

A Tribute to Bishop Doyle



Early History

- Jeremiah Joseph Doyle was born on 5th December 1849
- He entered All Hallows Missionary College, Dublin in 1868
- Jeremiah Doyle was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Armidale in 1874
- He arrived in Armidale in 1875 and was later appointed in charge of the Armidale Parish
- On the 4th June 1878, Father Doyle was appointed to serve in the Richmond-Tweed area

Early Years 1878-1879

Mother Stanislaus D'Arcy wrote,
"For two years the pioneer priest had no fixed place of abode. He lodged in shanties, rode his good horse, Yorick to Byron Bay and swam the breakers at Brunswick to get to the distant Tweed with his swag of vestments in front of his saddle. He camped out at nights, sometimes lying under a tree with a saddle for a pillow."

Early Years 1878-79 Continued

Mother Stanislaus D'Arcy wrote,

“All this time his work was the aim and object of his life; he baptised whole families of children, married belated lovers, administered the sacraments to the young and old and sowed the seeds of the faith which bear harvest today....Over the Nightcap Road his journeys lay facing the perils of the bridle path 2,000 feet up....”

Father Doyle, a Pioneer



Outside the sacristy of the Murwillumbah Sacred Heart Church (now the Parish Hall)

The arrival of the Sisters

- The official welcome of the Presentation Sisters to Lismore was officiated by Dean Doyle on Sunday 15th August 1886
- The Presentation Sisters established St. Mary's College in 1886
- The Sisters established St Carthage's Parochial School with 70 pupils in 1886

Dean Doyle Becomes a Bishop

Dean Doyle was consecrated Bishop on the 28th August 1887 in St Mary's Cathedral Sydney.



The Cathedral Project

- Bishop Doyle dreamed that his Diocese should have a great Cathedral. After laying the foundation stone in 1892, he worked tirelessly to raise the vast sum of money needed for this great enterprise (40,000 Pounds)
- The banks failed in the late 1890's and the building of the Cathedral was delayed until 1904
- A further set-back occurred in 1905 when the Pro-Cathedral, Presentation Convent and St Mary's School were destroyed by fire

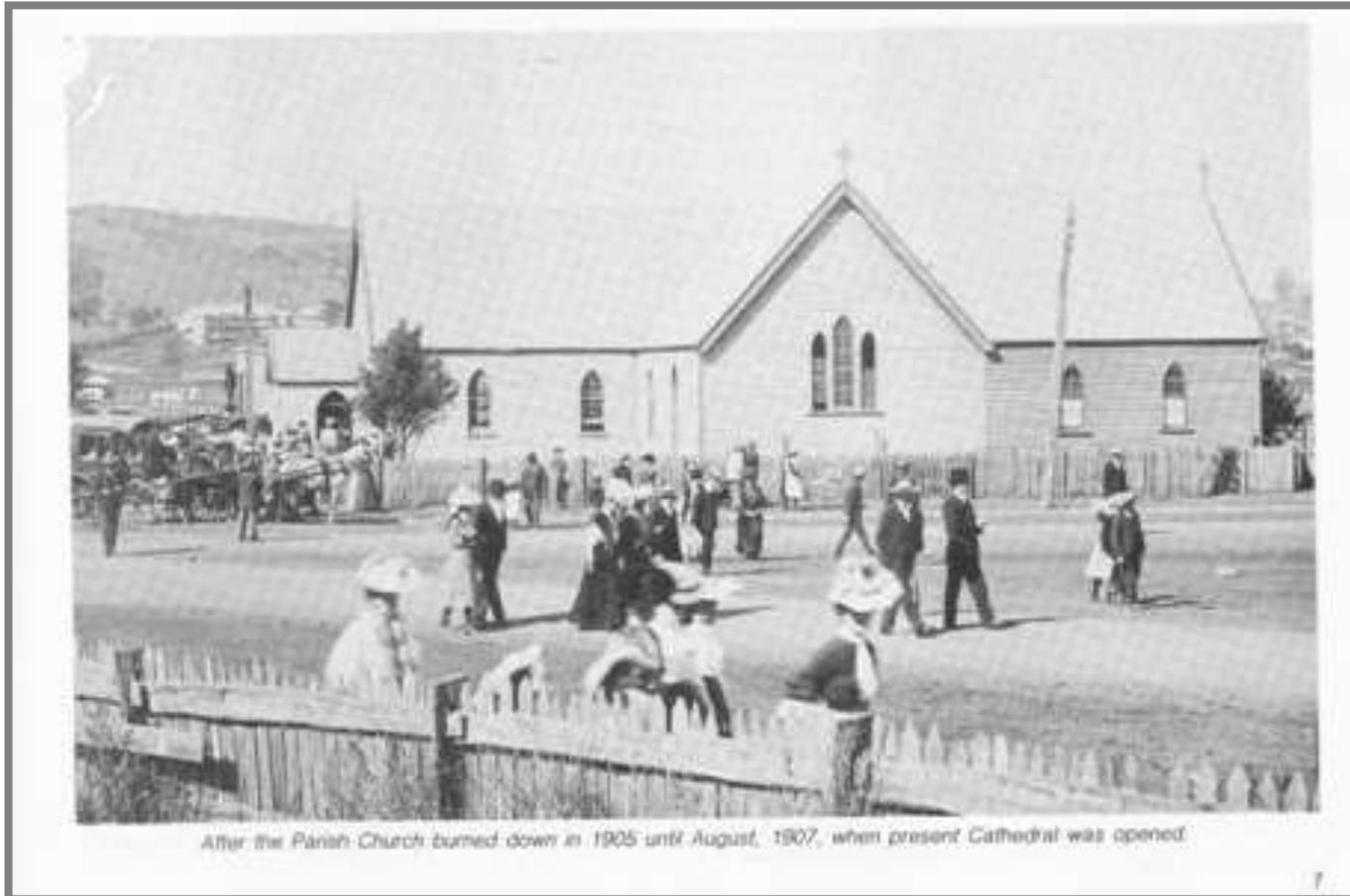
The Cathedral Project (continued)

