

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 10.

The annual Catholic picnic will be held on Boxing Day in the Belle View Gardens, Lower Hutt. Special arrangements are being made to eclipse all previous records in this event. The proprietors of the gardens have this year granted special facilities and privileges, and a thoroughly enjoyable picnic may be expected.

The mission at the Sacred Heart Basilica was brought to a close on Thursday evening in the presence of a crowded congregation. Rev. Father Clune preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Virgin and imparted the Papal blessing. The services throughout have been largely attended, and the mission has been a very great success.

It is also my sad duty to record the death here on Thursday of the wife of Mr. W. Holley, of Leeston, and mother of the Rev. Father Holley, of the Thorndon parish. The deceased lady, who was about 73 years of age, only came to Wellington a few days ago on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. O. McManaway. The interment will take place at Leeston, where the deceased had resided for the last twenty years. On Thursday evening the Rev. Father Clune made a sympathetic reference to the sad event, and expressed the heartfelt sympathy of all to the Rev. Father Holley in his bereavement. A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of deceased's soul was celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Friday morning.—R.I.P.

The executive of the Catholic Young Men's Societies' Federation met on Monday evening to arrange the business to be transacted at the Conference to be held in Dunedin on Boxing Day. The various societies have signified their intention of sending representatives, and unaffiliated societies have also been asked to do the same. The Wellington Society will probably be represented by Messrs. McKeown and Fitzgibbon, the latter of whom, as president of the executive, will preside at the Conference. Among the many matters to be considered are the extension of the 'Catholic Magazine,' the co-operation of the young men with the clergy in parish matters, the adoption of some medal or badge as a mark of distinction, the issue of yearly certificates in recognition of valuable services to a club, approaching in a body the Holy Table each year on the first Sunday in Advent, the promotion of visits between the various clubs, the appointment of a special day on which the clergy would be requested to preach a special sermon with reference to the societies, the consideration of the report of the Catholic Young Men's Conference in Melbourne, the addition of more members to the executive, the revision of rules.

On Monday evening the yearly entertainment given by the pupils of the Brothers' School took place in St. Peter's Schoolroom, Ghuznee street. A number of glees were rendered by the boys, and Master B. Ryan, the school medalist for 1903-4, gave 'Ben Bolt' in good style. A humorous quintette was given by Masters E. McArdle, C. Tandy, P. Hopkins, P. Sharnahan, and G. McGrath. Miss Amy Hyde presided at the piano, while Mr. F. J. Oakes' orchestra helped to enliven the proceedings. The farce, 'A forged will,' was played in a very creditable manner. The various characters were sustained by Masters R. Fahy, C. Meacham, J. Lwyer, J. Scott, J. Devlin, T. Davis, and H. Corrigan.

Mr. Thomas Bowden, Jun., for many years on the staff of the Railway Department, died on Sunday evening. He had been unwell recently but his death was wholly unexpected, and the news came as a shock to his numerous friends. He was at work as late as 6 p.m. on Saturday. The cause of death was inflammation of the kidneys. The deceased was about 34 years of age and unmarried. He was the second son of Mr. T. Bowden, formerly of the West Coast, and a brother of the Rev. Father Bowden, M.A., of Palmerston North.—R.I.P.

Lower Hutt.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Petone, a few days ago, by the Rev. Father Maples. Mr. James Smith, manager of the Hotel Cecil, Wellington, was united to Miss Mary Turnbull, of Sydney street, Petone. The popularity of, and respect felt for, the bride and bridegroom were shown by the numerous attendance of friends and well-wishers at the ceremony. The Rev. Father Maples de-

livered a most impressive address to the contracting parties. The bride looked extremely handsome in a magnificent dress of creme voile, trimmed with chiffon and lace, wearing the orthodox veil and orange blossoms and carrying a shower bouquet. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. James Turnbull, and was attended by Miss Williamson, and little Miss Turnbull, a niece of the bride. Mr. James McParland acted as groomsmen. The happy pair left Petone in the course of the afternoon for Palmerston North, where the honeymoon will be spent.

A very successful week's mission has just terminated at the Lower Hutt. The Masses and devotions were very well attended, the church being crowded on all occasions. The Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., conducted the mission, and both he and the Very Rev. Father Lane, the parish priest, express themselves as being most highly gratified at the results.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 12.

There was First Communion of the children at St. Mary's, Manchester street, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the young people being afterwards entertained.

The Rev. Father Pidgeon, C.S.S.R., commenced a week's mission at Temuka on Sunday. A mission at Ashburton is to be commenced on Christmas Day by the Rev. Fathers O'Donnell and O'Brien, C.S.S.R.

A meeting of the ladies of the congregation is convened for next Tuesday afternoon at the presbytery to arrange a suitable reception for the Sisters of Nazareth on their arrival, and to provide requisites for the Nazareth House.

On last Sunday week members of the Catholic Club in a body approached the Holy Table in the Pro-Cathedral at the 7 o'clock Mass. On the following Tuesday evening, at a specially convened meeting, Messrs. W. S. Malaquin and J. A. Shanley were deputed to represent the Club at the annual session of the federation in Dunedin at Christmas.

Speaking in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday morning on the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, the Rev. Father O'Brien, C.S.S.R., contrasted the apparent apathy of many in regard to assisting at Mass on Sundays and holidays and the trivial excuses advanced for absence with the almost superhuman efforts made by the people in the penal days to assist at the Holy Sacrifice.

The people of the Pro-Cathedral parish are manifesting great fervor in the mission of the Redemptorist Fathers, and at most of the services the accommodation is all too small for the crowds which throng the church. Great numbers daily approach the Holy Table, and on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception besides the missionaries, his Lordship the Bishop and all the resident clergy were engaged until a late hour in the confessionals.

The feast and jubilee of the Immaculate Conception were honored in the evening by the fine Monastery of the Sacred Heart being illuminated rows of candles lighted each window, whilst the building, the cathedral and grounds were brilliantly illuminated with colored fire. At times the Cathedral assumed a beautiful rose color, the effect produced being strikingly picturesque. During the day the flag of the Marist Brothers' School was flown over that building.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was observed with befitting solemnity in the Pro-Cathedral. The usual mission Mass was celebrated at 6 o'clock, when almost the entire congregation approached the Holy Table. At 8 o'clock there was Solemn High Mass, the Rev. Father O'Connell being celebrant, the Rev. Father O'Donnell deacon, and the Rev. Father O'Brien sub-deacon. His Lordship presided in the sanctuary, attended at the throne by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G. In the evening the church was densely thronged. The Rev. Father O'Brien preached a powerful discourse on the Blessed Virgin and the subject of the day's festival, and at the conclusion consecrated the parishioners to the protection of our Lady. The high altar and altar of the Blessed Virgin were tastefully adorned and brilliantly illuminated.

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New shipments of goods, comprising all the latest and best in modern footwear, has just been opened up at the City Boot Palace, George street, Dunedin. The prices are very moderate, especially as Mr. McKay is known to keep only the best of goods, his motto being a boot for every foot at a price for every purse.

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