

50th anniversary of Mullewa church

Last week saw one of the largest influx of visitors to Mullewa for many years.

The Catholic Church in the town was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the laying of its foundation stone.

People began arriving into the town on Wednesday from all parts of the state, and even from as far away as Ballarat, Victoria, and Finlay, NSW. All accommodation had been booked out for weeks, and almost all the local parishioners had friends staying in their homes.

After months of planning, activities really got under way with a dinner for the clergy on Thursday evening. Approximately 30 bishops, priests, and Christian Brothers attended. They came from far flung centres, including Bishop O'Collins from Ballarat. As many will remember, the bishop was in Geraldton for many years. He is now 83 and enjoyed 18 holes of golf during the afternoon prior to the dinner. Other clergy came from Port Hedland, Bunbury, Perth, Three Springs, Northampton, Geraldton and Tardun.

Thursday night was the first social activity for the parishioners. The hall was packed with over 300 locals and their guests. Women had worked for hours to make the very attractive decorations for the ball, and they were an exact copy of those used for the Catholic debutante balls 25 years ago.

It was a very happy occasion with old friends meeting after many years. Some had not been back to Mullewa for 40 years and more.

During the evening a floor show was staged. This

was by Doreen Dawsons School of Dancing, and the six dancers gave a very beautiful display of different dances. A really lavish supper was provided during the evening.

JUBILEE DINNER

Friday was the day for the more formal get-together, this taking the form of a jubilee dinner held in the town hall. Almost 300 people sat down to a very lovely dinner.

Mrs. Kennedy and her workers from Geraldton deserve full marks for the catering of the dinner and ball supper. They worked all through the night, clearing away after the ball and preparing the dinner for the next day.

All guests at the dinner were issued with name tags on their arrival at the hall. During the dinner, Mr. A. J. Keefe gave a very interesting talk on the history of the parish since its beginning. This was very well prepared, and enjoyed immensely by all present. Mr. J. Callaghan related some anecdotes concerning the late Monsignor Hawes. Mr. Phil Keefe welcomed all those present and expressed his great pleasure that so many had returned to Mullewa for the celebrations.

At 5.30 on Friday, following the dinner, the crowd assembled at the church to join in the celebration of the Concelebrated High Mass. This was a most beautiful and awe-inspiring ceremony, with about 14 priests celebrating the Mass. The church was packed to capacity and just as large a crowd sat outside and were, with the help of amplifiers, able to participate.

After the Mass, it was back to the hall, where about 600 men, women and children gathered for a barbecue on the adjoining lawns.

The weather was perfect, and the happy crowd rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable couple of days.

To mention just a few of

far and wide: Mr. and Mrs. L. McNamara of Finlay; Mr. and Mrs. J. Criddle from Perth, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Coral Johnstone, and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Barden. Also from Perth were Sir David and Lady Brand, Mr. and Mrs. F. Freeman, Mrs. N. Meadowcroft, Mrs. Jefferson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Loughnan and Mrs. Connie Loughnan, Mrs. Nell Irvine, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and Miss Margaret Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. T. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Melville. Mrs. Hegney came from Midland, and Mr. J. McCahill and Mrs. Don Mills were there from Collyie. Mr. and Mrs. G. Jensen from Mt. Magnet, and Mr. Jack Jensen from Perth. Mrs. Margaret O'Brien was another who travelled from Perth for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. C. Newton from Mingenew, and Mr. and Mrs. P. McGree from Three Springs.

Those to attend from Geraldton were Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. B. Clune, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brennan, Mr. and Mrs. J. McGuinness, Mr. and Mrs. J. McAuliffe, Mrs. M. E. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Terry O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Col O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. L. Ulrich, Mrs. P. Heelan; Mesdames I. Shanks, P. Bunter, Y. Marsh, G. Moore, E. Nelson and M. Morrissey; Mr. and Mrs. W. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. G. Desmond, Mr. and Mrs. Ron O'Brien from Dongara, Mr. and Mrs. P. O'Brien from Greenough, Mr. and Mrs. C. Valentine from Morawa, and Mrs. D. Strickland from Moora.

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CATHOLIC PRESENCE IN MULLEWA OUTLINED

At the Parish Dinner Mr. Bert Keffe delivered a well researched and interesting address on the history of the Catholic presence in the Mullewa town and district. An outline only of this address is presented below.

