

destroyed by fire on May 25, 1184, and all that was recovered from the charred remains was an image of the Virgin Mary, which Joseph of Arimathea had made more than a thousand years before, and in the name of the ever Blessed Virgin was this, England's oldest shrine, named and dedicated.

A solid core of truth lies buried beneath these several traditions, sufficient at least to give English bishops and ambassadors pride of place, ahead of the French and the Spanish, at the great councils of the Church held at Pisa and Constance, during the 15th century. The reason for this being, that the Gospel of Christ was first proclaimed to the English people by the one "who took down Jesus from the Cross" and buried Him in his own tomb.

The foregoing has been gleaned from "The Flowering Hawthorn" by Hugh Ross Williamson, which has just been published. It is a small book, beautifully produced, and I heartily commend it to all who are interested in the beginning of the Church in England.

Brought to New Plymouth in 1860

The Holy Thorn referred to by Dean Chandler is in the vicarage garden of St Mary's Church, New Plymouth. It was grown from a cutting brought from Glastonbury by Archdeacon Henry Govett in 1860, after a return visit to England during 1859-60. Mr Govett had been appointed parish priest at New Plymouth in 1848.

Legend has it that Saint Joseph of Arimathea, bringing the Holy Grail from Palestine to England, cut a staff from the tree which provided the Crown of Thorns at the crucifixion.

On arriving at Avalon (now Glastonbury), he plunged the staff into the ground, and from this the tree is presumed to have grown.

It stands today, and a cutting from this was brought by Archdeacon Govett to New Plymouth for St Mary's, which is also the name of the church on the site at Glastonbury.

The tree, a hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha praecox*), is not common in New Zealand, a New Plymouth nurseryman said. It can grow freely in this country, but is not seen often because it is of little garden value.

With hard wood spikes, it can be a dangerous tree to have in a garden.

It lives for hundreds of years, and grows out from the base in most cases, like a weed, he said.



A YOUNG SPRIG, taken from the Holy Thorn at St Mary's Church, New Plymouth. The spikes are about one inch long, brittle and sharp.

FRED MARRIES AT LAST

DURBAN, (by airmail), Reuter. — Only a few close friends were at the Durban Magistrate's Court to witness the marriage of 80-year-old bachelor, Mr Fred Eva, and 76-year-old Annie Gomes.

How did Fred feel about getting married?

"Well," he said, "I've had my fling, now I have to settle down. There is an awful lot to learn about this marriage business, you know." The newlyweds did not have a honeymoon immediately as Fred was booked to be Father Christmas at a Durban store.

Law must be the agent of justice, not justice the servant of law.

—Lord Samuel



THE HOLY THORN stands inside the gate to St Mary's vicarage, New Plymouth. Above, Archdeacon K. Liggett indicates the tree's position. It is now nearly 103 years old.

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