

Archbishop Duhig at Wooroolin

New Church Opened Free of Debt.

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The new Catholic Church at Wooroolin, was dedicated on Sunday last by his Grace Archbishop Duhig, assisted by the Rev. Father Bergin. A special train carried upwards of 300 passengers from Nanango and intermediate stations, while many people drove from Wondai, Murgon, and other places. The members of the Nanango branch of the H.A.C.B. Society provided a guard of honour for the Archbishop at Wooroolin railway station, and afterwards at the church grounds. An address of welcome was read at the Church by Mr. W.A. Wood. After the dedication ceremony, which was carried out in the presence of about 400 or 500 people, the Rev. Father Bergin (parish priest) celebrated the first Mass in the building, the choir from St. George's Church, Nanango, supplying the music. At the conclusion of the Mass the Archbishop delivered an appropriate sermon.

Father Bergin read a statement of accounts, which went to show that the building cost £350, £220 of which had already been subscribed, leaving £130 to be raised. Father Bergin eulogised the work of the Church Committee and also of Mr. C. Robertson, the contractor for the building. Subsequently his Grace appealed for donations, with the result that the deficit was subscribed, and the building was therefore opened free of debt.

The ladies of the district provided an enjoyable luncheon, at which the usual toasts were honoured. In an interesting speech, Archbishop Duhig said that the Church of St Patrick's, which he had just dedicated, was the third which he had had the pleasure of opening in the parish of Nanango this year, and this, he thought, constituted a record. He also mentioned that during the pastorate of Father Bergin, within the past two or three years £6000 had been raised for church and convent buildings in the parish. This was, he thought, a wonderful achievement, considering the sparse population. Moreover, all these buildings were practically free of debt. His Grace said he looked upon Father Bergin not only as an excellent priest, but as a public benefactor. Gatherings such as that in which they were engaged that day did a great deal to advertise the resources of the country.

Rev. Father Bergin paid a tribute to the generosity of the people among whom he laboured, and specially thanked the members of the Hibernian Society and the ladies of the parish for the support they had always accorded to every Catholic movement.

At the request of Father Bergin, the Archbishop presented Mrs. Flynn with a handsome silver tea service in recognition of her kindness to the priest during the years that Mass had been celebrated in her house.

The new church is of Gothic design and measures 47ft. overall, by 22ft wide. It is situated on the slope on a hill above the town, and has a site of an acre of land.

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