

RELIGIOUS CEREMONY IN BOYLE.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Boyle, Sunday Night.

To-day the splendid new parochial church of St. Joseph's, Boyle, was opened and consecrated with befitting religious ceremony. The church, which is within a short distance of the town, is erected on a picturesque site close to the convent of the Sisters of Mercy and to the fine block of buildings comprising the new schools. It is separated merely by the historic River Boyle from the magnificent ruins of the Cistercian Abbey, which was founded in the year 1143. It is of the late thirteenth century Gothic style of architecture, and is of the usual cruciform shape, consisting of nave, aisles, and transept. The length extends fully 120ft, the breadth is nearly 60ft, and to the ridge of the roof is about 70ft. At the western end is the tower, rising 60ft, the roof being surmounted by an elaborately wrought cross. The inside of the church has been thoroughly finished, the organ, altars, and the other furniture having been provided, and the chancel being covered with a handsome green carpet, which neatly set off the stonework of the altar and the pitch-pine Communion rails. The roof is supported by twelve massive pillars of limestone, and the aisles are subdivided from the nave by four bays of the same material, resting upon caps, shafts, and bases. The three altars, which have been executed by Mr. O'Neill, of Great Brunswick-street, Dublin, are the work of Irish genius and industry, and harmonise beautifully with the bold and simple outlines of the church. The canopy of the high altar reaches to a height of thirteen feet, and is twelve feet wide, while beneath the table is an elaborately carved panel bearing a motto on either side, and containing a group of the Annunciation and an angel. The general material is of Caen stone, all the shafts being of emperors' red and Irish marbles. In the recesses, which is subdivided into four panels, there are four statues representing the four Evangelists. This altar is the gift of the late Mr. Thomas M'Dermott, Belanagare. The side altar of the Blessed Virgin, which has been erected by the Children of Mary, Boyle, and the altar of St Joseph, which has been presented by Mr. James M'Donagh Warren, are exquisite pieces of workmanship, and consist chiefly of Irish marbles. The entire cost of the church is about £8,000, and it is certainly one of the finest parochial buildings in Ireland. The work of its erection was undertaken solely by the Very Rev Mgr M'Teaker, P P, V C, and he was greatly aided by the munificent benefactions of two former parishioners—Mr. Bell and Mr. Kennedy—who died in Dublin and Southampton respectively. To-day the spacious building was crowded to overflowing by the dense throng of people who flocked in from all the surrounding parishes. Special excursion trains from Sligo and Ballaghadeseen conveyed also large contingents. The consecration of the church, which began at 11.30 a.m., was performed by the Most Rev Dr Gillooly, Bishop of Elphin, assisted by the Most Rev Dr Conway, Bishop of Killala; the Rev J Nangle, P P, Croghan, being master of ceremonies. Immediately afterwards Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev Dr M'Corinack, Bishop of Achonry, the Rev J Nangle, P P, being deacon on the throne; the Rev J Malone, C C, deacon; the Rev James Ryan, C C, Sligo, sub-deacon; and the Rev J Lyster, C C, Sligo, master of ceremonies. The choir, which had come from Sligo cathedral specially for the occasion, was conducted by Mr. Hanrahan. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev John Healy, Professor of Theology, Maynooth College, who took as his text the words, "How awful is this place; this is no other than the house of God and the gate of Heaven." It was a splendid specimen of pulpit oratory. At the conclusion of the sermon a collection was taken up, which realised close on £300. I may add that the architects of the church were Messrs Goldie and Child.