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● *At right: Mrs. Sonya Carrington-Zakrzewska holds the working drawings of the two tapestries she will make for the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo, the one on the right is now completed and hanging in the cathedral, which will be re-opened to the public on Sunday afternoon, October 21.*

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Engagement



LAST YEAR, a Polish-born Australian woman artist, Mrs. Sonya Carrington-Zakrzewska, began a work, the first of its kind to be made in Australia — a wall tapestry for a church.

Now, one year and more than 2000 work hours later, the tapestry has come off its loom at her home in Hawthorn, and has been hung in its destined resting place — the sanctuary wall behind the Bishop's throne and the altar, at the end of the extended nave of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

The wall on the right hand side remains bare — awaiting the "twin tapestry which is even now on the loom of this remarkable woman, and growing — already it is seven inches in depth.

For 77 years the Sacred Heart Cathedral has been under construction. It was begun in 1896 to give employment to men out of work as Bendigo's Gold Rush began petering out. The nave, shortened from

the original plan, was opened in 1901.

Based on 1901 gift

To mark this, the Jubilee Year A.D. 1901 of Leo XIII Pope, the gift of a large oil painting by T. D. Cavilliro of Rome (he also painted the Stations of the Cross hung in the cathedral) was given to the cathedral. It is this historic painting which was the main inspiration for Mrs. Carrington's first tapestry.

power in a circle of rainbow colored light. His mantle falls over the world protectively. Woven into the tapestry is a replica of the completed Sacred Heart Cathedral to one side of His feet. On the other — poppet legs and mine buildings recall the gold which gave Bendigo its beginnings. A double-headed dragon replaces the devil at Jesus Christ's feet in the original painting, and symbolises the Chinese association with early Bendigo.

Flanking the figure of Christ are two side panels of contemporary winged heads of angels alternated with pink Bendigo wax flower motifs (in the 1901 oil painting angels radiate around the figure of Christ in a semi-circle). On each of the four corners of the tapestry are the letters PX, the Greek initials for Jesus Christ. Completing the tapestry, on either side of the head of the Christ are the small Greek letters Alpha and Omega symbo-



Woman weaves unique church tapestry for Sacred Heart Cathedral



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...
The Irish saint after whom the first Roman Catholic Church in Bendigo was dedicated (incidentally St. Kilian's was originally intended to be the site of Bendigo's Roman Catholic Cathedral but the site proved unsuitable) — were commissioned by the Bishop of Sandhurst, Most Rev. Dr. B. D. Stewart, who began the second stage of the cathedral in 1954.

He wanted the completed Sacred Heart Cathedral, possibly the last great cathedral to be built in the world — it is 18th century English Gothic — to have tapestries which are traditional to great cathedrals throughout the world. But he wanted them to be of the 20th century — the period in which the cathedral was completed.

Reflects history

He also wanted the designs to reflect historic Bendigo and so he talked with Mrs. Carrington about the legends of the early gold-rush town and the history of the cathedral. The result was the two designs pictured at the top of the page.

At right — the tapestry with the central figure of Christ symbolising light and truth and radiating

→
● **THE** completed tapestry, first of a pair — to hang in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. It is now hanging on the left side behind the Bishop's throne in the Sanctuary.

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From Poland

Mrs. Carrington, who came to Australia from Poland in the Christmas of 1949 (she met her husband, who is also Polish, in Australia), studied at the Poznan Institute of Applied Art where she designed tapestries and altar cloths for Roman Catholic churches. Prior to World War Two the church was the biggest sponsor of arts in Poland.

"Once I began, I couldn't leave the loom alone," said Mrs. Carrington, "I became so interested in the tapestry."

She could not get wool and linen in the exact colors she wanted — vibrant contemporary colors which were needed to stand out from the creamy marble wall of the sanctuary. So she hand-dyed her own materials in a range of some 60 colors! Her patience is awesome — to get the exact color she wanted she would spend up to eight hours on the one dyeing.

The first tapestry is woven in brilliant reds, blues and orange. The

second one
but with

Worth

Mrs. Carrington's not placed tapestries values thousands

The tapestry in the eight feet depth and

Mrs. Carrington's own Melbourne which she weaves. She is at Sydney School of Art Pherson's corner of Court's work sign. At central fi

St. K

The second one which she wove last night, will have Kilian's corner of Courts work sign. At central fi



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second one will be similar, but with more greens in it.

Worth thousands

Mrs. Carrington would not place a value on the tapestries but on today's values they will be worth thousands of dollars.

The tapestry now hanging in the cathedral is eight feet six inches in depth and six feet wide.

Mrs. Carrington has her own Melbourne studio in which she spins and weaves. Earlier she taught at Syndal Technical School and the Emily McPherson College. Currently she is teaching art through the Education Department's Correspondence School.

St. Kilian theme

The second tapestry on which she is now assiduously working, mainly at night, will take some 12 months to complete. It will have a replica of St. Kilian's Church, and a corner of the Bendigo Law Courts woven into its design. At the feet of the central figure of St. Kilian

there will be a sword, symbolic of the beheading of the Irish saint in Bavaria. The saint, holding a cross and a crosier is flanked by a geometrical panel on each side, of Bendigo wax flower, gum nuts and wattle.

On Mrs. Carrington's large working drawings, which she holds at the top of the page, each tiny square represents half-an-inch. The weft threads are of wool and the warp threads of linen. Each thread requires four threads of linen and 24 of wool and it takes an hour to weave one inch!

It is hoped the second tapestry will be completed by the time the last stone is laid on the 300 foot tower and spire, on which work is now going ahead . . . with the expectation that the official celebration of the completion of the cathedral and its formal opening, will take place next year.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, October 21 at 4 p.m. Solemn Pontifical Mass will be celebrated there by the Bishop of Sandhurst, Dr. Bernard Stewart, for the reposition

of the building. It has been closed since February of last year to enable the magnificent cream marble floor to be laid and other interior work finished.

Sister made gowns

THE BRIDE'S SISTER made the gowns worn by Coralee Patricia Tumbers and her maids, when she married Ronald Leslie Dorrington in St. John's Presbyterian Church on Saturday.

Rev. S. J. Murray officiated.

Coralee is the second daughter of Mr. James A. Tumbers, 107 Mentone Parade, Mentone, and the late Mrs. G. Tumbers (formerly of Bendigo). She was given away by her father.

Her Empire line gown of crepe and ribbon lace had a roll collar and leg o'mutton sleeves and a full length train which fell from the A-line skirt. She wore a three-tier elbow-length veil and carried a bouquet of white carnations.

Miss Jan Tumbers and Miss Fay Scoble, the bride's sisters, attended her, wearing full-length gowns of white crepe made with square neckline and short sleeves. Each carried a posy of violets and lily of the valley.

The groom, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bailey, Allingham Street, Kangaroo Flat had Christopher Shelton as best man and Anthony Shelton as groomsman.

A feature of the service was the organ music.

The reception took place at The Boulevard.

Leaving on a touring honeymoon in Victoria, the bride wore a black and white ensemble with black accessories.

YULETIDE DINNER DANCE

At the monthly meeting of Mt. Alvernia auxiliary, the president Mrs. B. Gallagher thanked all concerned in making the spring luncheon so successful — \$470 being raised.

Preliminary plans were made for the annual Yuletide dinner dance on Friday, November 23. As this will be the last to be held at Woodbury House it is hoped all will make a special effort to attend and make it a memorable occasion.

A special meeting will be held at the hospital on Tuesday, October 23 at 7.30 p.m.



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TOUR TIMES

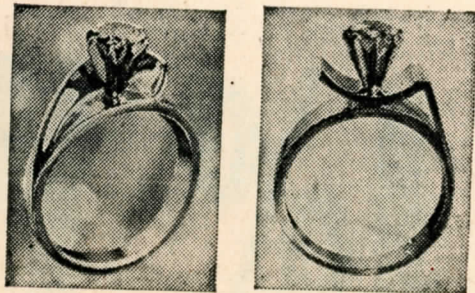
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