

Opening of New Church at Wondai

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The opening ceremony of the new Catholic Church at Wondai took place on Sunday, and was performed by His Grace Archbishop Duhig. About 300 persons travelled by the excursion trains. His Grace, accompanied by the Rev. Father Bergin, travelled from Nanango, and was met by members of the committee at the station, which was crowded with townspeople.

After the blessing of the church had been performed, His Grace, Archbishop Duhig commenced the dedication ceremony, and delivered a most impressive sermon. During his remarks he said it was good to assist in the glorious work of opening such a splendid church in this new centre, and it was worth going a great distance to behold the beautiful sight of a church crowded with a devout congregation. Others complained of empty benches but Catholics found their accommodation taxed to the utmost, and the number of churches quite inadequate. It all proved that the faith was as strong to-day as that of their fathers in the days of persecution. It was a good thing to rejoice over that in their material prosperity they had not forgotten God. As the district developed, the population increased, the beauty of the Catholic faith would be further manifested by the school which would be erected under the shadow of that sacred building. The Church was the sanctuary heart. She did not forget what was due to man's mind and education, and had always worked for uplifting of mankind. Not many towns of the same infancy as Wondai had such a beautiful church, and their success in this direction was in great measure due to their good and progressive priest. They were very grateful for the generosity of the townspeople who did not worship at the same altar. Their handsome contributions to the building fund were warmly appreciated and were surely an indication of the happy state of affairs which existed in the town. His humble wish was that from their Church many and abundant blessings would radiate to every home in the parish.

His Grace then read a financial statement, showing a debit balance of £292 odd. He made an appeal to the congregation for assistance, and there was a good response, £163 being subscribed...(The rest of the article is missing from the photocopy)

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