

SOUTH TARANAKI NEWS

DAILY NEWS OFFICE:

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NEW CHURCH AT HAWERA

OPENING OF ST. JOSEPH'S

AN IMPRESSIVE SERVICE HELD.

DISTINGUISHED CLERGY ATTEND.

A red letter day in the history of Roman Catholicism in Hawera was celebrated at St. Joseph's yesterday. It was the opening ceremony of the new St. Joseph's Church in Victoria Street. A large and distinguished gathering of clergy attended as well as lay visitors from throughout the district; despite the continuous rain.

The ceremony was most impressive. The usual service was supplemented by the observance of appropriate mass of Faldoot at 11 o'clock. The celebrant was His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, S.M., D.D., assistant priest; the Very Rev. Father Connolly, V.F., Kilbirnie, Wellington, deacon; the Rev. Father Alfred Cullen, S.M., B.Sc., sub-deacon; the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, Mania, M.C.; the Very Rev. Father McRae, M.A., Ph.D., chancellor of the archdiocese of Wellington. The Most Rev. Archbishop Redwood, S.M., D.D., presided, his chaplains being the Rev. Father O'Connor, C.S.S.R., and the Rev. Father McLaughlin, Stratford. The scene in the church was one of imposing grandeur. The archbishops,

idently expect the victor's immortal crown."

Hawera rejoiced in having Archbishop Redwood with them again, said the Rev. Father Cullen. They were particularly glad to see His Grace enjoying such excellent health.

To Archbishop O'Shea Father Cullen declared that on the great day of the Hawera Catholics a welcome was extended to him as St. Joseph's own illustrious son. She was doubly proud. Had St. Joseph's not given to God's church an archbishop—a record shared by no other part of the island? And that day Hawera witnessed the happy completion of an undertaking that had given to God's service a building worthy of its purpose—a church of which any city in the Dominion might be proud. The pastors took a real pride in what Hawera had done for Catholicism and rejoiced that Archbishop O'Shea, as one of their own, was with them to share the happiness.

Thanks to the visiting clergy for their friendly interest in the work of St. Joseph's were also extended, as well as to lay visitors.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR POWER.

"We now put on record," said Father Cullen, "our deep regret that we have not with us to-day the one to whose energy and perseverance we owe the erection of this magnificent structure. Time will never rob our late venerated pastor, Monsignor Patrick Joseph Power, V.F., of the credit that is properly his, nor will it dim our sense of filial gratitude for the many blessings his long, faithful service as pastor brought upon us and our parish."



NEW ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, HAWERA

clad in their robes and regalia, the solemnity of the procedure, and the dressing of the celebrant, Archbishop O'Shea, the appeal of the incense, the formality and air of reverence, the handsome appearance of the altar with its glittering candles, blooms and embellishments, the sacred pictures on the high white walls, the long Gothic windows and streams of light, the magnificent renderings of the organ and human voices in the sacred singing punctuating the service, and, above all, the importance of the occasion—these were the things that inspired the congregation and impressed the minds of this suspicious generation.

ARCHBISHOP'S ADDRESS.

"One word of exhortation sums up the lessons taught us by the opening of this fine new church," said Archbishop Redwood from the pulpit. "I say to all Catholics of Hawera, 'Love the church!' It is your real mother who in baptism gave you faith and brought you forth to a new and supernatural life, making you heirs with Christ to an everlasting kingdom."

"Love the church who continues to discharge towards you all the duties of a tender mother. It is she who by the mouths of her pastors instructs you in the faith and unceasingly exhorts you to its practice. It is she who in the sacrament of penance relieves you of the burden of your sins and restores the long-lost-for-peace to your hearts. It is she who nourishes your souls with the adorable flesh of the Son of Man. It is she who blesses your nuptials and secures to you conjugal happiness."

"How constant is her love! When in the last hour all abandon you, the church, your pitiful mother, forsakes you not; but in the person of the priest, her minister, she bends over your couch, wipes the sweat of anguish from your brow, and cheers and strengthens you for the last journey. And after your soul has departed she busies herself about your earthly remains, accompanies them, as sacred objects, to their last resting place, and bends over your graves to pray for the repose of your souls. Nay, when your bodies have mouldered into dust in the grave, she will still raise her immaculate hands at the altar to invoke peace on your souls."

