

Bishop to Dedicate Vicarage, Church, and Windows

A NEW vicarage at Waitara, the church of St. Augustine of Canterbury at Moturoa, New Plymouth, and new windows at the Holy Trinity Church, Fitzroy, will be dedicated by the Bishop of Waikato, the Rt. Rev. J. T. Holland, when he visits Taranaki on May 15 and 16.

The foundations of the new Waitara vicarage were laid 11 months ago. Erected at a cost of £3200, the building covers 1780 square feet and would have cost over £5000 if voluntary labour had not done the job.

Containing three bedrooms, a lounge, combined living room and kitchen, laundry and study, the new vicarage is not as big as the old one but being built of solid patterned concrete blocks it is much more substantial. The front of the building, facing Grey Street is 60 feet long and contains long casement windows giving light to the lounge.

Only a few small things will require attention after the dedication service on Saturday, May 15, and then the vicar, the Rev. R. R. Clark, and his family will be able to move in.

The building of a new vicarage at Waitara was first mooted in September, 1952. The parish had found out that it would cost about £2000 to repair and shift the old vicarage. The old vicarage and the church hall occupied an acre of ground running from Grey Street to Domett Street and facing McLean Street. This section was divided into two half-acre lots and it was decided to lease one. It was found, however, that the old vicarage was situated partly on both sections.

STARTED IN JUNE

After deciding to build the new vicarage the parish started collecting funds and plans were drawn up by Mr. E. H. M. Adams, of Waitara, who is engineer to the Inglewood County Council. In donations from the parish £2300 was collected and with a Diocesan loan and rentals from the lease of sections, the total was raised to £2900. Another £300 is still required to pay for the building and it is hoped donations will reach that amount. By June of last year £1550 had been collected and it was decided to start the new building. Arrangements were made with a master builder to supervise the voluntary labour and work commenced.

Mr. Clark said there were many days of "heroic effort." He quoted one day at the beginning of the task when 16 farmers laid the whole foundation for the building, using four tons of cement and 25 yards of shingle.

A number of the parishioners donated their special skills to the task of constructing and servicing the building. All the plumbing, drain laying, and electrical work was done voluntarily and the chimneys and the concrete blocks from which the house is built were made by volunteers. Amateurs, under the supervision of an expert, have started the painting and expect to complete the paperhanging in time for the dedication.

Tikorangi farmers donated the shingle and also carted it to the site. A local carrier did all the other carrying free of charge.

On some Saturdays up to 20 men have been busy on the site working from 8.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. More than 60 men

have contributed their labour. On Saturday there will be a concerted effort to clean up the grounds and complete a fence of concrete blocks in front of the property.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

After the bishop has been welcomed on May 15 the keys of the vicarage will be handed to the churchwardens. The bishop will bless each room with a separate prayer and then deliver an address. The gathering will then adjourn to the hall for tea.

Mr. Clark said it was an indication of the strength of the manpower of the church that such a substantial building could be built in such a short time and with such a great saving in funds. The church had started with what could be termed a tin shed for a vicarage; then had come the temporary wooden structure and now the new and permanent building. He hoped it would not be long before the church hall could be similarly made permanent.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S

St. Augustine's of Canterbury Church is the former mission hall in Breakwater Road, Moturoa, which has been extensively converted. A new lectern and font have been fitted, new pews have been installed and the sanctuary has recently been altered.

The story behind the church's new name was given today by the Rev. G. A. Butt, who is in charge of the West New Plymouth parish. St. Augustine preached his first service from the beach when he landed in England in 597 and the first service in Moturoa was also conducted on the beach. St. Augustine later went on a mission to the south of England while St. Chad went to the north. St. Chad's Church is already established in the southern section of west New Plymouth and in naming the new church St. Augustine's original events in Christianity are being preserved.

FITZROY WINDOWS

The new windows in the Holy Trinity Church at Fitzroy have been in place for about a month. The two-light eastern window is a memorial to members of the congregation who fell in two wars. The Gospel window portrays St. Michael in full armour of gold with a blue mantle and commemorates World War One and the Epistle window depicts St. George and the Dragon. St. George is clothed in silver armour with a red mantle and the window honours the dead of World War Two.

The west window portrays Christ as the good shepherd and has been installed in memory of Archdeacon F. Evans, Th.L., for many years archdeacon of Taranaki.

The windows differ from most others in New Plymouth churches as they contain a large amount of clear glass around the figures, a technique used by the leading makers. The makers of the windows were Messrs. G. Maile and Sons Ltd., of Euston Road, London.

T.H. 6 May 1954