

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

October 22.

The members of the Catholic Young Men's Club are arranging to hold an art union for the purpose of raising funds to procure furniture for their club rooms. Their annual picnic will be held on the 9th of November, if suitable train arrangements can be made.

The members of the Catholic Young Men's Literary Society held their usual weekly meeting on Monday evening. The subject for debate was 'Home Rule'. The speeches were of a high order, and the meeting was one of the most enthusiastic yet held. The affirmative side was taken by Mr. P. J. Moran, who traced the history of the movements made by the Irish Party to effect Home Rule. Mr. Baker opposed in a very able speech. The following gentlemen also contributed to the discussion: Messrs. P. J. Nolan, O'Brien, J. Fitzgerald, E. Cassin, G. Dee, J. McGowan, Madden, Ryan, Cronin, McKenna, and Reichel. On a vote being taken a decision in favor of the granting of Home Rule was carried by a large majority.

The news of Brother Mark's sudden death in Auckland caused widespread regret here among all classes of the community. The deceased had charge of the Brothers' School, Boulcott street, for nearly twenty years, and the successes achieved by the pupils of that institution and the high and important positions occupied by many of the ex-pupils in the various walks of life speak eloquently of the splendid training imparted. About a year ago Brother Mark was transferred to the charge of the new Marist College at Auckland, and his departure was keenly felt here. An address, an account of which has already appeared in the columns of the 'N.Z. Tablet' was prepared for presentation, but owing to his repeated indispositions of late, Brother Mark never received it. One can hardly realise the great influence exercised by Brother Mark as a teacher. His pupils loved him, and carried that love with them when they left the old school. Latterly the members of the Catholic Club entertained the Brothers each year before the Christmas vacation, and the scene, when Brother Mark rose to respond to the toast of his health, was always a memorable one. Even in non-Catholic circles deceased was well known and highly respected. By his death the Church loses a faithful and valuable servant, whose services in the cause of Catholic education will be sorely missed. He was animated by a lofty sense of duty to all, and he never spared himself in the faithful discharge of his duties. He has finished the good fight, he has finished the course, he has deserved the eternal crown. A Solemn High Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Basilica on Tuesday. The Very Rev. Father Keogh, Rector of St. Patrick's College, will preach the panegyric of the deceased. The executive of the Catholic Young Men's Club has called a public meeting for Tuesday evening to consider the erection of some suitable memorial to perpetuate the memory of deceased.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

October 11.

The Forty Hours' Adoration began in Wanganui on Sunday last. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Keogh (Rector of St. Patrick's College), Very Rev. Dean Grogan being deacon and Rev. Father O'Sullivan subdeacon. Very Rev. Dean Grogan, in addressing the large congregation, said he was pleased to note the large number of communicants that morning, and thanked the Very Rev. Father Keogh for coming from Wellington to assist at the devotions. At the conclusion of the Mass there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the school children, the Children of Mary, and members of the Sacred Heart Confraternity took part. Throughout the afternoon until Vespers there was a constant coming and going of worshippers. After Vespers the Very Rev. Father Keogh preached a highly instructive sermon on the Blessed Sacrament. On Monday evening Very Rev. Father Power, of Hawera, preached a fine sermon on the Blessed Virgin. The devotions were brought to a close on Tuesday morning. High Mass was sung, and the Forty Hours were concluded as they had been begun by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. A word of praise is due to the choir for their valuable services during the devotions, and also to the Sisters who were responsible for the beautiful decorations of the altars.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

October 24.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M. (Provincial) is on a periodical visit to Canterbury.

An outing for the Pro-Cathedral parish boys' school is being organised for the early part of next month.

The Rev. Father Mamane, of St. Mary's, returned to town last week much improved in health after a sojourn at the Hammer Springs.

The Redemptorist Fathers are expected to give missions in Christchurch about the end of the year, as a preparation for the opening of the new Cathedral.

A benefit entertainment for the relatives of the late Mr. E. T. McNamara is being promoted by the Hibernian Society, Catholic Club, Orpheus Society, and choirs of the two city churches.

The numerous friends of the Very Rev. Dean Foley will be sorry to learn that he is laid up at the presbytery, Barbadoes street, suffering from an acute attack of sciatica.

A lady correspondent at Hammer writes thus of the new Catholic church recently blessed and opened at the Springs: The building, with its buttresses, its colored glass windows, and its dark red roof, and standing as it does in neatly laid-out grounds, is decidedly a pretty sight.

A visitor from Feilding informs me that at a meeting of the congregation of St. Bridget's Church, held in the presbytery on last Sunday week, it was unanimously resolved to establish a convent school in the town. A subscription list was opened and a sum of £250 contributed. The Order of Our Lady of Missions, the mother house of which is in this city, may very probably be asked to found a community in Feilding and take charge of the projected schools.

The exterior work on the Cathedral is now practically completed, and the great dome, surmounted with a gilt Latin cross, forms a conspicuous landmark and can be seen from all parts of the city and suburbs. A commencement is to be made to-day in the removal of the costly stained glass windows from the Pro-Cathedral to the new building. During the week the interior scaffolding is to be removed, after which will be revealed probably the most beautiful ceiling in this part of the world.

On last Monday, in delightful weather, the children of the Pro-Cathedral girls' schools, combined with the Addington and Halswell Catholic schools, were given their annual outing, picnic, and excursion. Special tram cars conveyed the large party, comprising upwards of 500, to Summer. The church grounds there were utilised as a common centre for the picnic, and on the beach games, races, etc., were indulged in by the juveniles. The Very Rev. Vicar-General distributed prizes to the successful competitors. The Rev. Fathers O'Connell and Kerley were also present. A few friends assisted the Sisters of the Mission in the supervision of the children, and all returned about 5 o'clock after a thoroughly enjoyable time.

I learn from the officers of the local H.A.C.B. Society that the branch is making excellent progress both numerically and financially. The members' roll totals 110, and the accumulated funds amount to £1318 odd. Every effort is being made to induce more of the young men to join. Social amusements of a varied nature are provided during the year as a means towards this desirable end. From Bro. Doolan, who was mainly instrumental in its establishment, I learn that the Ashburton branch is in a flourishing condition. One hundred members have been initiated since the opening in January last, and 10 are nominated for membership, which evidently shows a keen enthusiasm on the part of the ouicers, and a sustained interest by the branch chaplain, the Very Rev. Father O'Connell.

The St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society celebrated its 31st anniversary on last Thursday evening by a social gathering in the Alexandra Hall, the event having been postponed from an earlier date owing to the lamented death of Bro. E. T. McNamara. The branch was established as far back as 1872, and for a number of years afterwards annually celebrated the event. Latterly, however, owing to various causes these celebrations were allowed to lapse, and the re-union on this occasion was the outcome of an effort to again make such an event a yearly one. The arrangements were admirably carried out by a committee consisting of Mrs. W. Rogers and Mrs. Doolan, Misses Garty, Courtney, Donald, Wall, Barnett, Doolan, and Harrington, Bros. Hynes, Pearce, Evans, Courtney, Ryan, O'Brien, Hendron, Haughey, and F. J. Doolan (hon. secretary). There was an attendance of about 200 members and friends, including many ladies, who spent a most enjoyable evening. Music was provided by Mr. Doherty's band whilst a progressive euchre tournament,