

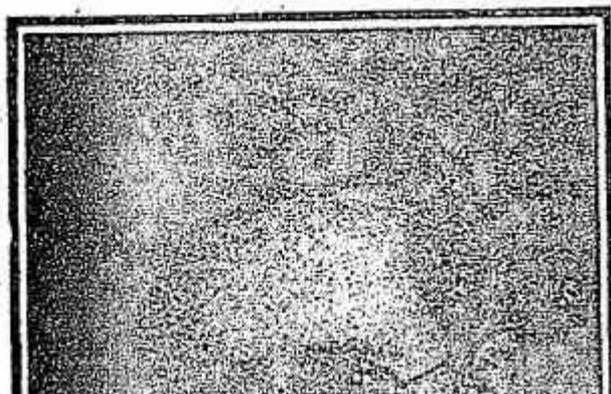
A New Parish's Big Beginning.

Croydon's School-Church.

£1000 Laid on the Founda-
tion Stone.

Croydon made Catholic history on Sunday. Its first pastor, Rev. Father Tansey, welcomed the Archbishop of Sydney on his first visit to the parish. Further, a record first collection for a new parish was made, when over £1000 was handed in.

"As the first priest of the new parish of Croydon, I welcome your Grace on your first visit," said the Rev. Father M. Tansey on Sunday, at the blessing of the foundations of the Holy Innocents' new church-school at Queen-street, Croydon. Although it was his Grace's first visit, Father Tansey said that he looked forward to the time in the next few years when his Grace would bless the foundations of a new convent, a Brothers' school, and a greater and a newer church, which he hoped would be unequalled for beauty in the archdiocese by any church save that of the Archbishop's own Cathedral. He assured the Archbishop that he had come amongst a people as generous, as fully devoted, and as loyal to him





Rev. Father M. Tansey, pastor of the new Croydon parish.

as any in the archdiocese. He hoped that his Grace would find this a fact when, at the close of the collection, the sum of £1000 would be handed in.

Father Tansey then read the financial statement as follows:—From 14th January to 13th July, 1924.—Expenditure: By freehold property (land and presbytery), £2493 9s. 6d.; furniture, linen, cutlery, kitchenware, crockery, glassware, etc., £485 2s 8d.; interest on bank overdraft, £87 12s. 3d.; bathroom repairs and renovations, £21 6s 5d.; rates, £6 1s. 5d.; bank charges, 6s.; S. Roarty—architect fees on account, £117 15s.; J. C. Kennedy—contractor on account, £400. £4061 13s 3d. Receipts: Proceeds garden fete, £138 2s. 6d.; proceeds dances and euchre parties, £105 14s. 9d.; monthly collections, £132 3s. 9d.; second collections, £26 15s. £402 16s. 10d. Leaving a bank overdraft of £3658 16s. 5d.

That achievement in the space of a few months, said Father Tansey, was something to be proud of; and the people would be able to tell their children's children of the great work done here in the pioneering days of the Concord parish and the story of the first visit of the Archbishop of Sydney, and would point proudly to the name engraven in golden letters on the foundation-stone. (Ap-
plause.)

letters on the foundation-stone. (Applause.)

In addition to his Grace the Archbishop, who presided at the public meeting which was held on the site of the new school-hall, there were present on the platform: Rev. Father Tansey, Very Rev. Father Paul Cullen (Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers), Rev. Fathers J. P. Considine, J. Barry, C.M., E. Bond, R. Peoples, J. Peoples, E. Drohan, M.S.C., P. Galvin, G. Parker, Dr. Leonard (St. Patrick's College, Manly), T. Barlow, P.P., T. Grealy, Dr. Fallon, M.L.A., E. A. M'Tiernan, M.L.A., J. Birt, M.L.A., Alderman Blair (Mayor of Burwood), Dr. Tansey, Messrs. E. F. Powell, J. Egan, P. Murphy, P. Heeney, A. Pickett, J. Ahearn, P. J. King, D. Murphy, W. Horne, W. Williams, C. Walton, C. J. Booth, Thomas Connolly, H. M'Hugh, Mr. M'Keon, H. King, and C. Kearney.

A Happy Union.

His Grace the Archbishop was given an enthusiastic reception as he rose to

peak. "If," said his Grace, "I would utter my first impression standing on this platform, I would say that it is well for Father Tansey that he came to Croydon, as he looks three hundred per cent. better than when he was at St. Mary's. (Laughter and applause.) To him certainly the union is a happy one, and no doubt it will be a happy one also for Croydon and its spiritual interests." Continuing, his Grace explained that the clergy were of the people and for the people. Tracing the early history of the human race for four thousand years, the Archbishop explained how the world had become degraded, and mankind went from bad to worse. The world was waiting for a Redeemer to save man and to restore peace, so that man would work out his destiny here and in the hereafter. His Grace referred to the marvellous discoveries of science, particularly messages through the air from one end of the world to the other, and then explained the teachings of the Church so that man's soul could be saved, as his welfare on this side of the grave was linked with the hereafter, so that the wicked would be cast away and

that the wicked would be cast away and the good rewarded with eternal happiness. "We are here as humble individuals," said his Grace, "to promote the happiness of the individual and the family, and to tell the truth of which we are sure. We will not teach you about politics and sciences, but about virtues and right and wrong, your duty to yourself and to your neighbor, so that you can win everlasting peace. That is what a priest is for in a district. Father Tansey is here because we have God our Creator, Who took human nature and gave us rules by means of which the ecclesiastical Church was organised."

Continuing, the Archbishop said that they all welcomed the foundation of a school-church. It was a good beginning. Father Tansey had reveries, which God grant would yet come to pass in due time. (Laughter and applause.) He expressed his gratitude to God for placing him in the position where he stood that day.

