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Sydney Morning Herald
Monday May 6, 1889

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OPENING OF ST. CANICE'S.

The old church of the Sacred Heart, Darlinghurst, having become much too small for the accommodation of the Roman Catholics of the district, the erection of a new church in Roslyn-street, near Rushcutters Bay, was entered upon considerably over a year ago and yesterday the opening of the now edifice handsome and commodious one took place.

The erection of the church which was at yesterday's ceremony dedicated to St Canice, has been an expensive undertaking, amounting in all to about £13 000 , but owing to the generosity of a deceased benefactor, the late Mr John Hughes, of Elizabeth Bay, and the subsequent donations by the members of his family, the cost to the parishioners was, it is stated reduced to £5270 The late Mr Hughes gave the site, a donation amounting in value to £3500, and the members of his family have defrayed half the total cost of the building.

In design the new church is Early English, and the treatment of the front is somewhat of a departure from the general architectural characteristics of the Roman Catholic Churches of Sydney and the suburbs. The building is of brick, with stone freely and effectively used. The total length is about 120ft, and the width, including the aisles. 61 ft A bright appearance is given to the interior by the cream-coloured bricks of the walls and the Pymont stone in the pillars supporting the arches while the lofty roof is of pine stained and oiled The design of the sanctuary simple, but extremely chaste, and when stained windows replace the present temporary ones the effect of the toning down of light will doubtless enhance its appearance.

A special feature in the furnishing of the church is the elegant white marble altar in what is known as "the Lady Chapel " This altar was specially executed according to the architect's designs by Signor Fontana the well-known Italian Sculptor Mr John B Barlow designed the church and superintended its erection, the contracts for the basement and retaining wall were let to Mr John Mahoney, and the contracts for the brick and stone work

to Mr A B Proud , Mr A J Waterson earned out the remaining contracts for the finishing trades In the basement of the building a large hall is provided, the measurements of which are 90ft in length by 41ft in width.

Cardinal MORAN, assisted by the Very Rev Dr. Carroll, V G , parish priest of the Sacred Heart district, performed the ceremony of blessing and opening the building at half-past 10 o'clock, and High Mass followed immediately The Very Rev Monsignor Verdon, of **St** Patrick's Seminary, Manly, was the celebrant of the mass. The Very Rev Dr Murphy (the deacon), and the Rev James Walsh (sub deacon). Besides the officiating clergy the Very Rev Dr O'Brien (rector of **St** John's College), the Very Rev Dr O'Haran, the Very Rev P Slattery, O S F (superior of the Franciscans), and the Rev D. M'Carthy, were present in the sanctuary.

The music was supplied by the choir of the Sacred Heart Church, assisted by other choir singers. The musical service consisted of " Haydn's Second Mass," with the exception of the "Credo," which was from the "Imperial Mass " of the same composer, Zingarelli's " Laúdate " (tenor solo and chorus) at the Collection, and the Halleluiahs Chorus from the " Messiah " Mr. E W O'Sullivan conducted, and sang the principal bass solos as well, and the other soloists were -Mrs Harkness, Mrs J I Hunt, Mrs Field (soprani), Miss O'Sullivan and Miss L Healy (contralti), Mr M'Carthy, Mr M'Quaile and Mr Gunning (tenori), Mr Laws, Mr O'Brien, and Mr M'JN amorra (basai) The "Laudata" solo was taken by Mr M'Carthy Miss A Healy, late of **St** Benedict', played the organ accompaniments throughout.

The very Rev Dr O'Brien was the preacher, and after treating the Gospel of the day on which he based his discourse, the very rev gentleman offered his congratulations to the parishioners on the completion of their beautiful Church. Reference was made to the selection made in dedicating the church to St Canice, and it was pointed out that the parishioners had made a happy choice for the name of the saint who lived and worked in the sixth century was one of the brightest and most honoured in Ireland's head-roll of saints and Christian heroes, and one whose festival was kept throughout the world.

After mass the Very Rev Dr. Carroll read a statement of accounts, which showed that the present in-

debtedness of the parish at the bank in connection with St Canice's was £4430. The amount of the day's offertory was announced as £149 7p. Dr Carroll referred to the generosity of the special benefactors, by whose donations the parishioners had been relieved of the greater part of the expense of building the church. He expressed the hope that the generosity of their late benefactor and his family would ever be held by the parishioners in grateful remembrance.

Cardinal Moran, who is suffering from a severe cold, was obliged to leave the church yesterday before the proceedings closed. The Cardinal, it was expected, would address the congregation.