

## NEW SCHOOL FOR CROYDON

# Foundation Stone Blessed; £1570 Donated To Funds

**FOUNDATION-STONE** of a modern parochial school at Croydon was blessed by His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy last Sunday afternoon.

Hitherto, Presentation Nuns have conducted the school in cottages adjoining the Church of the Holy Innocents, and the need for an up-to-date building was great.

At the close of the public meeting, which followed the blessing, His Eminence congratulated parishioners and visitors on having subscribed £1570 towards the cost of the school.

In his address, the Cardinal emphasised the importance of a Catholic school in parochial and national life.

### Unstable Conditions

The blessing of the foundation stone of a new school at Croydon was a long-awaited event, said His Eminence. It was difficult to see who had awaited it most eagerly—the children, the Presentation Nuns or the parish priest.

In unsuitable conditions, children of Croydon had laboured

under difficulties, yet they had done well. The Sisters had been required to teach in circumstances that were not helpful, but in spite of that they had achieved excellent results.

"The parish priest," His Eminence said, "looked at the school work with sympathy and anxiety. Father Stevens realised that the school was unsatisfactory, and that in its present condition it could not continue indefinitely.

"But what a problem was presented by a new school! Permits, labor, material, all seemed equally difficult to obtain.

"The cost, too, was a problem that seemed insolvable.

"Whether it was the Nuns' prayers or the children's insistence that produced it, you, the faithful parishioners of Croydon, have manifested a spirit regarding costs that

parishioners of Croydon, have manifested a spirit regarding costs that has simply compelled Father Stevens to disregard costs and proceed with the work.

### Need For Co-operation

"You and he together are to be commended for your faith and your courage.

"What you have courageously undertaken together you will bring to a happy conclusion if you remain united and co-operate cordially.

"The Christian education of your children is a blessing worthy even of extreme sacrifice," said His Eminence. "Sacrifices greater even than we are called upon to make to-day were made by our forefathers that we might enjoy the privilege of a Christian education.

"The blessing of a Christian education is that it is the ideally perfect education. While it prepares the child for his position in this life, it directs everything, position and life itself to the attainment of the end for which he was created, which is Heaven.

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# RELIGION IN EDUCATION

## "VITAL TO NATION"

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**"E**DUKATION without religion is education that is incomplete. It attends to bodily needs, but disregards those of the soul. It concentrates on time, but it neglects eternity," said His Eminence.

"How unfair it is to children keep from them that for which their noblest instincts yearn.

"How unfair it is to the nation which they belong to deprive of citizens who would base their patriotism on the only solid foundation, the Commandments of God.

"The Duke of Wellington said this to say of education with religion: 'Educate men with religion and you make them but clever devils.'

"But not even the best Catholic school can succeed in the formation of character in its pupils without the co-operation of the home," His Eminence warned.

"The home is the first school in which the child enters, and perhaps it is the most influential.

"The moral lessons taught in school should be exemplified in the home. Any contradiction between home and school can at best produce only confusion. Frequently it causes disaster in the life of the child.

### Youthful Delinquency

"Social workers find that a preponderance, perhaps 90 per cent more of youthful delinquency is the result of bad home conditions. In those homes religion is not a visible force.

"Our nation needs citizens of good character who unselfishly fulfil their obligations to their fellow-citizens and to the social body," the Cardinal declared.

"That is the great need in this distracted, tortured world of today.

"The formation of such citizens is the purpose of the Christian school.

"Your assistance to make this new school a perfect school is a contribution to the prosperity of the nation and the welfare of mankind.

"May Almighty God bless you in the fulfilment of this noble mission," His Eminence concluded.

### Future Extensions

The Rev. Father W. J. Stevens, P.P., said that seven years ago the

P.P., said that seven years ago the necessity of a new school was mentioned to him by His Eminence. It was a war-year, but His Eminence would not entertain the idea of building only one half of a school.

"We are not doing so, your Eminence," said Father Stevens. "We waited, and the new building will be a complete school-block, with an excellent kindergarten section, and with provision made for any possible necessity of extension in the future."

The school would accommodate twice as many children as now attended, Father Stevens added. He thought mention should be made of the pioneer parish priest, the late Father M. Tansey, who had spent 15 difficult years in the parish, and of his successor, the late Father T. Vaughan. Both could be considered to have a share

in the present great parochial effort.

The parishioners and their children well deserved a new school. It could only have been a strong spirit of Faith and a firm conviction of the necessity of a sound Christian education that could have led parents to send their children to the present make-shift school of three old cottages, knowing well the difficulties under which the good Presentation Nuns were laboring in teaching children.

These cottages had recently been condemned as a school by the Education Department. The order from this Department to build a new school only meant permission to build at our own expense, although the Catholic parents of Croydon had, through taxation, paid as much for the big Domestic Science school opposite, in proportion to their numbers, as the parents of the children who attended it.

### Well Equipped

The school they were now building, though not as big as the one opposite, would be large enough for their numbers; it would be suitably furnished and equipped:

for their numbers; it would be suitably furnished and equipped; furthermore, it would have this, among other advantages, it would have a crucifix and other religious reminders in each class-room.

The cost of the building, with furnishing and equipment, for example, for a science room, would be about £20,000.

The Very Rev. Father J. C. Thompson, C.M., M.A. (Rector of St. John's College, within the University of Sydney), made the appeal.