

Archbishop Booth at Lilydale

Last Sunday was a memorable day for St. John's, Lilydale, when the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. J. J. Booth, visited the parish for the twofold purpose of administering Confirmation and dedicating memorials.

At 11 a.m. eighteen candidates were presented for Confirmation - 12 from Lilydale, five from Mt. Evelyn and one from Wandin. The church, beautifully decorated by the ladies of the congregation, was packed with a reverent congregation, and the singing was led by a choir of C.E.F. and C.F.S. members. The Archbishop, in his address, stressed the need for private prayer and devotion as essential parts of the Christian life. Difficulty may be experienced at times in the exercise of these, but the spiritual life will not survive without them. A regular attendance at worship, especially Holy Communion, is incumbent upon the Christian also; so, too, is obedience to the rule, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

In the afternoon the memorial porch, a stained glass window "The Light of the World" (gift of Miss A. Johnston in memory of her sisters), and a psalm board (a beautifully executed piece of work by Mr. S. Hicks, perpetuating the work of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Reaks), were dedicated in the presence of a large congregation which overflowed into the porch. Three former vicars, the Revs. A. C. Donnelly, W. Milne and E. H. Norton, were present. In his address the Archbishop paid a glowing tribute to those whose lives were commemorated in the memorials dedicated, with special reference to the war dead. As one who had served

earth for ever, but while the world remained as it is Christians must realise the conditions may arise compelling them to choose between defending what is good or adopting an attitude of non-resistance which would result in the complete triumph of evil.

A special offering for the memorial porch fund was made at this service, and it was a liberal one; but more needed to liquidate the debt. Parishioners who were unable to attend and who may not have sent in their offerings to this fund, are assured that it is not too late to do so. The church officers will gladly receive them.

Afternoon tea was served after the service, thus providing those present with an opportunity to renew acquaintance with former vicars and their wives.

in two world wars he knew the horror and cruelty of war. No one more than he desired to see war banished from the earth for ever, but while the world remained as it is Christ