

His Grace the Archbishop returned to the city during the week. On Sunday last he held a Confirmation service in Wanganui, where he administered the Sacrament to the unusually large number of 135 candidates, of whom some were adults recently received into the Church. On Tuesday, his Grace journeyed up the Wanganui river to Jerusalem, where he was received by the Mother in charge of the Foundling Home. On Tuesday evening 49 candidates were confirmed. Among them were a number of Maoris, whose devotion and zeal were very marked. On Wednesday morning Mass was celebrated, at which almost the entire congregation received Holy Communion.

The annual report of the State School Inspectors on the state of the Thorndon parish school is to hand, and discloses a very satisfactory condition of things. Reference is made to the great improvements in the matter of accommodation, by which the Sisters were enabled to produce much better results than in previous years. In Standard VI. eight candidates were presented for examination, and all received certificates of proficiency, which will entitle them to free admittance to the secondary schools in the city. Such a result is worthy of praise, and the good Sisters are to be congratulated accordingly. The separate report on the compulsory subjects ranges from 'satisfactory' to 'very good.' Of the additional subjects taught the instruction imparted in nature study and elementary science is described as 'satisfactory,' while in 'handwork' the instruction is reported as 'good.' The order, discipline, tone, and efficiency of the school are stated as being 'satisfactory.'

Nelson

(From our own correspondent.)

October 14.

A meeting of the parishioners, Rev. Father Clancy presiding, was held on Sunday evening for the purpose of taking steps to raise funds for the erection of a brick building for the accommodation of boarders at the Convent of Our Lady of Missions, the present structure being found to be unsuitable. It was decided to hold about next May a fancy fair, under the direction of Signor Borzoni. The whole of the congregation were elected as a general committee to make the preliminary arrangements, etc.

Last Wednesday the Nelson Catholic Society brought their weekly meetings to a close, when there was a good attendance. Various games and other amusements were indulged in, these being interspersed with musical selections. Refreshments were dispensed by the ladies. Mr. Redwood (hon. sec.) gave a resume of the season's work, making special reference to the various concerts, which had been very successful. The thanks of the society, he said, were due to the ladies of the congregation for their kind assistance during the year, and also to the pianistes, Misses Duff and Fowler.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

October 16.

A meeting is convened for next Thursday evening to arrange for a Catholic outing on an extensive scale on one of the approaching holidays. The Cathedral and St. Mary's parishes intend joining forces for the occasion, and it is expected that other districts near the city will also take a prominent part.

There was a representative and enthusiastic meeting on Sunday afternoon at Woolston in connection with the erection of the projected new church. The Very Rev. Vicar-General presided. The Rev. Father Mahony, who has charge of this portion of the parish, and several members of the Cathedral Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, who have taken a lively interest in the religious life of the district, were present. As a result of the meeting the work is to be put in hand at once.

Mr. J. R. Hunt, of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company, leaves Christchurch this week to occupy an advanced position in the Company's branch at Wanganui. During Mr. and Mrs. Hunt's residence of some years in this city they have identified themselves conspicuously in matters relating to Church progress, more particularly in the parish of St. Mary's, and latterly at Summer. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt have the sincere good wishes of numerous friends and acquaintances for their future prosperity and well-being.

Whilst passing through Auckland the Rev. Father Price called to see the Very Rev. Dean Foley, whom he was delighted to find in a much improved state of health, in fact on a fair way to recovery.

The Rev. Father Price, Pastor of Hawarden, returned last week from a visit to England.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart, Addington, on Sunday morning eighteen children received their First Communion. Mass was celebrated at half-past eight o'clock by the Rev. Father Peoples, who, during the previous three days, had conducted a preparatory retreat. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Mass until three o'clock in the afternoon, when there was Benediction and the impressive ceremony of the renewal of baptismal vows. Great credit is due to the ladies of the Altar Society for the tasteful decoration of the altar, and thanks do those who provided and attended at the breakfast at which the children were entertained.

