

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH AND SCHOOL, BRIDGETOWN

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [12.59 pm]: Last Sunday, my wife Ros and I attended the centenary celebration at St Brigid's parish in Bridgetown. The Bridgetown parish covers Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Balingup and Nannup. The church and the school were established in 1904. About seven Sisters of Mercy came to the parish at that time. The building has been in place for a long time. The mass was conducted by Bishop Peter Quinn, former bishop of Bunbury, and Fathers Matthew McPhee and Hubert Kelly, who both spent time at Bridgetown. The first members of the new Bridgetown community were Mother Mary Brigid and Sisters Mary Genevieve, Mary Gertrude and Mary Alacoque. Two weeks after the opening of the convent in 1904, the school was opened.

It was an excellent event attended by a large number of the local people and others who had come from all over Western Australia. The mass was followed by celebrations, and a dinner had been held the night before. It was a privilege to be there. The whole community turned out to see the Sisters of Mercy unveil the plaque commemorating the history of St Brigid's. The school has now grown quite considerably since I was a member of it. It was a privilege to see so many people come back to celebrate and meet each other.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm