

## **Addiewell new Catholic Church**

The above church was opened by his Lordship Bishop Graham on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November [1923] at 11 a.m. It is erected on a site which, because of its elevation, shows the structure to great advantage.

### **Red roof**

The building is flanked on the east side by the Presbytery with its garden beautifully laid out, and on the west side by the Catholic school and playground. A fourteen feet wide road about fifty yards long leads up from the Bathgate and West Calder road to the front of the church. From this a flight of fourteen steps takes one into the vestibule through a five ringed arched doorway, with a tympanum consisting of small hand-made bricks in cross-cross pattern, producing a very pleasing effect. The style of the building with its shaped gable and red roof is based on the late fifteenth century North Holland churches, and its construction is hollow brick with white cement finished surface, relieved by cast concrete facings, steel arched trusses, wood, and covered with red Marseilles tiles. The main building has a floor area of 42 feet by 60 feet, and will accommodate 550 people. The choir galley is placed immediately over the vestibule.

### **The opening ceremony**

Outside the church the Bishop, accompanied by six priests, blessed the walls, while the Litany of the Saints was changed by the priests in attendance. Deputations from the different societies formed a bodyguard for the Bishop as he wended his way round the walls of the church, blessing them. They then entered the church, and, after finishing the ceremony of blessing, High Mass was sung by the priests. The Rev. Father Kenny was the officiating clergyman, and was attended by Fathers M'Carroll and M'Sparron, deacons and sub-deacon respectively.

The choir under the able leadership of Mr John Hoy, with Mr Mark M'Laughlin as organist, left nothing to be desired. The singing of the mass of "Saint Henri" and other anthems was perfect. His Lordship, Bishop Graham, preached a very impressive sermon.

### **130 children confirmed**

At four o'clock the Bishop administered the sacrament of confirmation to 130 children, assisted by the throne by eight priests, viz., Canon Hoban, Fathers Stuart, Scott, Galbraith, Rattray, M'Carroll, M'Sparron, and Rev. Father Kenny. The little altar boys were very neatly dressed in red cassocks, while the girls were all dressed in white with long flowing veils, and with the electric light turned on they made a very pretty sight.

Confirmation was followed by solemn benediction, His Lordship officiating. The choir again sang in fine style the various hymns. The singing of "Faith of our Fathers" brought to a close a day which will be long remembered by the Catholics of Addiewell. From all the surrounding districts motors and charabancs brought their full quota to attend the opening ceremony.

*Midlothian Advertiser*, 30 November 1923, page 2.