

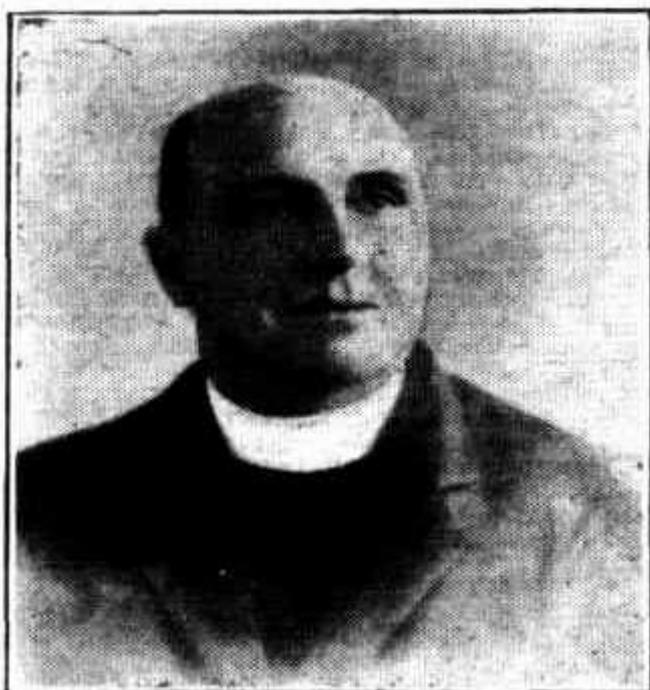
CROYDON WELCOMES FATHER W. STEVENS.

A HAPPY FUNCTION.

The parishioners of the Holy Innocents' Parish, Croydon, accorded a public welcome to their new Parish Priest, Rev. Father W. Stevens, recently in the school hall, Queen-street, Croydon.

An excellent musical programme, arranged by the Presentation Nuns, opened the proceedings. The programme was as follows:—

Action Song, "The Fairies" (Rev. C. J. Cullen), "Holy Innocents" Choir; piano solos, "Night in May" (Palmgren), Beth Cogan; "Scenes from an Imaginary Garden" (Coleridge Taylor), Beth Cogan; vocal solos, "The Nightingale" (Halvdan Kjerulf); Patsy Murphy; "The Lullaby" (Mozart); verse speaking,



Rev. Father W. Stevens, P.P., the new Parish Priest of Croydon.

"Tarantelle" (H. Belloc), Verse Speaking Choir; "Hist" (C. J. Dennis); dance, The Reel, Dancing Class; piano duet, "Minuet" (J. Paderewski), Patsy Murphy and Maxine Horne; Chorus, "The Fairy Pipers" (Brewer), "Holy Innocents" Choir; Address of Welcome; and "God Bless Our Lovely Morning Land."

SPEECHES OF WELCOME.

Speeches of welcome were then delivered. Very Rev. Father F. King, C.M., Rev. Father J. Peoples, P.P., and Rev. Father J. Purcell represented the clergy; while Messrs. S. Myers, E. McGovern, J. Higgins and R. Clancy, as representatives of the various societies in the parish, spoke on behalf of the parish.

tatives of the various societies in the parish, spoke on behalf of the parishioners. Father Stevens was assured that the parishioners would do everything to make him feel happy among them, and that they would give him their wholehearted co-operation.

Father Stevens, in replying, said that they would not mind if he admitted that he had felt lonely leaving his kind and good parishioners of Epping, but, he added, the welcome he was meeting with from the parishioners of Croydon, not only on that evening but ever since he arrived, especially from the little school-children, was comforting and cheering him beyond measure. The bright, happy disposition of these children, their innocence and piety, and the delightful and artistic concert they had been able to provide that evening, were an indication of the excellent training they were receiving from the good Presentation Nuns.

He alluded to the fact that the first years of his priesthood, the whole of his curacy days had been spent in the parish of Concord, of which parish the district of Croydon then formed part. Croydon, therefore, was not new to him, and already he had met several who could remember him, or whose parents remembered him.

Aided by their prayers, and with their co-operation, which he knew he would receive, and with the help of Father Purcell, his indefatigable assistant, he could hope that his labors amongst them would be blessed by God.

He had been told of their piety and fervor, and of the kindness he might hope to receive from them, and he could see that his informants had not exaggerated.

On the following Sunday the Right Rev. Monsignor J. Martin, P.P., the Vicar-Foraine of the district, performed the ceremony of the induction of Father Stevens as parish priest of Croydon.