- Bishop Doyle was not deterred, he borrowed money, using the Presentation Sisters as guarantors, and forged onwards with his plans to build the Cathedral
- The Bishop travelled all over the Diocese five days a week collecting money and anything else he could sell for the Cathedral Fund
- The Cathedral was built literally brick by brick as the money was raised.
- Finally, in August 1907, the Cathedral was dedicated by Cardinal Moran

Laying the Foundation Stone of the Cathedral on Oct 2nd, 1892



The School was the Church too



After the Parish Church burned down in 1905 the school was used as the Church until August 1907, when the present Cathedral was opened

First Communion: 1906



Pat Farrelly (back row of boys, 6th from left) was later to become Bishop Farrelly- the third Bishop of Lismore

Northern Star's Tribute to Bishop Doyle

“Suddenly and without warning, death has removed from our midst one who has been a prominent figure in the district for over a quarter of a century”.

Northern Star Editorial

7th June 1909

Northern Star Tribute

The final lines of the Northern Star's extensive coverage of the death and burial of Bishop Doyle are a moving tribute to his contribution to the Church and to Lismore:

"A strenuous worker always for his Church or in his capacity as a citizen, he has well earned his rest, and set an example that will be held up to the young for many years".

Northern Star's Tribute to Bishop Doyle

"Few figures would be more missed from the public life of Lismore than that of the deceased prelate ... while he was proud of the district, the district was proud of the career of the cleric ...his loss to the district will be hard to replace"

(June 7, 1909)

A Silent Witness



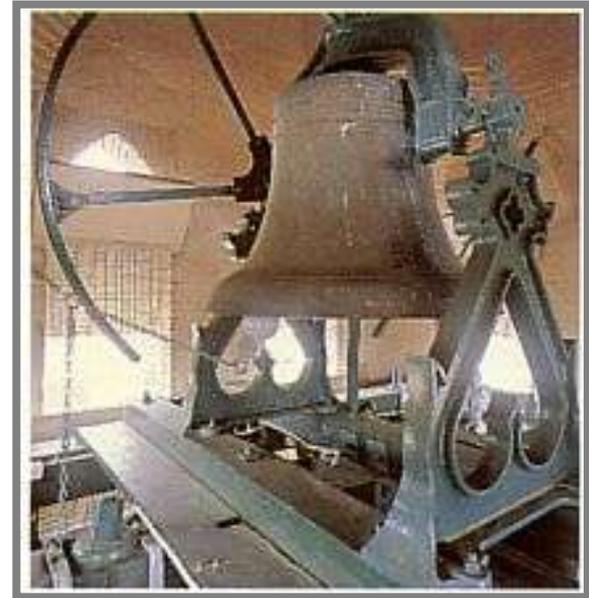
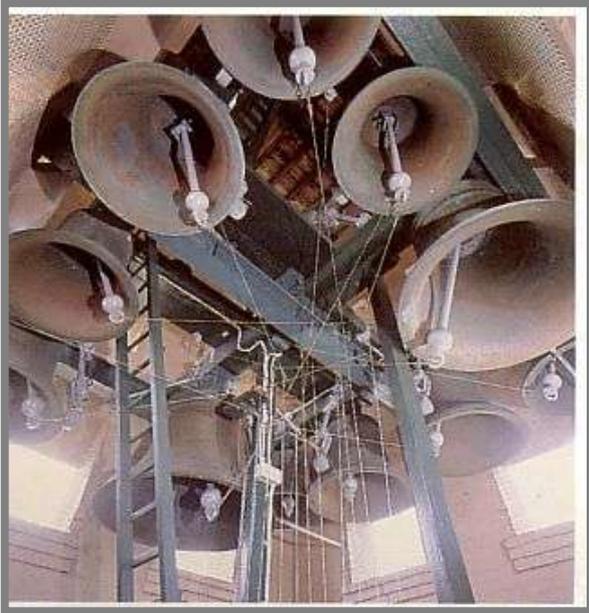
Archbishop Kelly (July 1909) described the Cathedral as a silent witness to the work of Bishop Doyle. The Cathedral stands as a testament to one man's determination, energy and faith.

Celebrating the Life of Bishop Doyle

As a public figure Bishop Doyle's contribution to the Lismore community was extraordinary

- He promoted the development of a water and gas supply in Lismore
- He helped establish a municipal government in the town
- He campaigned for the extension of the railway line
- He personally organized the installation of the telephone exchange
- He was involved in the establishment of Lismore Base Hospital, the School of Arts and the Agricultural Society
- As well as the acquisition of the reserve at Rocky Creek to ensure Lismore's water supply

Lismore's tribute to Bishop Doyle



A meeting of Lismore's citizens decided to meet the cost of the bells by public subscription and have them erected as a memorial to Bishop Doyle as a citizen. The tower, with bells in place, was solemnly blessed and opened by Bishop Carroll on Sunday 11th June 1911.

Presentation Sisters' Window in the Cathedral

The pioneering spirit of the Presentation Sisters and Bishop Doyle have been acknowledged in this Stained Glass window.



Bishop Jeremiah Joseph Doyle
1849-1909
First Bishop of Lismore