WELCOME AND THANKS.

"Oh, Catholic church, my mother, if ever I forget these let my right hand be forgotten; O, Catholic faith, may I ever cherish thee in my heart and show thee in my conduct! And may my last words be those of that great preacher of the faith, St. Paul—I have fought the good fight. I have gained the final victory, and from the just Judge I con-

Thanks were extended to the following: Mr. F. de Clerc, the architect, for a gift of £300; Mr. Maidens, clerk of works, "our own" man, for his honesty and efficiency; T. J. Julian and Son, contractors, for the satisfactory and excellent work; Mr. Frank Julian; Mr. Alfred Brett, plasterer; Clow and Cross, painters; Smart Bros., plumbers; Winter Show Company, and Messrs. Syme and Co.

The total cost of the church would be £17,200, said Father Cullen. Of that sum £11,141 had been raised by the late Monsignor Power; £372 had been earned by way of interest; £1488 had come from donations at the foundation stone ceremony, and since that date; £270 had been raised from enche parties; £637 from legacies; and £285 had been collected by the Children of Mary during the past week. The total amount received before the opening service yesterday was £14,750. The contract price of the building had been £13,500, and £2500 was the total indebtedness before yesterday's ceremony. Yesterday £635 was contributed, which reduces the present indebtedness to £1865.

DESCRIPTION OF ST. JOSEPH'S.

St. Joseph's is an edifice that would command attention in any city, and consequently among the comparatively small buildings in the vicinity it is especially conspicuous. In other lands the religious structures hold pride of place among buildings, and it is therefore a source of congratulation in a country when permanent and beautiful temples, as lasting as time itself, are erected as a result of the faith in the great teachings which have been handed down. Further, it is to many a source of congratulation that, though the material used is probably new, the designs are similar to those in which our forefathers have worshipped for hundreds of years in the past. The pointed arch, the tracery window, the "long drawn aisle," are all links in a chain reaching back through the middle ages to the times of St. Thomas a Becket. Bishop William Wykeham and other famous builders and churchmen.

Gothic architecture is essentially Christian architecture, and it seems strange to many how the modernized editions of pagan temples of Greece and Rome can be tolerated as places dedicated to the founder of the Christian church, and to the saints and martyrs associated with it.

St. Joseph's is practically a one-aisled church, a type not common in Britain, but popular in some of the continental countries. There is an arcade on each side, but it is quite a subsidiary feature compared to the high walling, pierced by the large windows above it. The space

outside these arcades is merely enough to form passage-ways from one end of the church to the other.

INTERESTING COMPARISONS.

As dimensions stated in figures convey little to the ordinary mind, it is interesting to note that St. Joseph's church, which is practically a single nave with an apsidal sanctuary, is 140ft long, and, within the piers, 30ft wide, and 52ft high. The nave of Exeter Cathedral, one of the finest in the West of England, is the same length, only 4ft wider and 13ft higher, while Oxford Cathedral is only 41ft 6in high and is therefore lower than St. Joseph's. Rochester is 55ft high. The length of the nave of Oxford and Wells are the same as St. Joseph's, viz. 140ft. The beautiful cathedrals of Ely and Norwich are only 20ft wide between the piers; Winchester and Wells are 22ft. As the cathedrals named are all famous structures, it is evident that as regards size St. Joseph's cannot be considered insignificant.

The style is modification of geometrical Gothic. That is the period between the lancet and the perpendicular periods, when many consider that church building was at its zenith. The building is no slavish copy either as a whole, or in detail, of any other work. Every feature is practically original in design, and peculiar to this one church. The materials used are reinforced concrete for the walls and floors, heart wood red pine for the framing of the roof, and Welsh slates for its covering. Copper is the metal generally used where such material is necessary. The internal treatment is in white Portland cement excepting for the ceilings, of which the panels are of fibrous plaster.

