

STRATFORD

(From our own correspondent.)

May 5.

On Friday, May 3, his Grace Archbishop Redwood arrived here for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Sisters of the mission have had a very busy week preparing the children, and on Saturday his Grace examined the candidates. To-day (Sunday) between sixty and seventy children, and about forty adults were confirmed. Messrs. M. Foley and P. McLean, and Miss E. Brannigan acted as sponsors. Never before in the history of our Church in Stratford has such an impressive, beautiful, and edifying ceremony been witnessed. In the evening his Grace preached an eloquent sermon on the Rosary, explaining why the month of May was dedicated to Our Blessed Lady, and the graces and indulgences that are obtained by those who practise the devotion of the Rosary.

At the second Mass his Grace was presented with an address of welcome, which was read by Mr. J. Sexton, and was as follows:—

'May it please your Grace,—We the undersigned, on behalf of the congregation of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, desire on this occasion of your Grace's visit to Stratford to extend to you a most hearty welcome. Since your Grace's last visit, this parish has made great progress with regard to its spiritual and temporal affairs. A large and handsome addition to the convent has been completed, a new school built, and the congregation has increased to such an extent that an enlargement of the church is a necessity of the future. We take this opportunity of expressing to your Grace our sincere appreciation of the energy, zeal, and sympathy displayed by the Rev. Father Treacy, our esteemed and beloved parish priest, who, during his six years' labor amongst us, has practically liquidated the heavy debt on the church, convent school, and presbytery. In conclusion, we sincerely hope that your Grace may, with the blessing of God, be long spared to rule over us.' The address was signed on behalf of the congregation by Messrs. Thomas Lawless, James Sexton, Michael Foley, Maurice Keppell, and Peter McLean.

His Grace made a brief reply, in which he thanked the congregation for the address, and also for the appreciation of the Rev. Father Treacy's work.

We are about to lose one of our most zealous workers, in the person of Mr. Peter McLean, who is about to visit the Old Land. The congregation are determined not to allow him to depart without some mark of appreciation, so to-morrow evening he is invited to meet those who have subscribed for a nice

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travelling rug, and sovereign case. A good programme has been arranged, and a social evening will be spent with one who at all times has done his duty and given a good example to all. We can ill afford to lose him, and sincerely trust that he will return, and again take up his old place amongst those who hold him in great respect.

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