Although few precise details are available it may be taken as certain that the pioneer priest of the Greenough, Dongara, Geraldton and Northampton districts, Archdeacon Lecaille, would have been the first priest to travel through the Mullewa district in the 1860's. It is known that he visited and offered Mass at the Gullewa property of Mr. Michael Morrissey. Knowing his missionary zeal and customary practice it may also be presumed that he visited the shepherds' huts in the Mullewa area and celebrated Mass there. As the town of Mullewa developed it is reported that he celebrated Mass in the vicinity of some old stock yards and then in the Murchison Wool Shed which was the sole building of any consequence in the town.

The construction of the railway line to Mullewa which was completed in 1894, brought many people to the town. It became the railhead and hundreds of teams of horses, as well as teams of donkeys and cam-

els, were used to move goods further eastwards to the Murchison goldfields. But the railway itself moved on to Cue in 1898 and as a consequence the Mullewa population diminished somewhat. During these boom days the Catholics were cared for by visiting priests, some coming from Geraldton, and others no doubt whilst travelling to and from the goldfields where several parishes were already established.

The appointment of Bishop Kelly in 1898 as first Bishop of Geraldton placed the affairs of the Church in this region on a more organised basis. It led to regular visitation of Mullewa by priests from Geraldton.

PRESENTATION SISTERS

However, the first permanent presence of the Church came, not with a parish priest who had not yet been appointed, but with the establishment of a convent and school by the Presentation Sisters from Geraldton.

The Sisters arrived in 1914 and took up residence in a simple corrugated iron dwelling, which was later

occupied by M. K. Bangash, an Afghan storekeeper. They opened school in 1915.

The details surrounding the construction of the corrugated iron church on the present church site are not entirely clear. However under the direction of Mother Brigid a convent was built for the Sisters adjacent to the church and it remained the home of the Sisters for many years to come. A collection of simple buildings, of weatherboard, iron and hessian linings, at the rear of the convent became the classrooms.

FIRST RESIDENT PRIEST

Father Hawes was Mullewa's first resident priest and with his coming it might be said that the Catholic community had come of age and had been given an identity of its own. His story is now well known and needs no retelling.

Father Hawes shared his time with Mullewa and Yalgoo spending alternate weeks in each place. The Dominican Sisters were established in Yalgoo and he built them a chapel, dedicated to St. Hyacinth, which became the first church or chapel to be completed by the priest-architect in W.A.

The work on the Mullewa church proceeded at a leisurely pace, intentionally, so that construction kept pace more or less with available finance.

On September 14 the foundation stone was laid and it carries the following inscription: "This stone was laid by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ryan, C.M., Bishop of Geraldton, in the presence of the Most Rev. Dr. Clune, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Perth, on the Feast of the Holy Cross, Sunday, September 14, 1924."

Then followed the construction of the "Priest-house." The succeeding years were extremely busy ones for Monsignor Hawes engaged as he was with supervising the completion of St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral at Geraldton and the planning of other churches and buildings throughout the Geraldton Diocese and elsewhere.

When he left Mullewa in 1939 it was genuinely believed by the parishioners that the departure was a temporary one only and they had no idea that it heralded his departure on an overseas journey from which there was to be no return.

What followed has been recorded in his biography, "The Hermit of Cat Island," written by Peter Anson.

A new Convent School was built on the site of the old. This was a parish self-help project with professional direction and the school was opened free of debt.

Renovations were carried out on the church and grounds. The present brick and stone fence which surrounds the whole property replaced an earlier picket one. The north transept was extended in a style in complete harmony with the original building and now that the stone has weathered the extension is not discernible.

THE WORK CONTINUES

The present parish priest, Monsignor E. Bryan, succeeded Dean Lynch and has continued the work carried on by his predecessors. He too was quickly and warmly accepted by parishioners and successful partnership of priest and people continues.

A new presbytery and a new convent have been built in recent years and a classroom and other facilities added to the school.

The work of renovating and preserving the church continues. The particularly recent wet winter has held up things temporarily but it will commence again shortly. The interior has been further enhanced by the addition of stained glass windows, donated by various families in the parish at a cost of \$2,000.

The future will make its own demands on priest and people alike but there is no doubt in anyone's mind that these will be handled with the same successful outcome that has attended all such challenges in the past.

