

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

June 6.

The Sisters of Mercy intend using the premises in Sussex Square, recently purchased from Mr. Bannister, for a school almost immediately.

The Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., is expected to return to the city on Tuesday. The Rev. Father Lowham will leave that day for Dunedin to conduct retreats. The Rev. Father Creagh will leave for the West Coast on a similar mission.

Of the thirty-four candidates who sat for the law examinations in May, only one was successful. That one is Mr. James Joseph Butler, of Wellington South, an ex-pupil of St. Patrick's College. The result is quite unique, and adds yet another gem to the college crown.

The mission at South Wellington, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers, was brought to a close on Sunday. In the morning there was a general Communion of the men. The sight at the 7.30 Mass was a most edifying one, nearly the whole of the congregation approaching the Holy Table. The large number of men present was particularly gratifying. In the evening an impressive sermon was preached by Father Lowham.

On Sunday evening a largely attended meeting of men was held in St. Anne's schoolroom, South Wellington, to form a Catholic club. The meeting was addressed by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Rev. Father Lowham. It was unanimously decided to form a club; nearly 80 members were enrolled, and a provisional committee elected. It is intended to take over the club rooms at present under the control of the Hibernian Society.

The mission at Kilbirnie, conducted by the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., was most successful. The Catholics there have decided to build a temporary church and at a meeting held last evening there were sufficient guarantors found to ensure the necessary building being erected within six months. Island Bay, where the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., has been working during the past week, has also had a very successful mission in the little church recently erected.

The meeting of ex-pupils of Sister Francis Xavier at Seatoun last Saturday afternoon was a most interesting gathering. It must have been most gratifying to Sister Francis to find that, after many years of unceasing effort as a teacher, so many of her former pupils had assembled to show their appreciation of what she had done for them. That is one of the pleasures that a teacher loves to experience. On Saturday the home that Sister Francis has of recent years founded at the seaside was filled with ladies who had received their education from her. They had come to show Sister Francis that her efforts for them were not forgotten, and that on the eve of her leaving New Zealand to spend her remaining days in England she was leaving behind her pupils that were grateful. Mrs. Smith handed the Sister, on behalf of the gathering, a substantial purse of sovereigns that were tendered as a mark, and not by any means the measure, of their gratitude. Sister Francis was too touched by the kindness displayed to attempt to reply. A pleasant hour or so was spent in the renewal of old friendships.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

June 5.

Mother Mary Aubert visited Shannon last Monday with the object of obtaining roots of native trees and shrubs for the Home of Compassion at Island Bay.

A complimentary social was tendered to the lady stallholders and their assistants, who worked so assiduously at the recent Dominion Bazaar in aid of the Basilica, Thorndon. The gathering was held in the Sydney street schoolroom on Tuesday evening, when there was a large attendance. The hall was tastefully decorated with palms and pot plants, and the stage was furnished as a drawing-room.

The N.Z. Industries' Week started on Thursday last and will close on the 10th, and is creating a great amount of enthusiasm among the leading firms of the city. Among the exhibits displayed there is a fine example of N.Z. made cabinet work on view in Mr. Linley's shop, and is greatly admired by the passers-by. It is a large altar for the Newtown convent, built of English and American oak, and made in Gothic style with vine foliage design in the panel carvings worked

by the Sisters of Mercy. It measures 9ft 6in by 7ft 6in.

Hastings

(From an occasional correspondent.)

June 5.

The recent social organised by the Children of Mary was a great success both socially and financially. Some 300 people were present, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The proceeds will be devoted to the general expenses of the parish.

On the eve of his marriage, Mr. J. B. O'Sullivan was presented by the Very Rev. Dean Smyth, on behalf of the Sacred Heart choir, with a beautiful afternoon tea set and jardiniere. The good wishes for the future happiness and prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. O'Sullivan were happily voiced by the Dean, and the recipient feelingly replied.

Messrs. T. O'Shea (leader), T. Downing, and J. Bennett were the members selected to represent the Young Men's Club in the debate with the Palmerston North Club on the subject, 'Is conscription desirable for the British Empire?' A number of club members, including Mr. F. Vickers (secretary), made the trip to the Manawatu capital on Wednesday, June 3, where the debate took place the same evening. At the club rooms the visitors were welcomed by the chairman, Mr. M. J. Kennedy. The Palmerston Club was represented by Messrs. Brady (leader), Scanlon, and O'Donnell. Mr. Power officiated as timekeeper, and Mr. Hurley, solicitor, acted as judge. At the conclusion of the debate the judge announced that each side had scored 192 points, but gave his casting vote in favor of the home team. The Hastings representatives left for Feilding early next morning, and returned home the same evening. On their arrival they were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. P. Long.

Feilding

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Owing to the generosity of Mrs. Johnston and family, Feilding Catholics will soon be in possession of one of the most up-to-date and beautiful Catholic schools in the Dominion. The building will have four large class-rooms, separated by a spacious corridor. The design is a very handsome one, and the building will have a frontage of 76ft to Derby street. The structure will be carried out in pressed bricks, relieved with cement facings, cornices, gables, etc. The interior fittings, ceilings, etc., will be of picked red pine. Tenders are now being called for the work, and it is intended to have it finished by the end of the year. The estimated cost is over £3000. Mr. E. W. G. Coleridge, of Wellington, is architect for the building. A more fitting memorial could hardly be devised, as the late Hon. W. Johnston always took a keen interest in the education question, and the late hon. gentleman continually advocated the claims of Catholic education both in Parliament and out of it. We are fortunate in having the good Sisters of St. Joseph to attend to the education of our children, and Mrs. Johnston and family's generosity in providing a school building will better enable them to exercise their talents in the training of the children committed to their care.

Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

June 1.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society hold their seventh annual social on Friday, June 5.

A committee of ladies have commenced collecting the monthly subscriptions of 2s 6d for the school fund, and as this system is entirely new to Westport the results will be awaited with interest.

The first of the socials to be held during the winter months for the purpose of raising funds for the enlargement of the school was held in the Princess Theatre on May 21. Supper was provided by the ladies' committee.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

June 8.

The splendid new chapel just completed for the community of Notre Dame des Missions, and adjoining the convent, Barbadoes street, is to be solemnly blessed

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