

NEW CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, TAKAKA

(From our own correspondent.)

On Sunday, September 15, the handsome marble church built of marble quarried in the Takaka Valley, was formally opened. The weather was beautifully fine, and a large company assembled to witness or take part in the proceedings. At 11 a.m. High Mass was sung by Father Kimbell, S.M., of Wellington, and the occasional sermon was preached by his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, S.M. Farmer's Mass was well rendered by the local choir under the direction of Mrs. B. Gapper. At 2.30 p.m. Solemn Benediction was given by the Archbishop and the sermon was preached by Father Kimbell. The visitors were entertained to a luncheon by the church committee at Mr. D. McRae's.

In the evening a sacred concert was held in the hall, when a very pleasing and well-arranged programme was listened to with pleasure by a good audience. Mrs. B. R. Gapper presided in an able manner at the organ for the musical portion of both services, and also for the concert in the evening.

In the morning there was a debt of £300 still owing on the building. At the conclusion of the day's proceedings the church was announced as free of debt, the collection at the Mass alone totalling £233. This speaks well for the Takaka Catholics, and records a feat they should be proud of: £1250 was expended on the building.

The church is the second of its kind in the Dominion, Motueka having the prior honor in the church of Blessed Chanel.

The building is a very handsome one, the design being simple, yet striking in its simplicity. The dimensions are 60ft by 27ft, the side walls being 14ft high and the front from base to top of cross 35ft. The nave is 50ft by 24ft, the sanctuary 10ft by 12ft, and the sacristy 10ft by 8ft. The entrance to the sanctuary is decorated by two polished pillars with moulded caps, from which springs a Roman arch 10ft inside diameter. The altar is of various colored marbles, and the three front arches on which the table rests are supported by four polished pillars. The tabernacle is of Silician marble with black variegated Takaka marble door. On each side of the tabernacle are two polished steps, above which rises the reredos of various colored marble, the canopy being supported by two polished columns, the whole effect presenting a striking illustration of what can be done with our local marble. The whole interior of the church is strikingly handsome and reflects great credit on the designer and on the craftsmen who carried out the work. The church will seat 200 people and is well lighted. The roof is supported by five substantial principals and lined diagonally in panels of rimu. The whole of the marble used on the building was supplied free by Mrs. Eric Sparrow, of Uruwhenua, from the quarry on their own property. The walls and exterior work were the care of Messrs. Gray and Vass. The interior portions were the particular care of Mr. Jas. Connor, and the work of polishing was in the hands of Mr. Vass, who also gave the first sketch of what was afterwards put into full design by Mr. A. R. Griffin, of Nelson, for the style of the building. Mr. Greenam, of Nelson, attended to the carpentry work, and the tiles for the roof were made in Takaka by Messrs. Chamberlain and Stannard, of Nelson. The front of the building is much improved by semi-circular stone copings on each side, having neat iron gates at each corner of the building and large gates for wheel traffic on the outside of each sweep. Takaka certainly owes the energetic Catholics a debt of gratitude for making such an improvement in the appearance of the main street.

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LULLABY OF A WOMAN OF THE MOUNTAIN.

This "Lullaby of a Woman of the Mountain" is one of the finest lyrics in the *Collected Works of Padraic H. Pearse*.

Little gold head, my house's candle,
You will guide all wayfarers that walk this mountain.

Little soft mouth that my breast has known,
Mary will kiss you as she passes.

Little round cheek, O smoother than satin,
Jesus will lay His hand on you.

Mary's kiss on my baby's mouth,
Christ's little hand on my darling's cheek!

House, be still, and ye little grey mice,
Lie close to-night in your hidden lairs.

Moths on the window, fold your wings,
Little black chafers, silence your humming.

Plover and curlew, fly not over my house,
Do not speak, wild barnacle, passing over this mountain.

Things of the mountain that wake in the night-time,
Do not stir to-night till the daylight whitens!

Timaru

Under the auspices of the parish social committee, an enjoyable reunion was held in the Sacred Heart School Hall on Wednesday evening, September 18 (writes a correspondent). The function was organised to show appreciation of the successes achieved by the Marist Brothers' School football team during the season, and of presenting the members of the team with medals subscribed for by the schools' admirers. Nearly 200 parishioners were present. After progressive euchre, in which the winners were Mrs. P. Stapleton and Mr. Vangioni, a pleasing musical programme was contributed to by the Marist Brothers' Choir, Messrs. A. Rennie and F. Roach, Misses N. Lynch, O'Driscoll, and S. Schaab being accompanists. Mr. W. Gillespie (who presided), before asking Dean Tubman to present the medals, read a letter from his Lordship Bishop Brodie, who, whilst regretting his inability to be present, conveyed his congratulations to the football team on its successes. Dean Tubman, who was greeted with applause, remarked how pleased he was to be present at the function, which was a splendid testimony of the parishioners' appreciation of the remarkable achievements of the Brothers' boys on the football field this season. He was very proud of them, and congratulated the Brothers on the splendid results of their coaching, and also the parents on having such fine manly sons. He trusted that these young footballers would throughout life maintain these same ideals of courage and manliness and that they would ever "play the game." The Dean, before asking Mrs. Kyle to pin on the medals, called for cheers for the members of the team and the Brothers. The Brothers suitably responded. Special medals were donated to Master A. Kyle by Mr. J. O'Leary and to Master H. Geany by the Celtic Football Club. Euchre prizes were also very kindly donated by Messrs. J. O'Leary, Jno. O'Rourke, and H. Alston. A very dainty supper was then handed round.

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