POSTSCRIPT: Mr Keffe, in the course of his address, made some well informed and very valid comments on the Television Documentary, "The Stones Cry Out." These would require a fairly lengthy article to report faithfully which is not possible within the framework of this report on the Mullewa Jubilee celebrations. Perhaps an opportunity will occur in the future to assess the merits and underline some of the weaknesses of this programme which certainly has created tremendous interest in the life and works of Monsignor Hawes.

ANOTHER GREAT PRIEST

The transfer of Father Lynch from Leonora to Mullewa was greeted with enthusiasm by Mullewa parishioners and he became the second priest whose stay in Mullewa would be fairly lengthy, who would make an indelible mark on the minds and hearts of the people and leave his own worthy monument in external good works in the parish.

Shortly after his arrival Father Lynch celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood and was accorded the title of Dean of Mullewa. From then on "The Dean" was a household name, expressing sentiments of esteem and affection which continued undiminished until his death in

GOLDEN JUBILEE IS CELEBRATED

Outstanding Jubilee celebrations were held on September 19th - 20th at Mullewa which earned unstinted and well-deserved praise from the many hundreds taking part. The occasion was the fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, a masterpiece of religious expression and devotion by the famous priest-architect, the late Monsignor John Cyril Hawes.

The two-day celebrations commenced with a Children's Mass at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, concelebrated by Fathers John McCarthy (East Brunswick, Victoria), Raymond Lowe (Port Hedland) and Brian Ahearn (Newman). Visiting clergy and religious Brothers were guests at a Dinner in the School Centre, and a Jubilee Ball was held in the Town Hall.

On Friday, September 20, a Parish Luncheon was held in the Town Hall for parishioners and visitors, and the Jubilee Mass commenced at 5.30 p.m. The final event was a Barbecue and Social get-together in the grounds of the Town Hall. Two weeks previously celebrations were anticipated when Presentation Sisters who were former teachers at the Mullewa Convent School were present at a Special Mass and Dinner, where they were guests of parishioners.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

It would be impossible to list all the former parishioners who returned to their old parish for the Jubilee celebrations. Their response was magnificent as were also the efforts of the organising committee to contact them weeks beforehand and to send them invitations. And whilst reporting this particular activity it may be mentioned that the committee asked that apologies be passed on to any former parishioners who later or indirectly heard of the celebrations but had not received an invitation. No one was intentionally omitted and certainly a tremendous effort was made to identify and invite all former Mullewa residents. Mr and Mrs L. McNamara, formerly of Wandoo, were perhaps the ones who came from furthest afar, from their home in New South Wales, and there was a sizable contingent from Perth and the South-West as well as many from Geraldton and other places nearer to hand.

Members of the Jubilee committee were tremendously encouraged when it was learned that a former Bishop of Geraldton, Most Rev. J. P. O'Collins, who retired as Bishop of Ballarat in 1971, had accepted his invitation to attend. Showing great energy and enthusiasm, which are difficult to reconcile with his 83 years, the Bishop's warmhearted gesture was widely acclaimed and he gave his warmest pleasure to all who had known him during the years 1931-1941, when he was Bishop of Geraldton. He was accompanied by a nephew,

Father John McCarthy, parish priest of East Brunswick in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The former Premier of W.A. and member for Greenough in the Legislative Assembly, Sir David Brand, accompanied by Lady Brand, attended the Jubilee Dinner and Mass. The President of the Mullewa Shire Council, Mr George Eves, and Mrs Eves were other guests whose presence at the celebrations was greatly appreciated.

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

Naturally enough this celebration of special religious

significance was strongly supported by the attendance of priests and religious. Most Rev. F. X. Thomas, Bishop of Geraldton, who had been attending a meeting of the Australian Bishops Conference in Sydney, arranged his return so that he would be in Mullewa for the Jubilee. Two young priests from Victoria, Fathers L. Tomlinson (Melbourne) and T. Brophy (Mildura) were in Geraldton on a visit and took part in the festivities. St. Columban's Mission Society sent two worthy representatives, Fathers J. McWilliams and P. Cashman. The former is the well known superior of the Society's Mission House at Rivervale and the latter is currently doing promotion and appeal work in the Geraldton diocese.

Brothers from St. Mary's Tardun, were well represented at the various Jubilee functions and many of the lay staff from the Pallottine Mission were seen enjoying themselves at the Jubilee Ball.