The Archbishop then declared his abhorrence of divorce, which he said was anti-Christian, and to which God had said "No." The marriage contract was for life, and could not be broken, except people had two hearts and two souls. In the Divorce courts it would seem that they wanted half-a-dozen hearts to give to different people. Referring to race-suicide, his Grace said that society was corrupt, and that sin was a degrading curse to which Rome went down. So would Australia unless this race-suicide be checked, along with the diseases which now testified to the looseness and the profligacy of many. There was no use shutting their eyes to the legacy which was left to them.

Evils of Mixed Marriages.

It would seem to be a sort of humor, said his Grace, for him to speak on mixed marriages; but he would never miss an opportunity of so doing from a standpoint of Christianity. Free choice was theirs in this matter, but there was a right and a wrong. When two persons disagreed, then one must be wrong. Therefore, when in the case of a mixed marriage the husband and the wife disagreed

riage the husband and the wife disagreed on the question of religion, then one must be the wrong, though both might be right in point of sincerity. When the children grew up they would realise this difference. Parents should take care of their children, but at the same time not spoil them. If they were not taught truth, virtue, and usefulness from the beginning, to love their parents and to respect old age, then when they arrived at the age of 16, 17 or, 18 years they would be uncontrollable, and that would be so much the worse for them.

Penalising Catholic Parents.

His Grace, after counselling parents to have their boys taught trades, referred to the increasing population around the cities and the scanty list of inhabitants in the country parts. Concerning politicians, he said that he did not know whether they were trustworthy, as they lived for their party. The country was not handled wisely in many respects. The education of children was not handled wisely. Parents were the natural educators, and if they were neglectful then they should be punished. But Catholic parents should not be penalised because they insisted upon a training for their children founded upon the system of Christianity. Catholics would give their eyes for their schools, because without them they would not require churches. This was not recognised by politicians. A leading politician in 1880, and the then Premier, said that it was unjust to distribute the public money and debar any section from enjoying it. It was not only, said his Grace, an offence against God, but an injustice to penalise the religion of any denomination.

Tribute to Father Tansey.

A subscription list was opened, on the motion of Dr. C. Fallon, M.L.A., who paid an eloquent tribute to his "dear friend, Father Tansey," and mentioned that he was under many personal obligations in the past to their pastor. "Catholics know their priests intimately," said the speaker, "for they are the best men

mong ourselves, because they have suf- | to

mong ourselves, because they have sufficient spirituality to understand the call they have received. The priests give up everything which the material world can offer, with the one objective, and that to guide their people along spiritual lines, so that they will fulfil the wishes of their Divine Master."

Dr. Fallon then emphasised the point that the success of the Church and its wonderful expansion through the ages was due to the ideals of religion held by the Catholic people. They were accustomed in a mixed community to hear criticisms of various kinds from various men directed against Catholicism. Where these were not animated by sheer malicious bigotry they were animated by bigotry without the malice, and by a certain type of man who should be better informed and better educated.

The speaker, after quoting the words of Newman respecting inherited Protestant traditions against the Church, said that the expansion of the Church from the beginning was simply a case of Catholics believing it to be truly founded and divinely inspired.

Conveying Children to School.

After paying tribute to the sacrifices made by Catholics throughout the world in the cause of their religion, Dr. Fallon said that he noticed in that morning's "Sun" that the Minister for Education had said the complaint made by him (the speaker) in connection with the conveyance of children to school was untrue. "By way of answer," said Dr. Fallon, "I am cheerfully prepared to make public apology and compliment the Minister upon a healthy change of policy if he can assure the public of New South Wales that the parents who send their children to other schools are receiving the same consideration as the parents and children attending the public schools. Complaints are made, and as long as there is discrimination in the distribution of public money then that is injustice. We shall never have justice," concluded the speaker, "until we secure adequate representation in public life from the huge body of public opinion to see justice done

our teachers in the denominational

our teachers in the denominational schools."

In seconding, Mr. E. A. M'Tiernan, M.L.A., remarked upon the enthusiasm of the people, which led one to believe that the prediction of Father Tansey that splendid parochial buildings would one day grace the heights of Croydon would yet be true; and, further, that that day Father Tansey would be able to announce a collection of one thousand pounds. (Applause.) He felt that he could not add one word to the reasons given by the Archbishop why they should support Father Tansey. Catholics believed in their religion, and it would be idle talk to establish parishes without the church and school; and he hoped that Father Tansey would not be disappointed in securing the necessary funds.

A Generous Response.

A generous response, headed by his Grace with a cheque for £100, was made to the appeal. Excitement was created by the rising of the financial barometer. As the totals were announced it seemed as if the coveted £1000 mark would not be reached. "Over £900," announced his Grace. Then a spirited call for cheques made the total £940, to which Dr. Tansey gave £5, followed by "fivers" from half a dozen. But still the sum was only £975. "Never mind," said the Archbishop; "make it up next week." But Father Tansey was not dismayed. There was no further appeal, but a generous sympathiser, Dr. Tansey, promised another £25; and along came another guinea, when the grand total, amid cheers, stood at £1001—and more to come.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to his Grace the Archbishop, proposed by the Mayor of Burwood, Alderman Blair, and seconded by Mr. J. E. Birt, M.L.A.

The visitors were afterwards entertained in the presbytery with refreshments. The committee of ladies included Miss Gladys Ahearn, Miss Rowan, Mrs. Harrison, Miss K. Kearney, Misses Egan, Miss Burke, Misses Trainor, Miss Dunne, Miss King, Miss Tickell, Mrs. Walter Doyle, and Miss O'Shea.