On last Sunday week on the occasion of the general Communion of members of the H.A.C.B. Society at the Cathedral, special references were made at all the services appreciative of the organisation. At the early Mass the Rev. Father Peoples addressed the members assembled and the congregation. The Very Rev. Vicar-General at the half-past nine o'clock Mass spoke eloquently in regard to the special objects of the Society and the advantages, temporal as well as spiritual, of association with it. He also gave striking examples of personal observation and intercourse with members and branches during missionary labors in Australia and Tasmania. In the evening the chaplain of the local branch, the Rev. Father O'Connell, spoke on the aims and objects of the society. He treated the varied nature of his subject in a masterly manner, and apparently left nothing untold whereby the crowded congregation could be enlightened in regard to a society which he so heartily supports, and its claims on the young Catholic manhood of the Colony. So pleased were the members of the society at his timely utterances that a letter of thanks couched in sentiments of sincere appreciation was directed to be sent him, containing also a reference to the other preachers of the day.

The first distribution of prizes in connection with the recently re-organised Cathedral Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, made on last Sunday afternoon week by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, assisted by the Rev. Father O'Connell, was as follows:—

Girls' Section.—First Class—(Attendance and Christian Doctrine), Philomena Nelson, 1; Winnie Harrington, 2; Ethel Rodgers, 3. Second Class—(Catechism and Attendance), Cissie Nelson, 1; Millie Rodgers, 2; Ellie Grant, 3. Third Class—(Catechism) Annie Holihan, 1; Nellie Pender, 2; (Attendance) Nellie Holihan, 3. Fourth Class—(Catechism) Ethel Newman, 1; Eily O'Shea, 2; (Attendance) Ida Wright, 3. Fifth Class—(Catechism and Attendance) Jane Darragh, 1; Alice Dunn, 2; Eily Foster, 3. Sixth Class—(Catechism) Ella Wright, 1; Vera Hanna, 2; (Attendance) Vera Newman, 3. Seventh Class—Attendance and Catechism) Annie Donovan, 1; (Catechism) Vera Harrington, 2; Katie O'Connor, 3. Eighth Class—(Catechism) Madeleine Foote, 1; Violet Knight, 2; Mary Commons, 3. Ninth Class—(Attendance and Catechism) Mary Mather, 1; Freda Nee, 2; Nellie Mather, 3. Tenth Class—(Catechism and Attendance) Uta Williams, 1; Isabella Green, 2; Margery Young, 3. Eleventh Class—Mildred Coxon, 1; Nellie Moloney, 2; Nellie Flood, 3. Twelfth Class—(Catechism and Attendance) Teresa Nelson, 1; Kathleen Brosnahan, 2; Mary Shaib, 3. Thirteenth Class—(Catechism) Mary Carr, 1; Philomena Pender, 2; Alice Noonan, 3. Fourteenth Class—E. Bridgeman, 1; Ethel Andrews, 2; G. Andrews, 3. Fifteenth Class—Stanley Dobbs, 1; Cecil Dwyer, 2; Michael Nelson, 3. Sixteenth Class—Fred Foster, 1; Con Yeadon, 2; Douglas Morrison, 3; Jack Young, 3; Eddie Crooke, 5. Seventeenth Class—Hugh Cahill, 1; Dan Nelson, 2; Roi Dobbs, 3; Willie Bagley, 4; Willie Gartey, 5.

Boys' Section—First Class—William Rodgers, Leo Beary. Second Class—Leo O'Connor, Leo Clancy, Joseph Crooke. Third Class—Charles Creevey, John Twomey, Charles Creevey. Fourth Class—Bernard Creevey, James McSwigan. Fifth Class—James Clarke, Edward Brosnahan, Charles McSwigan. Sixth Class—Donald Evans, William Sutton. Seventh Class—Leo Brosnahan, P. O'Dowd, Thomas Lily. Eighth Class—James Darragh, Herbert Murfitt. Ninth Class—Joseph Clarke, R. Courtney, M. Cronin.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

October 16.

There passed peacefully away on Friday last at the Private Hospital, Mrs. Annie O'Shea, a highly respected and devoted Catholic, who at one time taught in the Boys' school before the advent of the Brothers. She leaves a husband and five young children to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.