

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

January 26.

The annual retreat of the clergy will begin on the fourth of next month, and will be preached by the Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R.

Mr. Oliver Mewhinney, who for the past fourteen years has been private secretary to the successive Ministers of Land and Agriculture, has been promoted to the post of chief clerk to the Department of Hospitals.

The Very Rev. Father Clune and the Rev. Father MacDermott, C.S.S.R., are to begin a mission at Masterton on February 10, and one at New Plymouth on February 21. They are then to proceed to Auckland for the ceremonies in connection with the Cathedral there on St. Patrick's Day.

Sir Joseph Ward received a warm welcome at the conversazione given in his honor at the Parliament Buildings on Thursday evening. The building was crowded, and speeches eulogistic of Sir Joseph Ward were delivered by his Worship the Mayor and Mr. C. P. Skerrett.

My congratulations to Mr. R. A. Loughnan on his elevation to the Upper House. Those that know him best are those in his own profession, and both the dailies here have been high in their praise of the wisdom of the Government's choice. Mr. Callan's appointment has also been noticed with much approval.

In connection with the recent staff changes, consequent on the reorganisation of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon has accepted the position of chief accountant, and took over his new duties last week. Mr. Fitzgibbon first entered the service as a cadet in the Treasury, and was later on transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. John Frost, one of our oldest parishioners, died at his residence, Hopper street, on Friday. He was born in County Clare 85 years ago, and has resided in Wellington for the last thirty-one years. He was a man of great religious fervor, and highly respected. A family of three sons and three daughters is left to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

Mr. Michael McGovern, of Waimate, died somewhat suddenly at Auckland on Wednesday last. The deceased was a brother of the late Mr. F. J. McGovern, of Trentham, and had attained the age of sixty-five years. His remains are being brought to Wellington for interment in the Catholic Cemetery, Upper Hutt.—R.I.P.

The Rev. Father Goggin and Mr. Raupert, representatives of the Crusade of Rescue, London, will be leaving the Colony very soon for South America. They have done splendidly here, and speak in most grateful terms of the great kindness of the clergy and the people of these parts. They will not be able to visit the South Island, but any donations sent to the Archbishop's house will be forwarded to the Society.

An old and highly respected colonist in the person of Mr. James Gallagher, of Marion street, died at his residence rather suddenly of apoplexy on Tuesday morning. The deceased, who was in his 59th year, was a man of robust frame, and his death came as a great shock to his many friends. In company with his brother, Mr. John Gallagher, of Hopper street, he landed in Wellington about the Christmas of 1865 and has remained here ever since. While of a reserved nature, he took a very keen interest in municipal and colonial politics, and was ever ready to lend a helping hand to those that asked his aid. For many years and up to the time of his death he was a Justice of the Peace, and often presided on the local Bench. His funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Thursday afternoon. The remains were taken to St. Mary of the Angels' Church, and thence to the Catholic cemetery in Mount street. The Rev. Father Kimbell officiated both at the Church and at the graveside. The deceased leaves a widow, one son, and five daughters. The bereaved ones have the deepest sympathy of a large circle of friends in the great blow that has so unexpectedly fallen upon them.—R.I.P.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

February 25.

Miss Josephine Lloyd (Convent High School) passed her matriculation and solicitors' general examination. She was the only pupil sent up.

The Marist Brothers' School will re-open on February 4, and it is desired that all Catholic parents will bear in mind that they should send their boys on the first day of the term.

The Children of Mary received Holy Communion last Sunday. The Rev. Father McDermott, C.S.S.R., at 7 o'clock Mass congratulated them on their numbers. He also exhorted all young ladies of the congregation to join this confraternity, and become faithful and loving followers of our Blessed Lady.

On Wednesday evening last at St. Mary's Church five young ladies made their profession in the Order of St. Joseph. The Rev. Father McDermott, C.S.S.R., presided at the ceremony. The ladies were:—Sister Mary Bernardine (Miss Sophie Georgetti, Wanganui), Sister Mary Gerard (Miss Alice Casey, Patea), Sister Mary Claude (Miss Nelly Parker, Lyttelton), Sister Mary Agnes (Miss Lily Dalziel, Taihape), Sister Mary Berchmans (Miss Nora McNamara, Westport). There was a very large congregation, who were very much impressed by the solemn ceremony.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 28.

The Rev. Father Bannon, C.S.S.R., opened the mission at St. Michael's Church, Hornby, at 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday last.

The attendance at the Exhibition has now exceeded the first million. The millionth person to pass the turnstiles was a young girl, who, passing through about five o'clock on Saturday last, secured the gold watch, provided in connection with this event.

Some weeks ago the children of St. Mary's Catholic schools shared in common with our other schools the privilege of free passes to the Exhibition at the invitation of Sir John Hall, Mayor of Christchurch. The following letter from his Worship has been received in acknowledgment of a letter of thanks sent him by the children:—My dear Children,—Your nice letter of the 23rd January has given me very great pleasure. I am very pleased indeed to hear that you enjoyed yourselves at the Exhibition, and that everyone was kind to you. Thank you very much for your good wishes about my illness. I continue very weak and suffering and have little prospect of recovering health and happiness. I can only ask for your prayers to Almighty God that He will give me some relief or release me from my suffering as He may think best.

In connection with the mission by the Redemptorist Fathers, a special Mass for men was celebrated at St. Mary's, Manchester street, at eight o'clock on last Sunday morning, by the Rev. Father Cognet, S.M. (Okato), when a very large body approached the Holy Table. At the eleven o'clock Mass the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M.—(Provincial), was celebrant, and a mission sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R. The same eloquent preacher addressed an overflowing congregation in the evening, which marked the close of the mission. In most impressive terms he exhorted his hearers to profit by the mission. Appreciative reference was made to the various services rendered, as contributing to the eminent success attained, and the Rev. Father Hickson and Rev. Father Hoare were specially thanked. Gratitude was expressed towards the Sisters of Mercy, who had done much to further the interests of the mission. 'These pious clients of our Blessed Lady (he continued) are always working for you and your children, more indeed than most of you imagine.' The Rev. Father Lowham returns to Wellington to-day (Monday).

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 25.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood returned last night from Kamo, in the Whangarei district, where he has been sojourning for his health. He is likely to stay in Auckland a few days as the guest of his Lordship Bishop Lenihan.