

### Springfield

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

A neat little church, dedicated to St. Catherine, was solemnly blessed and opened on last Sunday week at Springfield by his Lordship Bishop Grimes, attended by the Very Rev. Dean Ghaty, S.M., V.G., who celebrated Mass. From Apocalypse, xxi., 1-3, his Lordship the Bishop preached an impressive and appropriate sermon to a congregation which crowded the new church, many of those present being non-Catholics. It was a rare event, said his Lordship, but no less pleasing, to be in a position such as the present to open and dedicate a church free from all encumbrances—a circumstance on which he congratulated all concerned, but especially the one (Mr. Hugh Cassidy), who was inspired to push on the work, which he had helped so generously to complete. The choir from the Darfield church attended, and rendered the music of the Mass excellently, Miss Guiney being organist. The organ was kindly lent by the Dresden Company, and the Bishop expressed the wish that the loan of the instrument should resolve itself into a purchase, and that the organ should thus remain. The Church, which is a very substantial erection, occupies a site on the main West Coast road, and in a prominent part of the township. The section was secured by Mr. Cassidy, and is sufficiently extensive for the purposes of future accommodation. The church, which is quite finished, with the exception of a few minor details, is provided with seats for upwards of 130 persons. The architects are Messrs. Collins and Harman. The cost complete is £600, of which Mr. H. Cassidy gave £400. Among other donors were the Cassidy family, £30; Mr. G. Rutherford, £25; Mr. B. O'Shaughnessy, £20. Several visitors from the city attended the opening ceremony.

### Hokitika

(From our own correspondent.)

May 13.

St. Mary's Club held the first meeting of this session in the schoolroom on the 4th inst. Rev. Father Ainsworth presided over a large attendance. The question box occupied the members' attention for the evening, and a very excellent time was spent. The discussions proved very interesting and instructive.

At a meeting of the club on May 12 a progressive euchre tournament was held, when there was a good attendance. The first prize was won by Mr. Peter Daly, the second by Mr. M. Daly. During the evening one of the members, Mr. A. Krakowsky, entertained the company with some excellent selections on his phonograph.

### Blenheim

(From our own correspondent.)

May 10.

On Sunday, May 10, the new Catholic church at Renwicktown was blessed and dedicated to St. Francis de Sales by his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, assisted by the Rev. Father Holley. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Holley. The choir of St. Mary's Church, Blenheim, sang the music, Turner's Mass of St. Cecilia in B Flat. His Grace preached on the duty of man to his Creator. He exhorted his hearers to render that homage to Almighty God, which, after all was only an act of common justice, which would be demanded from each and every one of them. In conclusion his Grace thanked all those who raised the funds to build the church, and the contractor, who had completed the work faithfully and well. His Grace felt sure that by their offerings that morning the debt on the church would be reduced to a minimum. After Mass Rev. Father Holley thanked those who had assisted that day, and more especially the choir who had rendered the music so well. A sum of nearly £70 was collected, and the building, which has cost £360 to erect, has now a debt which does not exceed £80. The erection of the church does great credit to the Catholics of the Upper Wairau and the untiring energy of the priests of the parish.

The church is a neat and substantial structure situated on three acres of land on the outskirts of the township. It is constructed of hardwood and is ceiled and lined throughout and fully finished. Three Gothic windows on each side provide ample light and ventilation. The walls are lofty and the ceiling, broken by nicely designed principals, is carried up into the roof. The sanctuary is recessed as usual, and the altar has

been neatly decorated by Mr. F. Paine. A sacristy is provided at the rear. The pews are constructed of kauri, and the seating accommodation will probably be sufficient to meet requirements for a considerable time to come.

St. Mary's Church, Blenheim, was crowded in the evening when his Grace the Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to fifty candidates. His Grace addressed the children on the nature of the Sacrament, and the graces conferred by its worthy reception. At the conclusion of the ceremony Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by his Grace.

### Presentation to Dean Burke at West Plains

On Wednesday evening in the West Plains Hall (writes our Invercargill correspondent), the Very Rev. Dean Burke lectured on his recent travels to a large and enthusiastic audience. The Very Rev. Dean was particularly happy in his remarks, and kept the audience interested and amused throughout. Songs were given at intervals by Misses Kirwan, Mackay, and Robertson, and Mr. Cahill, Miss McGrath playing the accompaniments.

At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Mehaffey (chairman) thanked the Dean, on behalf of the residents, for such an interesting and instructive account of his travels, and trusted that in the near future the Dean would afford them the pleasure of hearing further of the places of interest visited by him.

Mr. Ford, on behalf of the ladies of the parish, then presented him with a handsome easy chair, and from his parishioners generally with a substantial purse of sovereigns, and the following address:—

May it please your Reverence,—On this, our first opportunity since your coming home, we most heartily offer you a threefold welcome. Welcome back to New Zealand, the land of your adoption, the land that has won your love by its beauty and its bounty. Welcome to your parish, where you are regarded as a true father and a sure guide; where the old seek you for comfort, the young for advice and encouragement, and where the little children dance in fearless delight around the much-loved Dean. Welcome to West Plains this evening, and again Welcome; we are happy indeed to have you once more in our midst, and to testify by our sincere joy to the place you hold in our hearts.

For years past you and your zealous assistant priests have faithfully ministered to us, with loving care, through sunshine and storm, and we certainly are neither unmindful nor ungrateful. Our heartfelt prayer is that God may bless you in all your ways, and render your labors more and more fruitful.

As a memento of this happy reunion, the lady portion of this congregation entreat you to accept an easy chair. To a person endowed with fairy sight it bears the legend, 'To stay at home is best.'

The men amongst us have not chosen a souvenir of such happy significance, but a protest as strong, though perhaps not so delicate as that of the ladies, would have been raised at the mention of anything suggestive of further travel. To have your reverence amongst us is a pleasure none is willing to forego.

We ask you to accept the accompanying gift as an appreciation, although an inadequate one, of your work and worth, and with it the assurance that no gift has ever come more from the hearts of the givers.

We remain, Very Rev. Father, gratefully and sincerely yours in Christ.

Signed on behalf of the parishioners—Patrick Joyce, Michael Moloney, Michael Curran, John Flanagan, Michael Leonard, Thomas Staunton.

West Plains, May 13, 1908.

'Catholic Marriages'. The book of the hour. Single copies, is posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply, Manager, 'Tablet', Dunedin.

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