



INTERIOR OF ST. PATRICK'S BASILICA, SOUTH DUNEDIN.

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PREPARING FOR THE OPENING.—DESCRIPTION  
OF THE BASILICA.

SUNDAY next will be a gala-day in South Dunedin. After years of patient effort the beautiful basilica of St. Patrick's will be solemnly re-opened on next Sunday, June 26. The Pontifical High Mass will be sung by his Lordship the Bishop at 11 o'clock, assisted by priests from St. Joseph's Cathedral and from other parts of the diocese. The preacher on the occasion will be the genial and popular parish priest of Lawrence, the Very Rev. P. O'Leary. The preacher for the evening will be the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, of Oamaru. St. Joseph's Cathedral choir will attend in full strength, and the solemn function will be carried out to the sound of the magnificent harmonies of Mozart's 'Twelfth Mass.' A full orchestra will accompany the vocalists, and we venture to say that no such solemn and inspiring sacred music has yet been heard in South Dunedin since the days when the first houses were built upon its foreshore. The Catholic congregation have struggled long and well, despite the fact that they are none too richly endowed with worldly wealth, to raise up the noble pile of the basilica, and they look with confidence for the active sympathy and practical support of the Catholic population of Dunedin and its vicinity. The interior of the basilica is practically complete, and with its fine dimensions,

Roman arches, solid pilasters, beautiful mouldings, and magnificent ceiling, forms one of the most beautiful interiors that any church in New Zealand can boast of. The beautiful zinc ceiling was supplied by Messrs. Wunderlich and Co. of Sydney. We publish in this issue a view of the interior. In our next issue we shall publish a fine perspective design of the edifice as it will be when completed. The following particulars of the new basilica have been furnished to us by the architect, Mr. F. W. Petre:—

Another considerable stage towards the completion of this church has just been finished, with the result that the whole of the nave, aisles, transepts, and sacristy are now, so far as their internal fittings and finish go, completed. There yet remains for some future date the task of constructing the centre dome and the front, comprising the baptistry, atrium, organ loft, and colonnaded portico.

The first plans for the entire building were laid before the late Bishop, Dr. Moran, by the architect, Mr. Frank W. Petre in 1890, and, after certain alterations and modifications, were finally approved of towards the end of 1891, and it is from the plans then drawn that the work has been carried out up to the present point.

The first start at the construction of this church was made in February 2, 1892, when the contract for the foundations and the carcass was let to Mr. D. W. Woods, of Dunedin.

The church, when finished, will comprise a sanctuary 25ft. by 20ft., nuns' chapel 12ft. by 20ft., sacristy 12ft. by 20ft., lobby 24ft. by 6ft., transepts together 50ft. by 25ft., surmounted by a dome carried on 32 columns the whole rising to a height from the floor to the top of the cross of 85 feet, with a diameter of 25 feet. The nave and two aisles together give a floor spread of 61ft. by 50ft. with a ceiling