Father G. Scott, C.M., rector of St. Charles' Seminary, Guildford, accompanied by Mr. Peter Sharry, a Mul-

lewa parishioner in his first year of training for the priesthood, travelled from Perth. Peter's services as assistant Master of Cereemonies at the Jubilee Mass were greatly appreciated.

Four priests from the Bunbury Diocese were able to participate in the first day of the celebrations. They were Fathers J. McGree and G. Crocetti (Bunbury), J. J. McGrath (Harvey) and H. Kelly.

Parishes of the Geraldton Diocese were well represented with priests coming from many directions and over varying distances. They were Fathers R. Lowe (Port Hedland), B. Ahearn (Newman), M. Moffatt (Northampton), M. O'Flaherty (Morawa), E. Fitzgerald (Bluff Point), P. Kirwan (Three Springs), R. Dowglass, L. Curran, O.F.M. and Monsignor J. Barden (Geraldton).

Decorations for the Jubilee Ball in the Town Hall were also an evocation of the past, done in the style and colours that were used in former days for the Annual Catholic Debutante Ball. The music was excellent from an orchestra of piano, drums and two saxophones. Players were most generous with the amount of music offered, many times giving encores for dances when patrons showed reluctance to leave the floor. Equally generous was the warm reception accorded them by the dancers.

CLERGY ENTERTAINED

Visiting clergy were the recipients of many acts of gracious hospitality from the parish priest of Mullewa, Monsignor E. Bryan, V.G. and parishioners. No effort was spared in providing comfortable accommodation and the appearance of caravans in the presbytery grounds was a testimony of their ingenuity and consideration. A number participated in the clergy golf competition and the presence of several parishioners who accompanied them around the course, providing incentive, local knowledge and professional advice and example, was also appreciated.

The Dinner at the School Centre, catered for and served by parishioners and Presentation Sisters, was enjoyed by the guests. Here also laymen were to the forefront. Dr. Docherty, Tim Freeman and Robbie Weir made sure that no guest went thirsty.

Mr. Phil Keffe, President of the Parish Council, was one of the many parishioners who seemed to be everywhere, busily engaged in making sure of the successful conduct and outcome of each function. At the Clergy Dinner he gave a short address of welcome, expressing appreciation of the presence of so many priests and religious Brothers. Bishop Thomas replied on behalf of the guests.

JUBILEE BALL

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As the opening function of the Jubilee Ball provided the opportunity for former and present residents of Mullewa to renew acquaintance. The expressions of obvious delight at recognition of old friends who had not met, in some instances for many years, were frequent and loud.

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GOLDEN JUBILEE

(From Page 1)

Miss Doreen Dawson's Dancing Studio of Geraldton provided the Floor Show. Three pairs of dancers gave exhibitions of many styles of dancing and their items were generously applauded.

Towards midnight a delightful supper was served. This was done by professional caterers, Mrs. Kennedy and helpers, of Geraldton. They were also responsible for catering for the Parish Dinner on the following day.

The Ball was officially scheduled to end at about 1 am but it was considerably later when the orchestra signed off and parishioners were prepared to go home.

The first official function on Friday was the Parish Dinner in the Town Hall at 1 p.m. However, prior to this, groups of visitors were taken on conducted tours of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, the Priesthouse, the Mass Rock, the Old Cemetery, and other places of interest, with parishioners providing transport and acting as guides. This was but one of the many occasions where present parishioners came forward with generous offers of hospitality, to make the visitors' home coming even more enjoyable.

The Jubilee Dinner was wonderfully organised and these few words cannot adequately express the care and attention to detail on the part of the committee, nor the enjoyment of all who participated.

About 300 people filled the Town Hall for the sit-down meal. Only the committee would know the effort required to ensure that all seats would be occupied, with very few exceptions, but this point was immediately appreciated by guests and drew continual comment. Last minute arrivals were also accommodated without fuss or bother. Name cards were issued to all guests at the entrance to the hall and this was a great help.

Chairman for the Dinner was Mr. Kevin Sharry, who after a few words of welcome, invited Bishop Thomas to say Grace. Later in the proceedings Mr. Phil Keffe gave an official Address of Welcome. He spoke of the work of the committee in planning the celebrations and how heartened he and other members were by the magnificent response. He thanked all who had returned to Mul-

lewa, both clergy and parishioners, and made particular reference to the presence of Bishop O'Collins.

Mr Keffe stressed that it was not merely the Jubilee of a building, fine though it may be, that they were celebrating but rather the memory of a person, Father Hawes, their former parish priest and the spiritual blessings received through his ministry, the effects of which endure to the present time.

