

Gladstone News

Churches Rebuilt After Cyclone

In March, 1949, a cyclone destroyed at Gladstone two churches, the convent school and the convent, and it has taken over six years to see the restoration of these buildings started on the sites.

At the Anglican Flower Show last Saturday Bishop Housden, of Rockhampton, said that despite disappointing delays the Rector, Rev. E. L. B. Gribble, hoped to dedicate the new St Saviour's Church on December 4 next. The construction of this attractive edifice has been under way for over two years.

On Sunday afternoon in the presence of some 300 people, the Governor (Sir John Lavarack) laid the foundation stone of the new Presbyterian Church on the site of the demolished building. The minister in charge of St Andrew's, Rev. A. W. Laurie, told his Excellency that the foundation stone, the baptismal font and the pulpit had been saved when the old St Andrew's had been destroyed and would be incorporated in the new church.

Four years ago Gladstone Catholics rebuilt both their school and convent, handsome brick structures replacing the old wooden buildings.

LAYING STONE

Seated on the site of the old church in beautiful surroundings and with the Gladstone Town Band, the High School cadets, Boy Scouts and Cubs in attendance, Gladstone Presbyterians and their friends witnessed the impressive ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new War Memorial Church to be erected at a cost of £15,000.

The programme arranged by the minister was as follows:

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Arrival of his Excellency, received at Lich Gate by the minister and officiating clergy with the band playing the National Anthem; after the call to prayer and the prayer offered by the minister. Psalm 100 was sung; the Scripture was read by the Rev. W. R. G. Denning, of St Andrew's, Rockhampton; following the introduction of his Excellency, Rev. J. M. Davidson, B.A., B.D., dedicated the stone and offered the prayer of dedication, followed by the Lord's Prayer; hymn No. 353 was sung and his Excellency addressed the gathering; then one of the oldest members of the church was invited to unveil the foundation stone of the old church; Rev. Laurie then thanked the Governor; the choir sang "Te Deum Laudamus" and Psalm 23; following the dedication of the offerings, Psalm 72 was sung and the Blessing was pronounced by the Moderator. His Excellency was escorted from the dais and inspected the Cadets and Boy Scouts.