

The annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese closes to-morrow morning, after which the diocesan Synod will be held.

On Wednesday of last week his Lordship the Bishop gave a very acceptable treat to the children of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin. To the number of 58, and in charge of some of the Sisters, they proceeded in drags, engaged by his Lordship, to Holy Cross College, Mosgiel. There they had a very enjoyable time. An excellent dinner, also ample refreshments suited to the youthful palate were provided, and during the afternoon the little visitors spent their time in the College grounds, where games and other forms of amusement were provided for their enjoyment. The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, who was assisted in entertaining the little ones by Rev. Father Liston, was present during the whole time, and helped in every way to make the occasion a red-letter day in the lives of the children. It is needless to say that they were more than grateful to his Lordship for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 19.

Rev. Father O'Hare, of Ballarat, is spending a few days at Lake Takapuna.

St. Patrick's Convent Schools are now being painted throughout, and made comfortable and more attractive.

Very Rev. Dean Lighthouse, Superior of the Mill Hill missionaries, visited Northern Wairoa and Whangarei districts during the week.

Dr. Laing, for many years surgeon to St. Joseph's Orphanage, Takapuna, has, owing to his departure from the district, resigned the position, and has been succeeded by Dr. Grattan Guinness.

Rev. Fathers Murphy and Carey, of Melbourne, arrived here from Sydney last Sunday, and on Monday morning left for Rotorua. They intend to spend a month in New Zealand.

Right Rev. Mgr. O'Brien, and the Very Rev. Dean Slattery, of Sydney, are expected to visit Auckland about February 21, and will be the guests of his Lordship Dr. Lenihan.

The new convent and schools at Whangarei will be blessed and opened in the first week in February by his Lordship the Bishop. Four Sisters of St. Joseph will be in charge of the schools.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese will commence on January 22, and terminate on January 26. Very Rev. Father Murray, C.S.S.R., will conduct the retreat.

The annual retreat of the Marist Brothers, of the North Island, was held in the Sacred Heart College, Ponsonby, and concluded last week. It was conducted by Very Rev. Father Murray, C.S.S.R. Twenty seven Brothers attended. Brother Boniface, attached to the Pitt street school, has been transferred to the Sacred Heart College, and Bro. Irenaeus, of the college, goes to Pitt street. Bro. Virgilius, of the college, goes to Wanganui, and Bro. Patrick, of the latter place, goes to the college. Brother Stanislaus (Provincial) attended the retreat.

In the course of a circular letter on the parochial debt, the Very Rev. Father Gillan, of St. Benedict's, says—'The total amount I have received to December 31st from the books is £438 16s 6d, and with the penny collections made at the church doors, which have over and above paid the interest, you will be pleased to know that I have paid off £600 of the principal debt. . . . In addition to improvements about the church, the erection of the fence, the plastering of the interior, the necessary enlargement of the schools so efficiently taught by the Sisters, and the acquisition of the property at Avondale for school purposes, I have been enabled to reduce the parochial debt some £780. The energy of the Surrey Hills people has made me able to effect many necessary alterations and improvements about the school there, leaving me with a small credit balance in hand. Our organ fund, thanks to the patrons of our late bazaar, who so kindly responded to the very successful efforts and the hard work of committee, stall-holders, and assistants of the same, is augmented to £500, and I am awaiting the report of the choir committee, and the approval of the Bishop to make final arrangements for the placing of the organ in the church.'

A wire received from Greymouth on Wednesday morning stated that seven of the Convent pupils passed the matriculation examination and a like number the Junior Civil Service examination.

GREYMOUTH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 19.

The Hibernian Society's sports, to be held in Greymouth on March 17, are likely to be the biggest gathering of its kind ever held here. The prize money amounts to about £153.

A special general meeting of the St. Columba Club was held last Monday evening, when it was decided to fall in with the arrangements of the united schools' and Friendly Societies' picnic. Messrs. Wm. Duffy, Thos. Ryan, and R. C. Heffernan were appointed to represent the club on the general committee.

The Brunner ladies' cricket team journeyed to Greymouth last Saturday and played the St. Mary's junior team. After a most interesting game the visitors were victorious by six wickets. The St. Mary's team invited the visitors to afternoon tea, and a most enjoyable time was spent. A return match is arranged to take place at Brunnerton in a fortnight, when St. Mary's hope to redeem their lost laurels.

A pretty wedding took place at St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, on January 15, when Miss Katie Lutjens, who is a native of Greymouth but for some years has resided in the North Island, was married to Mr. B. McCarthy, also a native of the West Coast, and now a partner in the firm of Messrs. Caplen and McCarthy, solicitors, Hawera. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Carew. The bride, who was given away by Mr. T. P. O'Donnell, was prettily attired in a dress of silk crepe-de-chene, trimmed with silk lace, rucked ribbon, and chiffon, and wore in addition the customary wreath and veil. She was attended by Miss C. Fogarty as bridesmaid. After the ceremony the party adjourned to the residence of Mrs. P. Fogarty for the wedding breakfast. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy left in the afternoon for their new home in Hawera.

The half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society was held last Thursday under the presidency of Bro. Wm. Packer. There was a large attendance of members. Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon, president of the Newtown branch, was present, and congratulated the society on its flourishing condition, and urged on all Catholic young men the necessity of joining the Hibernian Society. Bro. Jackson, of the Dunedin branch, but now of Greymouth, was also present, and was warmly welcomed by the president. The report and balance sheet showed the affairs of the society to be in a most progressive state. The election of officers for the ensuing term resulted as follows: President, Bro. Oscar Egden; vice-president, Bro. M. Connery; treasurer, Bro. T. P. O'Donnell (re-elected); secretary, Bro. Joseph Tymons (re-elected); warden, Bro. T. Kennedy; guardian, Bro. E. M. Sheedy; sick visitors, Bros. P. O'Doherty and M. F. Hansbery; auditors, Bros. M. J. Phillips and T. P. Fogarty. Votes of thanks were passed to the retiring officers, and the president complimented them on the good work done during the past term.

The members of the Hibernian Society assembled in large numbers in the club room of the Union Hotel last Wednesday evening for the purpose of saying goodbye to Bro. Thomas O'Brien, who is leaving Greymouth to enter into business in Reefton. The tables were nicely laid out and laden with all kinds of delicacies. The chairman (Bro. O. Egden) and several members expressed regret at Bro. O'Brien's departure, both as a member of the society and as a citizen. Bro. O'Brien took great interest in the working of the branch, and was very assiduous in his endeavors to further the interests of the society. He had done yeoman service in connection with the arrangements for the St. Patrick's Day sports, and in this respect his place would be hard to fill on the committee. Bro. O'Brien said he was sorry for leaving Greymouth, where he had made so many true friends, but he would do all in his power to assist the society, especially with regard to the coming sports. They were now 70 strong in membership, and he predicted a great future for the branch. Various toasts were proposed and responded to, and several songs and recitations were given during the evening.

REEFTON

(From our own correspondent.)

A public meeting was held in the Inangahua County Council Chambers on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of making arrangements for the entertainment of the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon and party on the occasion of his proposed visit to open the Inangahua railway bridge. Messrs. W. J. Morris, and J. Patterson were appointed joint secretaries.

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