

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

March 23.

Mr. Stanley Hickson, the well known cricketer, is to be married next month to Miss Mary Ward, one of our lady tennis champions.

His Grace the Archbishop is to return this evening from a visit to the Wanganui district. On tomorrow afternoon he is to bless the new bell, given by Mrs. Grace for the Sacred Heart Basilica.

The Hon. L. F. Heydon, M.L.C., of Sydney, and President-General of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is in town, and is staying at the Royal Oak. He is to deliver an address in St. Patrick's Hall on Sunday evening after the church services, and will leave for the south on Monday evening.

The Provincial Chapter of the Marist Order, which has been in session since Wednesday, concluded its deliberations on Friday. The Chapter has selected the Very Rev. Father Lewis and the Rev. Father Hickson to go Home as its representatives. They will therefore accompany the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, the Marist Provincial.

Mr. J. J. O'Brien, secretary of the United Irish League, was entertained on Friday evening of last week by the members of the league and a large number of friends. Mr. O'Brien did good service at the time of the visit of the Irish delegates, and the occasion of his departure on a well-earned holiday to Australia was taken advantage of by members of the league to express their appreciation of his efforts. The gathering was, by the kind permission of the proprietor, held in Mr. Ross' private hotel, Ingestre street. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Carey Fitzgerald, vice-president of the league. The toast of 'Our Guest' was proposed by Mr. J. Finlay, and enthusiastically honored. A pleasant evening was spent in story and song.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

March 17.

Large congregations attended all the Masses today, the feast of St. Patrick. Despite the very heavy showers during the afternoon and evening there was a large congregation at Vespers, when the Very Rev. Father Keogh, Rector of St. Patrick's College, preached on Faith, and dealt with the history of St. Patrick and the planting of the Faith in Ireland.

At a meeting on Sunday night the committee having charge of the sports gathering, picnic, and national concert on Wednesday it was reported that all the arrangements were completed. The chairman, Mr. J. J. Fike, stated that he had met with a generous response on all sides in his canvass for trophies, etc., towards this the first children's picnic held in the parish. The half-holiday association met on Wednesday last, and unanimously agreed to close all shops from 12 o'clock on Wednesday in response to the requisition from the St. Patrick's sports committee.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

March 21.

The picnic for the children of the parish has been postponed to Easter Monday.

The members of St. Mary's Dramatic Club intend producing the 'Ticket-of-Leave Man' on Easter Monday.

Our local champion sculler, Webb, is now negotiating with Towns for a match for the championship of the world.

The funeral of the late Sister Clement took place on Sunday afternoon. After the first part of the funeral service at St. Mary's Church the body was taken to the cemetery. The funeral procession included all the parish societies and school children.—R.I.P.

Very Rev. Dean Grogan informed the congregation on Sunday that he had purchased a piece of land at the corner of Campbell and Guyton streets (late Dr. Tripe's property), as the future site for the Church. He asked those parishioners, who promised to give towards the Aramoho church, to fulfil their promises as quickly as possible.

St. Mary's Catholic Club's annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, April 4, when all members and intending members are requested to attend. The quarterly Communion of the club will take place on Sunday, April 7.

Another of our old parishioners has passed away—Mrs. Ann Meehan—at the advanced age of 80 years. The deceased lady was born in County Mayo, and came to New Zealand with her husband in 1845, and had resided in Wanganui ever since, with the exception of a short period in Wellington. She was greatly respected by a large circle of friends, to whom she had endeared herself by her kindly and loving disposition. She leaves a family of eight surviving children, 36 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren, to mourn their loss. She was interred on Thursday at the Catholic Cemetery, when a large number attended the funeral.—R.I.P.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

March 16.

The social held on Wednesday evening last in the Garrison Hall in honor of St. Patrick's Day was successful beyond measure.

The Government have decided to acquire compulsorily for closer settlement the Te Ohu estate of 4650 acres, near Norsewood.

The recently formed Auckland syndicate, who have subscribed some £10,000 to work the copper lodes on the Ruahine Ranges, have commenced active operations.

A national concert is to be held at Waipawa on Monday evening next in honor of St. Patrick's Day. A social will also be held at Hastings on the same evening.

A meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Association was held last Sunday evening for the purpose of making arrangements for the opening of the winter session. It was decided to hold a musical evening and a social in the Foresters' Hall on Tuesday evening next. The following officers were elected:—Committee, Messrs. J. Coe, P. Evans, T. P. Walsh, F. Mahoney, W. Sinden, T. Cunningham, and R. Willis; treasurer, Mr. J. P. Fortune; secretary, Mr. J. C. Gleeson. It is more than probable that a billiard table will be secured by the association in the immediate future.

New Plymouth

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Father J. Ryan, of the Geraldton diocese, was the guest of Dean McKenna for a few days, and left for Auckland with the missionaries on Thursday evening.

Father MacManus has gone to Auckland to represent the local branch of the Hibernian Society at the triennial meeting now being held in the northern capital. He was accompanied by Father O'Dwyer, of Hawera, the delegate and chaplain of the Hibernian branch in that centre.

Our annual Catholic picnic took place last Thursday. It had been arranged to give the children a trip by train to Bellblock, but the idea had to be abandoned owing to the downpour of rain during the morning. The picnic was finally held in the Drill Hall, where a happy time was spent in games of all sorts.

Our new technical school is approaching completion and will be a great boon to the town and surrounding country. I have been informed that the Education Board has succeeded in securing the services of competent instructors to take charge of the various classes.

A very successful mission conducted by Very Rev. Father Clune and Rev. Father McDermott, of the Redemptorist Order, was brought to a close on Wednesday night in St. Joseph's Church. To preserve the fruits of the mission Father Clune reorganised the Sacred Heart Confraternity, and exhorted the members of the congregation to get enrolled in a body. A large number responded to his appeal, and doubtless many others will follow their example later on. The school children were enrolled earlier in the day by Father McDermott, when each child was presented with a badge of the Sacred Heart. The young men mustered splendidly during the mission and, under the direction of Father Clune, formed themselves into a Catholic Club. May this be the beginning of a forward movement in Church matters throughout the parish. The great Lacordaire always rested his hopes for the future of the Church upon the co-operation of the young men of France in his day, and its progress in New Zealand will, in a great measure, depend upon the intelligence, zeal, and piety of our young men.

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