

Mr. Devlin in reply spoke of the good work being done by the Society both in Ireland and Australia, touched upon the work of the Irish Party and the prospects of Home Rule, and the good will and generosity of the Irishmen he had met in every land. He paid a high tribute to Bro. P. Burke (his host during his stay in Christchurch) for his kindness.

On arriving at Mount Magdala the visitors were met by the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, and received at the convent by the Rev. Mother Superior and the Sisters. Over the entrance gate a floral arch had been erected, surmounted by the words, 'Cead mille failte.' After an inspection of the institution the party all adjourned to a large room where the inmates greeted the visitors with musical items. Here Mr. Devlin and party were formally welcomed by Very Rev. Dean Ginaty. Mr. Devlin thanked the Community for their kindly welcome, and congratulated them on the results of their good work. After partaking of the hospitality of the Community the party proceeded to the orphanage, where an entertainment was provided by the children. The manner in which the various items were given reflected the greatest credit on the painstaking Sisters and their pupils.

Mr. Devlin congratulated both teachers and children on the excellence of the entertainment.

On the trip to town a handsome sum was collected among the party for the benefit of the children's Christmas treat. Mr. Devlin expressed himself as delighted with the district visited, and said that words failed him to say all that he would like of the kindness of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and of the admirable work they were engaged in.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

The Rev. Father Goggin has so far received over £100 from the parish of Te Aro to aid the work of the Crusade of Rescue. On Sunday the collection at Thorndon realised over £50. The representatives are more than pleased with the result.

His Grace the Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large number of candidates in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, on Sunday morning. The ceremony was notable for the many adult candidates, both male and female, for the most part converts to the Faith. His Grace, in a brief discourse, explained the nature and effects of the Sacrament. In the evening at St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Boulcott street, the ceremony of the renewal of the baptismal vows took place. An address to the children was delivered by the Rev. Father Kimbell in the presence of a crowded congregation.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

Our local Catholic schools have had their annual distribution of prizes. The results of the examinations have been most gratifying, and are proof positive that a good year's work was done.

An Auckland syndicate has made an offer to the Borough Council to supply the town with electric light and electric trams. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

Matters in connection with the coming visit of the Irish Delegates to Napier are moving apace. Small subscriptions are still coming in, and the secretary feels assured that Mr. Devlin will be presented with a cheque for at least £200 from Napier. Hastings will probably also subscribe a handsome sum to the cause.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 29.

Enormous crowds are pouring into the city; trains and steamers bringing their hundreds. The chief attraction is, of course, the great Exhibition which, owing to the holidays, is drawing its tens of thousands. It is estimated that there are very many more visitors here than during Carnival week, the accommodation being apparently 'laid low.'

Appropriate to Christmas a crib was as usual erected in the Cathedral. At the children's Mass, High Mass, and Vespers the 'Adeste Fideles' was beautifully sung.

The Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., is conducting the annual retreat for the Sisters of the Missions, which commenced on last Wednesday at the Monastery of the Sacred Heart.

Missions by the Redemptorist Fathers will be opened at St. Agnes' Church, Halswell, and St. Anne's, Woolston, on Sunday, and on the following Wednesday at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Addington.

The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., distributed the prizes in connection with the Cathedral parish-girls' school prior to the Christmas vacation. At the Halswell and Addington Catholic day schools the prizes were distributed by the Rev. Father Peoples.

The devoted Sisters of Nazareth, whose constant endeavor it is to brighten the lives of their charges, young and aged, generally contrive at Christmas to exceed their wonted hospitality, and thus add still more to the happiness of all. The present festive season proved no exception to this rule. A Christmas tree of holly had on its branches a gift for every one of the thirty-five little children, whose young hearts were cheered in a measure good to behold.

Speaking at the close of the mission on last Sunday the Very Rev. Father Clune expressed the exceeding gratification of himself and the other Fathers at the manner in which the services had been attended. That the mission had proved eminently successful was amply testified to by the great number of communicants. 'Hold steadfast to what you have gained,' were his parting words, repeated again and again in his concluding discourse.

Masses were celebrated at St. Mary's, Manchester street, on Christmas Day at 7 and 9.30 o'clock. Solemn High Mass at eleven o'clock was celebrated by the Rev. Father Hickson, the Rev. Father Gilbert being deacon, and Rev. Father Francis (Clune), C.P., subdeacon. The music by the choir, assisted by members of the Exhibition Orchestra, consisted of portions of Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle' and Von Weber's 'Mass.' The Rev. Father Hickson briefly addressed the congregation on the subject of the day's festival. There were Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening, the Rev. Father Hoare officiating.

On the eve of Christmas a few friends with kindly thoughtfulness provided a pleasing little entertainment for the inmates of Nazareth House. Most of the items were given by the talented Ralph family, now visiting this city. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph each gave pianoforte selections, Mr. Gerald Ralph (of the Exhibition Orchestra) contributed artistic violin solos, Mr. W. Ralph songs and recitations, and Miss Vera Barker some cleverly executed dances to the accompaniment of her sister, Miss Lottie Barker. The thanks of the inmates were gratefully expressed by two of their number, and also by one of the children for the exceedingly pleasant entertainment.

The three weeks' mission by the Redemptorist Fathers was brought to a close on last Sunday. A special Mass was celebrated at eight o'clock by the Very Rev. Father Clune, when a great body of men approached the Holy Table. Subsequently addressing the congregation, the Very Rev. Father said that such a sight as witnessed that morning was never before seen in this city. All the Catholic men's societies were fully represented, and he urged every man to become associated with one or other of them. In the evening there was a very large congregation. The Very Rev. Father Clune preached from the text, 'Be ye faithful until death,' and at the conclusion of a particularly fine discourse solemnly closed the mission with the Papal blessing.

At the Cathedral on Christmas morning Masses were celebrated at half-hour intervals from six o'clock until ten, each being well attended. There was a Solemn High Mass at eleven o'clock, the Rev. Father O'Connell being celebrant, the Very Rev. Father Clune deacon, and Rev. Father O'Dwyer subdeacon. The Very Rev. Vicar-General preached appropriate to the occasion, and extended heartfelt greetings to the congregation on behalf of the clergy. Turner's Mass of the Good Shepherd was sung by the choir. After Vespers in the evening the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., preached an impressive discourse from the text, 'Fear not, for behold I bring you tidings of great joy.' Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by the Rev. Father Claffey, S.J., attended by the Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Father Francis (Clune), C.P. The sanctuary decorations were very effective, and the high altar a picture of loveliness.

LANGFORD and RHIND ... (late W. and H. Langford), ...

16 LONDON ST.

Phone 689

Funeral Furnishers and Embalmers

Christchurch

Addresses—HERBERT LANGFORD, 16 London St., Richmond. Phone 689.
JOHN RHIND, 48 Montreal St., Addington. Phone 1202.

Town Office—132 CASHEL ST.