

Foundation stone laid

The Archbishop of Wellington, the Most Rev. P. T. B. McKeefry, yesterday laid the foundation stone of the new St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in New Plymouth. There was a large attendance.

Work on the new church is expected to be finished towards the middle of next year.

The last Mass in the old church was celebrated yesterday morning. Temporary seating was arranged but about 50 people had to stand. The final Mass was a concelebrated mass for the priests. The chief celebrant was Archbishop McKeefry.

The parish administrator, the Rev. Father H. F. Doogan, told the congregation the new structure soon to rise would present a better image of the Church in New Plymouth.

After the laying of the foundation stone yesterday afternoon, Father Doogan said it was a little more than four years since planning for the new church began. Co-operation among those working on the project had been good and negotiations between the city council and the church were amicable.

The Mayor, Mr A. G.

Honour, and Mr R. M. Barclay, MP, congratulated the church on its achievement.

"I am amazed at the achievements of the Catholic Church at New Plymouth over the last 13 years," said Mr Barclay. Churches at Brooklands, Fitzroy and Spotswood and a new Scout den had been built, not to mention two new post-primary schools.

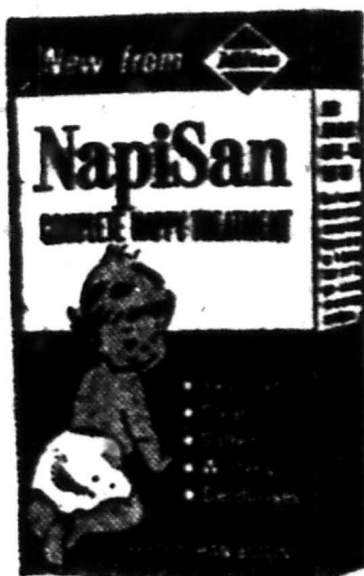
To lay the stone Arch-

bishop McKeefry used a trowel used when the foundation stone of the old church was laid on August 19, 1894, by Archbishop Redwood.

After the stone was laid the community centre was blessed by the archbishop. The centre will be used as a temporary church while the new church is under construction. The first Mass in the centre was celebrated last night.

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