He made mention of "absent friends," saying that numerous replies had been received from people expressing regret at their inability to attend. Extracts from two such letters were read and the sentiments expressed in them were warmly applauded.

Mr. Bert Keffe was called on to speak about the history of the Catholic Church in Mullewa. He gave a magnificent address, filled with detail and interesting long forgotten facts. A summary of this is reported in these pages under its own heading, "The Catholic Presence."

Another speaker was Mr. John Callaghan, formerly of Mullewa and now residing in Geraldton. Well known, not only in Mullewa but further afield as poet, story teller and writer of considerable

talent, Mr Callaghan published verse under the nom - de - plume "Froblower" and "Jacka-da-Ca". In his opening remarks expressed delight at returning to Mullewa for the occasion, even though recalled ill-health had depleted his energies. He established credentials by remarking that he had grown up in Mullewa, had been educated at the Convent School, and had served Mass over many years for Monsignor Hawes. His selection and recital of several anecdotes about former Mullewa identities were enthusiastically received.

The final speaker was Bishop O'Collins who counted many of the details of his association over many years with Monsignor Hawes. These covered not only ten years or so when they worked together planning and building churches in Geraldton Diocese, but the later period when Monsignor Hawes had entered upon his new role as the Hermit of St. Jerome, and they pursued regular correspondence.

Monsignor Bryan supported Mr. Phil Keffe's expression of thanks to organisers and guests, and gave details of the arrangements for Jubilee Mass which follow later in the afternoon.



CONVENT HOLDS JUBILEE SPORTS

Although the weather was not ideal, a successful sports day was held at Mullewa Convent School during the week.

This was the last function of the jubilee celebrations of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

More than 30 events were held during the day, with all children participating. At the close of the day the children were given ice-creams, cool drinks, and sweets.

Trophy winners were:

Senior girl champion, a tie between Paula Mills and Raeleen Eakins 10 points. Runner-up for this trophy was Mary Brenkley with 9 points.

Senior boy champion was Greg Brown with 15 points; runner-up was Duane Bell with 9.

Intermediate girl champion was Alanna Keeffe with 13 points; runner-up in this section was Wendy Cream with 8 points.

Intermediate boy champion was a tie between M. Wall and M. Barrett with 13 points. Runners-up also tied in this section. They were C. Eakins and M. McGee with 3 points.

Junior girl champion was Donna Grima with 13 points, and runner-up Karen Grima with 10.

Junior boy champion was Ashley Keeffe with 15 points, and Scott Steele was runner-up with 8.

Factions were quite evenly matched with Gold

(captained by C. O'Brien) running out the winner with 249 points. Red (captained by R. Eakins) had 219 points, and Blue (captained by Paula Mills) 212.

Life and work of a renowned priest

Who was Dean Hawes? Many people who have tried to answer that question in simple terms have been confronted with a many-faceted personality moulded by a wide range of contrasting culture and experience.

One has to penetrate several layers of life to find something of the genius and zeal of this renowned figure in West Australian history.

It is a long and contrasting road from the soft English countryside of his boyhood through his schooling at The King's School, Canterbury to the harsh emptiness of the red, dusty countryside of Yalgoo, of which the recently filmed A.B.C. documentary "The Stones Cry Out," takes its first glimpse.

It is a long and hard journey from the Royal Academy architectural halls to the humble structure where he designed the Mullewa Church and then, at the age of 45, built it with his own hands.

PILGRIMAGE

It is a long pilgrimage from an Anglican monastery on the Island of Caldey, where he lived as a Benedictine Relligous, to the Bahamas where he became a Catholic, to the Beda College in Rome and a meeting with Bishop Kelly who would invite him to be a priest of the far-off and enormous diocese of Geraldton in 1915.

Before the end came he would make yet another pilgrimage, this time in search of the Franciscan ideal of poverty, which he had embraced in 1912 on becoming a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and which inspired him through many years of deprivation and hardship which he shared with his parishioners in the early days.

This led him to a hermitage on Cat Island in the Bahamas where the ideal eluded him in a welter of architectural work and building activity until his request was fulfilled — that his remains be carried to a lonely tomb prepared for himself on the island.

CATHEDRAL

Dean (later Monsignor) John C. Hawes came to Australia in 1915 at the invitation of William Kelly, foundation bishop of the Diocese of Geraldton — a bush diocese five times the size of Great Britain.