In addition to the large nave, the church has two side chapels, a nun's chapel, two sacristies, and two confessionals; and at the west end is a large choir and organ gallery approached by a staircase leading from the main porch. Exits are well provided for, there being three at the street front, one on each side and one at the back.

The contractors for the building were Messrs. Julian and Son of Auckland, New Plymouth and Wellington. The chief sub-contractors were for the plastering (Mr. A. Brett, Palmerston North and Hawera), the glazing (Messrs. Smith and Smith, Wellington), and the plumbing (Messrs. Smart Bros., New Plymouth). To all of these great credit is due for the most satisfactory performance of their work. Mr. T. F. Maidens has been the clerk of works, and owing to the architect's being non-resident a great deal of responsibility has fallen on him. Messrs. Clerc, F.H.I.R.A., and Clerc F.N.Z.I.A., of Wellington, were the architects.

AFFAIRS OF HAWERA COUNTY

COUNCIL'S MONTHLY MEETING.

SLOW PAYMENT OF THE RATES.

Matters in connection with the administration of the Hawera county were discussed at the monthly meeting of the council on Saturday. There were present: Crs. E. A. Washer (deputy-chairman), W. Rothery, G. W. Williams, A. G. Larcom and T. Walsh.

With but three months to the end of the financial year, only £1711 had been received out of £22,131 of rates struck, reported the clerk. The monthly statement of finance showed: Rates collected £436, licenses £15, sales £12, subsidies, etc. £1925, with accounts to be paid £2225, leaving the bank balance at £16,513.

Reporting for November, the engineer (Mr. A. Mugeridge) stated: The following roads have been sprayed with road oil: Beach Road, George Street, Princes Street and a portion of Manawapou and Denby Roads. The metal was getting very much frayed on the Beach and Denby Roads. The portion of Ohawe Road which has been metalled has been grouted and the portion from the Main South Road westward has been bitumen sealed. The widening of the Austin Road is going on satisfactorily. One side of the road has been metalled, rolled and grouted with bitumen, and the work on the other side is getting well ahead. The kerbing of the footpaths in Okaiawa township is finished and the length up to the school is being attended to.

The cutting under the railway at the South Road crossing is now through and countersinking is in hand in readiness for the metal. The metalling will have to be done and the traffic let through before the batter can be taken down on the seaward side, as otherwise the present road would be made dangerous. The bitumen order is now completed; the last 150 tons came to hand last week and was in good condition. A start with the tarring of the roads in Whakamara will be commenced next week. Plans of the Mangatoki bridge are to hand.

Four prosecutions for straying stock had been made, reported the ranger. Gorse on the Ngahwi Road had been grubbed, though there were patches on other roads. After the busy season prosecutions would follow if the grubbing was not done. Several notices had been sent to owners. Thirteen cows and sixteen horses had been impounded. Several ratepayers who were charged with allowing stock to wander had been fined £1 and costs.

Permission was refused A. H. Sorenson to graze two or three cows during the day on the grass roads at Ohawe.

As he found it impossible to obtain a section, R. Hayward asked to be allowed to dump shingle on the road at Ohawe. On the advice of the engineer it was agreed that Hayward be allowed to use a piece at the top of the old road where the council had its dump.

With regard to superannuation, the clerk reported that he had information from a council in which a scheme had been in existence for five years and had proved an unqualified success. It was resolved to hold the matter over until precise information on the subject had been received from the superintendent of the National Provident Fund.

In a letter from the Taranaki Automobile Association to the Highways Council, a copy of which was received, it was urged that, so far as possible, the diversion of traffic from roads under repair be reduced to a minimum during the time of the heavy holiday traffic.

The matter of the continuation of footpaths past properties in Beach Road, as requested by two residents, was left to the chairman and engineer with power to act.

Tax for cattle dogs was fixed at 2s. 6d. and for sporting dogs 10s. Mr. G. H. Blackwell was appointed collector on the same terms as previously.

The question of work on the road leading to the Tangahoe beach was left to the engineer.

It was decided that the holidays for the office staff be from December 22 to January 12, and for the outside staff from the same date to January 5, both days inclusive.