



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CONSECRATION CEREMONY BISHOP CAMIDGE PREACHES

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The ceremony of consecrating Holy Trinity Church was celebrated yesterday, the eve of Feast of St Luke the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the consecration of Dr Cambridge, in St Paul's Cathedral. In the morning his Lordship consecrated the church at Caves Creek and the service at Holy Trinity was conducted by the Rector, The Rev Walker Taylor. The church was decorated by a number of lady workers, flowers being freely used in the adornment. The brasses of the various appointments, and the interior as far as possible, had been attended to by the ladies of the Communicants Guild assisted by the boys of the Bible class, and Mrs Rae the Misses Lovett, Warren, War, Seers, Bryant and others.

The singing of the hymn, 'O Divine Redeemer,' by Miss Jackson was a special feature of the morning service. The Rector's address dwelt principally upon the great work that had been accomplished, and the significance of the ceremony of consecration.

In the afternoon a children's service was held at 3 o'clock and an ordinary service at 4 o'clock.

The ceremony of consecrating the church was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop of the diocese. The large church was completely filled. Numbers of members of the church came in from other parishes, and also represented.

Punctually at 7:30 the doors of the sacred edifice were closed and the procession wended its way from the vestry door at the south-eastern end of the church. Rev. A.J. Rolfe the Bishops chaplain, led, carrying the Pastoral Staff followed by his Lordship the Bishop and the Rev H.W. Taylor and Rev C.J. Allen, Rector and Curate respectively. A number of officers of the church and others were in waiting to receive the Bishop, and the Rev. Taylor read and delivered the petition for consecration, his Lordship replying "I assent to the petition". He then took the staff from its bearer and knocked three times on the door, at the last knock demanding "Open ye gates." They were immediately opened by the churchwardens, and the procession continued on its way up the centre aisle to the Holy Table, the choir singing psalm xxiv, the Bishop then saying verses 1, 3 and 7. The documents in connection with the ceremony – the petition, sentence etc. were laid upon the table. The Bishop then said "Our help is in the name of the Lord." The congregation answered "Who made Heaven and earth." The Bishop then turned to the people and addressed them with a prayer commencing,

"Dearly beloved brethren in the Lord, and was joined by the congregation in the following prayers to the Holy Trinity, commencing "O Eternal God, the Father of Heaven, who has promised," etc, "O God, the Son, Redeemer of the World, who" etc, O God the Holy Ghost," etc then God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost," the sanctifying prayer. Then all standing, sang psalm cxxii *Laetatus sum; I was glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord,* etc. Then all kneeling sang part of hymn 242

*We love the place, O God  
Wherein Thine honour dwells  
The joy of Thine Abode  
All earthly joy excels, etc*

The first verse having been sung, the Bishop consecrated the Font after the first verse reading desk, and then the Pulpit, Chancel steps, Holy Table each consecration including its appropriate prayer. Having arrived at the Holy Table the Bishop delivered the invocation commencing, Now may the King Eternal, Immortal, Invincible, etc.

Then kneeling, the whole sang the last verse of Hymn 242. The sentence of the consecration was then read by the Rector, and signed and delivered for registration. At the conclusion the Bishop declared the church open for the purpose set out in the petition and sentence in the name of the Holy Trinity in the following words: We declare the Church of Holy Trinity to be now consecrated and set apart to God for ever in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

The evening service followed the Bishop preaching the sermon from Exodus. The passage contained a series of laws for the conduct of public worship and the words of the text were singularly appropriate to the consecration ceremony coming down hallowed and sanctified. The occasion was not merely to set apart the edifice for public worship. He desired to express his earnest feeling of thankfulness and to offer congratulations upon the removal of the incubus of debt. Twenty two years ago there was a debt of £4000 upon the church and interest had accumulated to £3700. No matter how wealthy and important the parish, it was cause for gratitude and congratulation that the burden had been removed. In his constant visits to the parish he had felt the incubus of debt and was deeply grateful to all responsible for its extinction. Nature was God's expression of the beautiful and any edifice raised for His honour and glory, should accord with that idea. The Bishop dwelt upon the architecture of Egypt and Greece wherein it was sought to express feeling of reverence to a Supreme being or beings. The Gothic was the most suitable for the representation of the moral before them. The stupendous edifices of Greece were not in the same sense as elevating as the Gothic. The massive structures of Britain erected by their pious forefathers, had a sense of elevation not associated with the architecture of Greece. The churches should be symbolic – a sermon in stone and full of sacred teaching. The different arrangements should convey the teachings of the church and the church architecture should teach them of the passion of Christ and of the blessed of Trinity. Lord Macaulay said the beautiful service of the Church of England could not be surpassed and John Wesley had said that the service was most scriptural. He wished them to feel that the house was full of teaching and expressed the hope that they would vie with one another in giving great gifts to make the church as beautiful as possible. When Jacob saw the vision of the ladder and the Eternal Presence manifested, he declared "This is no other than the house of God and the Gate of Heaven." He desired them to come feeling that the Eternal One has promised to be present and that therefore they were bound to observe the deepest reverence, The Church was a comfort and consolation to the martyrs and confessors. The church was the Supreme House of Preparation for the Heavenly Home above. He believed the Saints of the Ages were joining their services that night and helping them to understand what the services should be. The Bishop dwelt touchingly upon the strange and marvellous power revealed in the sacraments. They spiritually eat the flesh and blood of Christ. They had the greatest possible blessings bestowed. The word of God was read and faithfully preached. Lastly he wanted them to realise that the church was a home. What glorious thoughts clustered about the word home, where the physically and mentally weary seek peace and rest and refreshment. Christ realised the blessedness of home and sanctified its meaning. He was essentially a homely man. Spiritual rest and refreshment was found in God's great home- the Church. We were not here to live for the things of time and sense alone. Their home was dedicated to the Trinity and he wanted them to realise their great privileges and serve God in spirit and in truth. They would be refreshed by the power and the spirit, feeling that God had sanctified their home of peace refreshment and blessing.

The choir sang in the service Bridgewater's "Cantate Domine". The anthem was Mozart's Twelfth Gloria. The choir also sang Jackson's "Te Deum and the Pax Del Benediction. Mr Gibb conducted the choir with his usual efficiency, and Miss Holbrook presided at the organ.

The Anglican community are to be congratulated upon the beautiful service marking the extinction of the church debt and the consecration of the church. The effort was commenced in July, since which £430 has been collected and the debt of £400 has been wiped out, and there is now a credit balance of £25/14/6 in hand.

