

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS' CHURCH

THE NEW BUILDING.

Many congratulations have been forwarded to Father S. Mahony, S.M., Administrator of St. Mary of the Angels' Parish, Boulcott Street, Wellington, on the fact that he has been able to let a contract, at £27,500, for the re-erection of the church which was burned down nearly a year ago.

The elaborate plans, and the two perspectives which have been prepared by Messrs. Clere and Williams, the architects, give a very good idea of what the church will be when finished. The site is an excellent one, and worthy of a fine and permanent building, and both these points will be attained, for the material (reinforced concrete) of which the walls will be constructed is recognised as being as earthquake-proof as possible, fire-proof, and practically indestructible. The roof will be of Welsh slate, so that there can be no question of its permanency. The natural finish of concrete is plain plaster, and so the building has been designed to get architectural effect, more by breaking up the surfaces to produce light and shade than by trusting to surface adornment, which would be costly and difficult to produce.

It was decided by the authorities that Gothic should be the style, but it was left to the architects to choose the phase, and they decided that that which prevailed in England during the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth centuries (known as Perpendicular) was best suited to concrete construction. Naturally, in a new material and in a new country, and under new conditions generally, modification is necessary, and ideas have been gleaned from all quarters.

The apsidal termination of the sanctuary, the processional path all round the church, the square turrets at the salient angles of the tower, are features more Continental than British. At the same time they have been so woven into the fabric as not to be incongruous.

The exterior is decidedly striking—especially the facade towards Willis Street, which consists of a high gabled wall containing a large rose or wheel window, and flanked by two four-storied pinnacled towers rising to a height above the pavement of 106 feet. The two upper stories of these towers will have open tracery sides, while at the front and outside angles will be square turrets containing the circular staircase giving access from the ground floor to the roof. Though these are suggestive of the famous Somersetshire towers of the 15th century, the turrets alter their character entirely, and in the position of the towers in relation to each other and to the main gable, the composition is most satisfactory. The side towards Boulcott Street, extending nearly 150 feet, presents a rich effect of aisle and clerestory windows, broken by the projecting confessionals and the large northern side chapel.

Inside, the building will have a roomy and spacious appearance. The main features are two long arcades of nine arches each. Above these is a series of panels suggesting the triforium of the earlier Gothic, while above all are the clerestory windows containing 113 lights, divided by mullions and surmounted by traceried heads. All the spandrills, both inside and out, are richly panellled. The church is 33 feet wide

between the arcades, and all the seating (excepting that of the chapels) is contained within the nave, so that each worshipper can have an uninterrupted view of the altar. The choir (accommodation is provided for forty) will be in a gallery at the entrance end of the church.

As the church will be approximately 150 feet by 90 feet in width, it will rank among the largest sacred edifices of the Dominion, and its central position will make it among the best known. In material and design it will be about the first of its kind anywhere in the world, and consequently its erection should mark a new epoch in architectural progression.

The public, no doubt, will watch its progress with great interest, and its completion eighteen months hence will be a source of gratification, not only to Catholics, but to all lovers of progressive architecture.

OBITUARY

REV. BROTHER ALBAN, MARIST BROTHERS, CHRISTCHURCH.

Rev. Brother Alban (Joseph Lyons), of the local staff of the Marist Brothers, died at the Coronation Hospital on Tuesday, April 8. Deep regret was felt when the sad news was made known (writes our own correspondent), and numerous expressions of sympathy were received by his Brothers in religion. The late Brother Alban, who was in his twenty-first year, was the son of Mr. Wm. Lyons, Waipawa, and about five years ago, deciding on following the religious life, entered the Order of Marist Brothers in Sydney. After a course of training he came to Christchurch a little over twelve months ago and until last November was engaged on the teaching staff of the local Brothers' school. His kind and gentle manner endeared him to all with whom he came in contact and he was very popular with his young pupils. A very severe attack of influenza forced him to enter Lewisham Hospital, and after three months' treatment in that institution, he was, on the advice of his medical attendant, removed to the Coronation Hospital, Cashmere Hills, where he passed away. Surrounded by his Brothers in religion, and in the presence of his father, and Father Long, his death was a beautiful and happy one. During the few hours his remains rested in the Cathedral, the boys of the school, the children of the convent school, and of Nazareth House recited at intervals the Rosary for the repose of his soul. In the evening the Stations of the Cross were made by the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., for the same intention. On Thursday morning, April 10, his Lordship Bishop Brodie celebrated Pontifical Requiem Mass, assisted by Fathers Roche, S.M., and Fogarty, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., being master of ceremonies. The choir consisted of the local clergy, the Marist Brothers, and members of the Cathedral Choir, Miss O'Connor singing "In Paradise" at the Offertory. At the close of the Mass his Lordship the Bishop, in feeling terms referred to the life of the young Brother, which had ended on practically the threshold of his career. He sympathised with the Brothers, and with deceased's parents. The harvest is so great (said his Lordship), and the laborers so few that the community can ill afford to lose even one from amongst them. As the body left the Cathedral Mr.

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