Warmoll, J. P. Mulligan, S. P. Bowen, Con. Murphy, Mrs. Abernethy, Mrs. Willis, £1 1s each, Rev. J. Bishop (Armidale), Rev. J. O'Connor (Walcha), W. E. Grace (Tambar Springs), J. McKeon, Miss Howard, Mr. T. Brady (Kevin), Misses Melville, A Friend, Mrs. A. Gaylor (Curlewis), Mr. J. G. Little, Misses Warmoll, Mr. J. Sullivan, Mrs. Whiteman, J. Sullivan, Mrs. Chawckley, Mrs. W. Kilpatrick, Mrs. Neville Rodd, Mr. D. Launt, J. J. Ryan, Mr. Lucerne, £1 each, Miss V. Gallen, Mrs. Gorman, G. Gardner, W. Shaw, J. Gardner, 10s 6d each, Mrs. Frank O'Neill, Mrs. Marsden, senr., Mrs. Darcy, Miss M. Howard, Miss D. Howard, J. Scanlan, A. Friend, Mrs. Coll, J. O'Shea, Mrs. Taylor, P. O'Brien, N. Corrigan, Mrs. W. Gallen, B. Worrall, J. Goode, Miss C. White, Mrs. Borthistle, junr., Miss M. Shelly, Miss A. Kachel (Curlewis), Miss Tennant, Aileen Dwyer (Mullaley), Mrs. Geo. Brandt, T. Griffin, Mr. Pat Hayes, Mr. T. Golan, A Friend, A Friend, 10s each, Trooper Lorry Parker, 6s, Mrs. J. Goode, Mrs. McKenzie, senr., Miss E. Livermore (Curlewis), Miss Ivy Brady, Miss Mary Brady, Mr. A. Worrall, Mrs. Cooley, Miss N. Stapleton (Curlewis), Miss Bertha Burke, Mrs. Hillman, Mrs. Downes, Miss Lorna Brandt, Miss Thelma Brandt, A. Friend, Mr. P. A. O'Neil, Miss E. Cooley, 5s each, Miss M. Livermore (Curlewis), 4s.

Luncheon.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Bishop, visiting priests and friends were entertained at luncheon by the Sisters of Mercy. In the afternoon, at a garden party held in the convent grounds, the Bishop, in the course of a short address, said: "The parish of Gunnedah had now one of the first, if not the first church in the diocese, and few in the State to compare with it in internal furnishings."

Description of the Church.

The style of the building is purely Gothic throughout. It consists of a nave 75ft by 35ft; a sanctuary, 23ft by 20ft; a nun's chapel, 15ft by 15ft, and a 35ft by 19ft gallery. The foundations are on the reinforced concrete girder principle. The super-structure is of brick, with hollow walls, the outer portion being picked Armidale bricks, with all facings and mouldings of picked Armidale white bricks. The handsome tracery windows are cast in reinforced cement, and are all to be filled with stained glass. They are most beautiful, and represent the life of St. Joseph—the patron of the church. The roof covering is of asbestos cement slates. The internal walls are plastered and moulded, and the Stations of the Cross stand in relief. The arches to the sanctuary and chapel are exceptionally fine, and are carried on columns with Gothic capitals.

The sanctuary is done with mosaic terrazzo flooring, is adorned with a magnificent white Carrara marble altar, tastefully relieved with coloured Australian marble. The reredos is of coloured and white marbles, with columns and Gothic arches. At

marbles, with columns and Gothic arches. At the back and above the altar is a magnificent stained-glass window representing the Crucifixion. The building is a very decided addition to the town; it is entirely Australian, and only Australian-made goods have been used for its construction and its furnishings. The architect is Mr. F. J. Bishop, and the contractor, Mr. M. Ardet. The terrazzo flooring was laid by the firm of Melocco Bros., of Sydney, and the altar, windows, Stations of the Cross, statuary and metalware were supplied by Pellegrini, and Co., of Sydney and Melbourne.