

The Redemptorist Fathers intend holding a mission in St. Mary's Church, Wanganui, commencing May 19.

It is with regret that I report the death of Mrs. Ellen Neenan, wife of Cornelius Neenan, of Gisborne. The deceased, who leaves a family of six children, was the fifth daughter of the late Mr. James Donovan, of Wanganui. The sorrowing relatives have the sincere sympathy of their many friends in their bereavement.

The dramatic branch of St. Mary's Club have begun rehearsing in earnest for their production of 'The Oetoroon,' which will be staged in July. A strong cast has been formed, and new scenery is being obtained from Mr. Neville Thornton, scenic artist. The children are being trained in their choruses by Miss White, and everything points to a successful production.

The St. Mary's Catholic Club will again enter the Wanganui Debating Societies' Union. Last Wednesday the annual meeting of the Union was held, when Mr. J. R. Murphy, of St. Mary's Club presided. The report and balance sheet showed that a great deal of interest had been taken in the debates during the past year, and the financial position of the Union was satisfactory. Mr. J. R. Hunt (president of St. Mary's Catholic Club) has been elected a vice-president, and Messrs. J. R. Murphy and R. G. M. Park are the delegates. At present there will be six competitors for the shield.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

April 25.

The members of the Napier Catholic Young Men's Club have had several successful meetings. The impromptu debate held on Thursday night last was a great success, and demonstrated that there are a number of members who with some practice will become very fluent speakers. Rev. Father Goggan and Rev. Father O'Connor are taking great interest in the club, and there is every indication of a most successful season.

Great interest was taken in the municipal elections here. I am pleased to be able to state that Mr. W. J. McGrath was returned to the Council almost at the top of the poll. Electric light and tramways are now almost assured for Napier.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

April 29.

The Very Rev. Father Duclos, S.M., Visitor-General of the Society of Mary, arrived in Christchurch from Westland this week, and was a guest at St. Mary's presbytery, Manchester street. He is now visiting the other parts of Canterbury.

What is probably a record in marriage ceremonies, so far as Christchurch is concerned, took place in the Cathedral on last Wednesday morning, when five couples were united in the bonds of Matrimony, one family contributing a double wedding (the Misses Hickey). The Rev. Father Peoples celebrated the Mass, and united four couples, and the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell the fifth.

The general committee of the St. Patrick's Day celebration met at the presbytery, Barbadoes street, on last Friday evening, his Lordship the Bishop presiding. The balance sheet of the national concert, given on March 19, was presented by the hon. secretary, Mr. E. O'Connor, and showed a net credit balance of £100 15s. On the motion of Mr. G. R. Hart, seconded by Mr. J. R. Hayward, the balance sheet was adopted and commented upon as being exceedingly satisfactory in view of the fact that the sale of tickets at the theatre was stopped early in the evening by the civic authorities, to prevent over-crowding, and also considering the counter attractions of the Exhibition. The secretary of the ladies' committee and those acting with her were warmly thanked for their exertions in the disposal of tickets, a great promotion being sold by them. The H.A.C.B. Society and Catholic Club each contributed largely to the success of the event. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. E. O'Connor (general secretary) for his excellent management. His Lordship the Bishop, on behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth, expressed gratitude for the excellent results achieved, and especially to the performers, whose services, as in the past, were given gratuitously. He spoke of several visits made by him when lately in London to the great institution of Nazareth House at Hammersmith, the Mother house of the Order, where the Mother-General and community were exceedingly interested in the movement initiated here six years ago in setting apart St. Patrick's Day for

an annual benefit entertainment for the local Sisters. They were naturally delighted with, and deeply grateful for the successful results.

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

The Ashburton Catholic Literary and Social Club is one of the few that hold its meetings during the summer season.

The new presbytery was opened by his Lordship Bishop Grimes on Sunday, April 21. This handsome structure is perhaps the most up-to-date residence in the district.

It is reported that Mr. A. J. Muller, formerly of Ashburton, and a prominent member of the congregation, is to return to the district, having been promoted to the position of postmaster at Rakaia.

On Thursday, April 18, the Hibernians and Literary Society tried conclusions in a euchre tournament. The former won by 32 games to 27. During the evening songs were contributed by several of the members.

The Literary Society intend holding a concert on May 9 in order to pay off the debt on their piano.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

April 26.

The new Stations of the Cross have been all subscribed for, and presented to the Cathedral.

A mission will be opened at the Cathedral next Sunday by the Rev. Father Lawton, C.S.S.R. Very Rev. Father Clune will assist a few days later.

The Very Rev. Father Clune is giving a mission at Drury during the present week. On Monday his Lordship the Bishop will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and close the mission.

Mrs. Coffey, a very old and esteemed Catholic resident, passed away at her home in Vermont street, Ponsonby, this week. During her last hours she was visited by the Bishop, Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, Very Rev. Dean Hackett, and Rev. Father Molloy. She was an estimable lady, loved by all of her friends. She leaves three daughters to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

A printed circular went the rounds of the city and suburbs, asking the ratepayers in the municipal elections not to vote for 'members of the Church of Rome.'

The cash received up to date towards the debt on the Cathedral amounts to over £790. This is a most satisfactory result, and most gratifying to his Lordship the Bishop. A pleasing fact in connection with the subscriptions received is that the names of a large number of our Catholic young men, wage-earners, appear on the list for sums ranging from £1 to £10. It is needless to say that the hearty and generous response of the people has greatly pleased and encouraged his Lordship. At the present rate of progress the debt should be liquidated within a very short time.

OPENING OF THE HOME OF COMPASSION, WELLINGTON

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

April 29.

Rev. Mother Mary Joseph Aubert was a happy woman yesterday, when she witnessed the realisation of one of her fondest hopes in the opening of the new Home of Compassion at Island Bay. Mother Aubert's work has its supporters among all creeds and all classes—a fact that was well demonstrated by the distinguished and representative gathering at yesterday's function. A lengthy reference to Mother Aubert's career as a noble worker in the field of human suffering is not needed. Having started many years ago in this Colony in a very humble way, she was ever finding further scope for her energies, and further opportunities of doing good. It was evident for some time past that the buildings in Buckle street were not adequate for the requirements of the work in hand, and this great lover of afflicted humanity set about planning a new and more commodious Home of Compassion. Gradually the building arose to the admiration and wonder of many. Asked once on what bank she drew her funds, Mother Aubert replied that she drew on the Providence of God, and, considering the success that has crowned her works, Providence has never

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