

New Catholic Church, at Kilkivan

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The new Catholic Church at Kilkivan was blessed and opened on Sunday, 12th instant. It is dedicated to St. Kevin, and in the absence of his Grace the Archbishop, who was unable to be present, the blessing and opening ceremony was performed by the Rev. Andrew Horan (of Ipswich) assisted by the Rev. M. Horan, the respected pastor of this district. The building was crowded with devout worshippers, of all denominations, from all parts of the surrounding districts. The Rev. A. Horan, preached a very appropriate sermon, after which a collection was made, and resulted in clearing the debt on the building, fencing, and church furniture, and leaving a few pounds towards other necessary improvements. This result far exceeded the expectation of everyone, and was largely due to the generosity of our Protestant friends, whom Father Horan sincerely thanked.

The building is of a Gothic style of architecture, all hardwood, with iron roof, and Celtic crosses which give a graceful finish to the gables. It is forty feet by twenty two feet, with walls fourteen feet high, and has three sets of double windows on each side. It has the Sanctuary, sacristy, and a porch, and the Altar, Communion rails and pews have also been already provided. With all these appointments it cost about £200, and is certainly substantial, well built, and cheap. The contractor, Mr. Thomas Holden of Gympie, gave every satisfaction in all the details of the work. The church is larger than present requirements, but it is hoped that coming prosperity for this goldfield will soon attract a population which will exceed by hundreds of Catholics the accommodation which it provides. In the meantime our resident Catholics are very few, but we are to have Mass here periodically and catechism every Sunday.

St. Kevin, to whom the church is dedicated, is an Irish saint who was an apostle in North-eastern Scotland. Kilkivan is the Celtic for "The Church of Kevin." The dedication of the church to St. Kevin gives much satisfaction to our Caledonian friends, who hold St. Kevin in great veneration. Mr. Mactaggart, a Scotch gentleman, who first owned Kilkivan Station gave it its present name his native place in Scotland. His enterprising countrymen gave many names for their native land to pioneer settlements under the Southern Cross.

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