



The consecration of the cathedral by then Bishop of Limerick, Bishop O'Dwyer, with Cardinal Logue on Thursday, June 21, 1894.

# 100 years of worship at St Johns marked

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

LIMERICK landmark St John's Cathedral, will be 100 years old next Tuesday.

And to mark this very special event, the parish clergy have organised a nine-day celebration programme, starting this Friday.

Canon Willie Fitzmaurice said they are proud to have reached a century, which coincides with the Solemn Novena in the cathedral.

He issued an open invitation to parishioners and friends of St John's to join with them.

"It will be a time of thanksgiving and great joy for all of us; a time of renewing our faith in God, a time we can pray together and celebrate God's love for all of us".

It was on the June 21, 1894, that St. John's Cathedral was consecrated by then Bishop of Limerick, Bishop Edward

Thomas O'Dwyer.

It was a very elaborate ceremony, with Cardinal Logue of Armagh, 18 bishops, and over 200 priests, in attendance.

According to newspaper files, over 50,000 people gathered in the cathedral grounds that afternoon for a special Benediction Service.

The cathedral will be decorated during the nine days of celebrations by thousands of flowers, arranged by members of the Limerick City & County Flower Clubs.

There will be a special blessing of the floral arrangements this Friday, at the 7.30 session of the Solemn Novena. The centenary candle will also be blessed and lit.

The young people of the parish are to be honoured with their own celebration on June 23, at 7.30, and earlier that day it will be the turn of the senior citizens, who will perform their award winning show at 4pm, in the Good Shepherd Hall.

Friday is designated as Remembrance Day, and is a special day of prayer for deceased relatives and friends.

A special blessing of the

sick of the parish will take place on June 25, at 4pm.

On the centenary day itself, there will be two sessions of the Solemn Novena, at 10am and 7.30pm, and the public are invited to go along and learn more about the magnificent cathedral, with conducted tours at 3.30 and 4.30.

The Solemn Novena preachers include: Fr. Donal McNamara, Adm. St. Joseph's, Limerick, Fr. Tom Ryan C.C., Shannon, Fr. Joe Kennedy, P.P., Ardpatrick, Fr. Con Collins C.C., Feenagh and former Adm. St. John's, Fr. Antoin O Tuathaigh, C.C., Monaleen, Canon Eamon Dillane, P.P. Glin, Fr. Noel Kirwan, C.C., Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rosbrien, and Fr. John O'Shea, P.P., Corpus Christi Parish, Moyross.

Said Canon Fitzmaurice: "The Novena has become in Limerick a great Festival of Faith and we thought it appropriate to link our centenary celebrations to it".

It was in May Day in 1856, that Bishop John Ryan laid the foundation stone of the present Cathedral of St. John, which, like Rome's, is dedicated to the Baptist.



At St John's this week to organise the altar for the centenary were members of the Flower Clubs from Limerick, Thomond, Kilmallock and Adare. (LL)



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