

New Church for Murgon Parish

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His Grace Archbishop O'Donnell last Sunday afternoon blessed and opened a new church at Durong, in the Murgon parish.

The new church, situated about 50 miles from Murgon, is dedicated to the Sacred Heart and was erected under the supervision of Father Bryan Lee, P.P.

It cost £3,054 and was opened almost free of debt.

Mass was previously celebrated in the Durong district in the local hall.

The church has been built on land donated by Mr. And Mrs. G.S. Bond.

Guests at the opening ceremony included Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A. (Minister for Works and Housing), Councillor A. Behm (Deputy Chairman, Wondai Shire Council), and a group of clergy from neighbouring parishes.

Clergy included Monsignor R.W. Lyons, P.P. (Maryborough), and Fathers V.J. Carroll, P.P. (Kingaroy), R. Illidge (Gayndah), S. Quinn (Nanango) and P. Conroy (assistant priest, Murgon).

Mr. P. Duff welcomed Archbishop O'Donnell on behalf of parishioners and M.W.S. Curran proposed a vote of thanks.

It was the first time in the history of Durong that the Archbishop had made an official visit.

"My Duty"

Archbishop O'Donnell congratulated Father Lee and parishioners on the achievement of opening yet another church in the Murgon parish.

"It is desirable and necessary to have suitable edifices in the parish for the public workshop of God," the Archbishop said.

"The church is the centre of religious life in a community and every additional church that is erected in an area is an important and rewarding spiritual investment.

"Wherever there is a community of Catholics, there also is a Catholic church raised to the honor and glory of God.

"This little church we have opened today is just as important as a city or suburban church.

"That is why I consider it my duty as Archbishop to come here today to bless and officially open this church.

"It is in the church that Mass is celebrated, the Sacraments dispensed and various liturgical ceremonies take place.

"People are baptised, confirmed and married in the church, and at death their mortal remains are brought to the church for the final services before interment.

"Tradition grows up around a church and the memory of association with a particular church remains with a family and its members.

"The lives of the children of a family can be permanently influenced by the intimate and unforgettable bonds that link them with the parish church of their childhood and youth.

"I have been edified by the pastor and people of this district and it has brought great joy to me to visit this parish and open this church, which is a monument to their zeal, devotion and generosity."

After the official ceremony all parishioners and guests present were given the opportunity to meet Archbishop O'Donnell.

Afternoon tea was provided by ladies of the parish.

On Sunday morning last His Grace celebrated Mass and preached at St Peter Claver's Chapel at the Cherbourg Aboriginal settlement.

Last Saturday, while travelling from Brisbane to Murgon, accompanied by Father F. Douglas (Archbishop's Secretary), His Grace visited presbyteries and convents at centres on route, including Nanango, Kingaroy and Wondai.

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