Bishop Kelly needed priests, and when he met Hawes in Rome in 1913 he saw in the idealist priest-architect a fine catch.

As a bait to lure him to

Australia he gave him the commission to design Geraldton Cathedral — a building that was to take 23 years to complete.

Unfortunately, the project was too ambitious for such a poor diocese, and although Hawes supervised the building, and carried out much of the work himself to save money, funds ran out and work ceased.

MULLEWA

From 1915 till 1920 he was a bush priest around Mt. Magnet, visiting his widely-dispersed flock on horseback and sleeping each night in a different settlement.

When the cathedral money ran out, Dean Hawes packed away his drawing board but the architect was struggling within him.

He was enticed back to design a station homestead for some friends — Melangatta, the only privately commissioned work he carried out in Australia — and then to build the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Mullewa, a mammoth task which took seven years to complete and which Hawes built almost entirely with his own hands.

FOR PERTH

Hawes's architectural abilities soon became noticed in the neighbouring Archdiocese of Perth, and although Geraldton Cathedral was still to be finished the Archbishop of Perth, Dr. Patrick Joseph Clune, gave him the commission to design a cathedral for Perth.

After three years exhausting and detailed work the plans were completed, and Dean Hawes left for Europe to order stained glass and mosaics for the cathedral.

While in Rome he proudly showed his plans to Pope Pius XI, who expressed his approval and gave his blessing to the work.

REJECTED

However, when he returned to Perth a year later his plans were rejected by the Perth clergy who wanted a pseudo gothic style of architecture with steep roofs, pinnacles, and spires, rather than the Southern European style of building which Hawes had designed to suit Perth's hot climate.

Dean Hawes' design was to have cost £60,000. The present structure cost more than £100,000 and seems unlikely to be finished.

Following his disappointment at having his design rejected, Hawes bundled up his three years' work and sent it to the person he believed appreciated it most — Pope Pius XI.

There followed the busiest period in the architect's life when he joined Bishop J. P. O'Collins, the third bishop of the Geraldton Diocese, in recommencing work on Geraldton Cathedral, and planning parish churches for many of the diocese's country towns.

HORSEMAN

Hawes left Australia in 1939 to go to the Bahamas where he lived a rigorous life for a further 17 years, writing, praying and ministering to the natives.

Dean Hawes fitted perfectly into the West Australian scene as a tall, spare figure mounted on horseback, moving among his flock, for he was a good horseman and a great breeder of horses.

He once rode his own horse in a race at Yalgoo when no jockey was avail-

able, winning the last event of the day.

In "The Stones Cry Out", Alexander Turner, the retired A.B.C. drama producer who bears a striking resemblance to Hawes, appears in the role of the architect-priest.

The documentary graphically shows the hardships and the dedication of Dean Hawes.

People who knew him tell of his trials and tribulations, his enthusiasm for his work and his disinterest in his own welfare.

The documentary also shows some of the fine uses of natural light that were a feature of his work.

It is narrated by Richard Oxenburgh, and was written produced and directed by Tony Evans. Ian McKenzie was the cameraman.

A priest-architect extraordinary

It might surprise many people to learn that the hero of the first major colour documentary film produced by the A.B.C. in W.A. is a Catholic priest.

Monsignor John Hawes, missionary, architect, artist, visionary, race-horse owner and hermit, is the central figure in "The Stones Cry Out" that will be shown on A.B.C. television on Thursday, September 12, at 9 p.m.

Tony Evans, director and producer, spent 18 months in research and preparation of the documentary which ranges from Hawes' monumental churches in England, through his period in Rome as a student on to the many sites in and around Geraldton and the Murchison where monuments to his unique professional gifts and craftsmanship can be seen today.

Among them are the Geraldton cathedral of St. Francis Xavier and the Mullewa church and presbytery (most of the latter he built with his own hands).

In his search to give greater authenticity to the film, Mr. Evans found in the former A.B.C. drama director, Mr. Alexander Turner, a remarkable physical and facial similarity to Dean Hawes and Mr. Turner takes the part of the priest-architect in several sequences of the film.

Perth architect, Mr. Geoff Summerhayes, appears in the film, commenting, on behalf of the National Trust, on the high points of Dean Hawes' concepts and their expression in local materials and questioning the propriety of some recent modifications and alterations to the original work.