



The new St Patrick's Church, Eltham Rd., Kaponga, which will be officially opened tomorrow.

## Official opening of new church

## Mr St steps

### Fire damages meat works

PA Gisborne  
Fire caused damage estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars at the Gisborne Refrigerated Company's works in Gisborne last night.

The work's general manager, Mr J. Baker, said the fire broke out about 9 p.m. in the carton storage room and spread to the beef boning room.

As a result, no beef killing will be possible today and the beef kill will be seriously disrupted for the season. Firemen spent two hours bringing the fire under control.

In 1947 the parish priest of the day first mentioned the need for a new church to serve the Kaponga district's Catholic population.

Thirty years later the proposal has reached maturity and the long-awaited new St Patrick's Parish Church, on Eltham Road, will be officially opened tomorrow.

The foundation stone will be blessed by Cardinal Delargey at 11 a.m., and after a concelebratory mass the church will be officially opened. When final accoun-

ting is completed, the new church is expected to have cost parishioners about \$135,000.

Although consideration of the project started many years ago, it was only sixteen months ago that a meeting of parishioners accepted a plan of the new building.

### Demolished

The old church was demolished by voluntary labour in the four days after Easter Sunday last year. Mass was held in the Kaponga Memorial Hall dur-

ing construction. The first mass was celebrated in the new church on February 3.

When opened tomorrow, the building will be fully furnished and carpeted, and the parish needs only about \$16,000 to meet commitments.

The church will mean the beginning of a new era in the history of a parish which extends back to the late nineteenth century.

### Maori wars

The first mass in the Kaponga district was held at the home of the late Mr Fitzgerald on Neill Road and was conducted by Fr. Mulvahill, the parish priest to the Hawera, Patea, Manaia, Eltham, Kaponga and Opunake settlements.

The first mass at Kaponga Township was held in a room at the State school by Fr. Mulvahill. Within a few years the first church had been built on a section opposite the present town hall at the instigation of Dean Power.

Today the 620-strong Kaponga parish is one of the strongest parishes in the Wellington diocese. Present and former parishioners are expected to attend the opening celebrations tomorrow.

The chairman of the Taranaki Rugby Union's management committee for the past 20 years, Mr N. H. Stanley (Opunake), last night resigned from the position.

Mr Stanley was re-elected to the committee at the union's annual meeting in Stratford, but when it came time to name the chairman he did not seek re-election.

"I feel it is time for a change and time I stood down. I make the move with great regret, but believe I can serve better by being a member of the committee and working in other areas."

Mr Stanley said he was still available to represent the union on New Zealand union committees. He said he would like to devote more time to teenage rugby, and helping in the coaching field.

The incoming chairman, Mr Nigel McLeod (Waimate), said there was no chance anyone could have done more than Mr Stanley in his 20 years as chairman.

"If we paid him 50 cents for every hour's work he did for the union in a year we would never make a profit," he said.

The only new committee member is Mr A. Thomas (Stratford Old Boys) who

