

Illuminated address presented by Catholic residents of Elsternwick & Brighton, 1883 ...

**TO THE
REVD. MOTHER AND SISTERS
of the
PRESENTATION CONVENT ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA
ELSTERNWICK**

We the Catholics of Elsternwick and Brighton gladly avail ourselves of this our first opportunity to offer you our expressions of gratification on your coming to take up your dwelling amongst us, and to welcome you with all our hearts to your new abode.

We thank God for the favour conferred on us, by placing in our midst the daughters of the far famed Nano Nagle.

Your glorious order is now spread over Ireland, America, India and Australia, bringing treasures of wisdom to the youth of every clime. We are aware of the wonderful success of your labours in Wagga Wagga, and we congratulate ourselves on having you here to aid us in the great struggle of the present day, the cause of Christian education. We sincerely trust that your residence here may be productive of the good results which your known piety, devotion and learning will doubtless produce on the minds of our children, and that the long felt want in this district will be supplied with honour to yourselves and satisfaction to all concerned. We congratulate you on the enterprise and zeal which has impelled you to come so long a distance from the scene of your late labours in a neighbouring colony, to educate the minds and purify the hearts of our Catholic young. Your presence amongst us now is the more welcome, not only because it supplies a want long felt, but because under the Government system of education forced upon us in the form of our present *Education Act*, we have experienced great difficulty in maintaining schools for the education of our children.

We therefore pray that you may be all spared for many long years to unite the bonds of charity amongst us, and we hope that under the inspiration of your holy teaching the studies of our children may tend to the honour and glory of God and that they may realise by sterling virtue and a well trained and accomplished mind the perfect ideal of a true Christian.

Signed on behalf of the Catholic residents of Elsternwick and Brighton

John McGee, Chairman

S.H. O'Hea, Secretary

T. Gunn, Treasurer

Elsternwick, 22nd April, 1883