

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864-1933), Monday 29 July
1929, page 19

ST. CARTHAGE'S GORDON PARK.

NEW R.C PARISH FOUNDED

His Grace Archbishop Duhig, under drenching rain and, nevertheless, in the presence of an enthusiastic assemblage of local residents and of a number of visiting priests, performed the ceremony of solemnly blessing and laying the foundation stone of St. Carthage's Church School of Gordon Park yesterday afternoon, thus founding a new Roman Catholic parish. The Archbishop was welcomed by the new parish priest, the Rev. Father J. McCarthy, and Messrs. P. J. Sheehan and W. A. O'Hare, members of the committee in charge of the function. The foundation stone consisted of an inscribed marble slab, the inscription stating it was laid by the Archbishop on July 28, 1929. It was placed in the centre of the brickwork from each side of which steps leading to the entrance of the proposed church-hall will be constructed.

His Grace, immediately after the solemn function, said they were founding a new parish, and were commencing its life in the very best way by laying the foundation stone of a church and school combined. As usual they had selected a very commanding site where neither worshippers in the church nor the children in school would ever be deprived of fresh air or sunlight, but would enjoy the refreshing breezes that blow across the hills even in the heat of summer. The new parish of Gordon Park had been formed partly from the parish of Wooloowin and partly from the parish of Kedron. It was already thickly populated, and a school in the locality in which they were erecting it should be very welcome. Before Father Stanaway handed over his church and presbytery at Kedron to the Franciscan Fathers, they had purchased a church site here. More recently they had acquired a fine house and additional grounds, on portion of which this stone had been laid to-day. They had, therefore, amply provided for the equipment of a new parish, which they were placing under the patronage of St. Carthach or Carthage, one of the best known saints of Ireland's golden era.

The Archbishop added that a very handsome building of brick and concrete had been planned for a commencement. It would serve both as a church and

as a school, and when the parish was in a position to erect a church the building would be used exclusively for school purposes. It was exactly forty-three years since the first Catholic Church was opened at Woolloowin then known as Lutwyche. It was opened by the late Archbishop Dunne, and shortly afterwards the Magdalen Asylum was built in its vicinity. Subsequently a school was opened in the church in 1889 by the Sisters of Mercy. Holy Cross church and school existed to-day, but had been much enlarged. The school opened with about 70 pupils. To-day it had about 400 on the roll, while what comprised the original parish of Holy Cross, Lutwyche, had been subdivided into seven or eight flourishing parishes, some of them bidding fair to outgrow the venerable old mother herself.

On the motion of Mr. E. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. J. Rahilly, a eulogistic vote of thanks to the Archbishop was enthusiastically carried.

A collection towards the building fund realised about £150. Among the clergy present were Monsignor W. Lee. P.P.V.P., Revs. E. Keating, J. Concannon, F. Griffith, O.F.M., J. Dowling. J. Humphries, C. O'Connor, A. Perkins, M.S.C., J. English. D.D., D.C.L., E. A. Stanaway. D. A. Dee. V. Cleary, and Dr. Flynn (Wodonga Victoria).

St. Carthage's will face Aberdeen and Huntley streets, Gordon Park. It will be a two-story building, 65ft. by 45ft, the ground floor being the school and the next floor the church, and will draw its congregation from the district west of the tramline at Stafford-road and Kedron Brook. The view is very fine.

[Acknowledgement: This article was made available by Mrs. Kath Kelly, a long time resident of Gordon Park and a mother of three children who attended the St. Carthage's school]