

BLESSING AND OPENING CEREMONIES PERFORMED AT MURGON, CHERBOURG

—0—

Monsignor V.F. Cleary, P.P., of Woolloowin officiated at the blessing and opening of additions to St. Joseph's School, Murgon and the new St Peter Claver's War Memorial Chapel, Cherbourg on last Sunday week (21 October 1962).

Monsignor Cleary was representing His Grace the Archbishop, who was indisposed.

Speaking at the public meeting which followed the opening of the additions in the morning, Monsignor Cleary said that what had been achieved by Catholic schools to generally assist the community of the State reflected great credit on Catholic people as a whole.

He said that the Catholic school system in Australia compared more than favourably with anything that any other country could boast.

"Our teachers cannot be blamed if cooperation from Catholic parents is not forthcoming. Good Catholics make good citizens. We possess a grand country. There is none better in the world," he said.

"Secular results from State schools are very good. It's very hard for us to keep up, but you'll find that the results we are getting are very good.

"Our children are given the kind of education that we want them to get.

"We believe that education is more than instruction for examination purposes. We are training our children for life," Monsignor Cleary remarked.

Monsignor Cleary paid a tribute to the Murgon parish.

"Fine Buildings"

"You have some very fine Catholic buildings here and they speak admirably for the progress in the parish. To me it seems very noteworthy indeed.

"I congratulate you people of the parish for having accomplished something wonderful," he concluded.

In welcoming Monsignor Cleary, Father J.P. O'Halloran, parish priest, said "Monsignor Cleary is representing Archbishop Duhig, who would have liked to have been here today, but found that his health is not yet such that he could have stood up to the trip from Brisbane and back.

"Monsignor Cleary is a very worthy representative of the Archbishop," he said.

"We are faced with a heavy repayment programme for this school, and we are going to need all the support from the parishioners that we can get.

"The Sisters are badly in need of all the help we can give them in the matter of accommodating the ever-growing number of children attending the convent," Father O'Halloran said.

A vote of thanks to Monsignor Cleary was moved by a parishioner, Mr. J.W. Doyle. The new school rooms for infants was built by Murgon contractors Messrs. J.W. and B.F. Goodchild, at a cost of £4639, under supervision of Brisbane architect, Mr. Frank Cullen.

It is a most spacious building providing first-class accommodation for the young students.

Outstanding feature of the new building is its natural lighting and maximum ventilation.

The school is conducted by the Presentation Sisters.

The Cherbourg chapel, opened in the afternoon, has been build as a war memorial to the aboriginals who died for Australia in the war.

Native Carpenters

The chapel was built for £3,500, unfurnished, which was £1,000 cheaper than the estimated cost, the money for which was got from the Catholic Missions Grant and donations to an appeal conducted by the Catholic Missions office through the columns of the "Leader."

The building was built by Mr. Jack Carroll, of Yeppoon, who was assisted by native carpenters, for whose services the Native Affairs Department was paid.

Timber for its construction was bought at a reasonable price from the Native Affairs Department mill.

There are 160 Catholic natives on the settlement who eagerly looked forward to the opening day.

(This document was typed from a photocopy of the original newspaper article supplied by Catholic Archives, Brisbane)