

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 22.

His Grace the Archbishop is at present in Napier, en route to Wellington. To-morrow he will open the new school of the Marist Brothers, recently erected at Napier.

The testimonial to the Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., B.A., promises to be an event of more than ordinary importance. The presentation will be made on Tuesday evening in the Town Hall. Some of Wellington's most prominent citizens have already signified their intention of being present on the occasion. A general invitation to citizens has been issued, owing to the fact that persons of all classes and creeds are anxious to do honor to the genial Rector of St. Patrick's College.

As far as their many and varied duties allowed, the priests of the city have always endeavored to carry out a systematic visitation of their flocks. With a view to putting this on a still more satisfactory footing and keeping the census of Catholics up to date, the authorities of the three parishes within the city have combined to introduce a card index system of enumeration and classification. In this connection it will be interesting to note that the Catholic population of the three Wellington parishes touches very closely upon twelve thousand souls.

The twentieth half-yearly meeting of the Catholic Club was held on Thursday evening. Mr. A. H. Casey, in the unavoidable absence of the Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., V.G., presided over a good attendance of members. The report disclosed satisfactory progress in all the various branches of club life. The balance sheet disclosed the fact that the finances of the club were on a very satisfactory footing. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, his Grace Archbishop Redwood; president, Very Rev. Father O'Shea; vice-presidents, Revs. Father Kimbell, Goggan, Venning, Brother Justin, Messrs. M. Kennedy, C. P. Skerrett, J. J. Devine, M. O'Connor, A. H. Casey, and E. J. Fitzgibbon; spiritual director, Rev. Father Venning; hon. secretary, Mr. J. McGowan; hon. treasurer, Mr. M. O'Kane; executive, Messrs. J. J. Callaghan, A. Searle, H. McKeown, J. M. Callaghan, B. Leydon, E. Reichel, F. Hickmott, O. O'Hare, and H. Rees; hon. auditors, Messrs. E. J. Fitzgibbon and F. P. Kelly.

Masterton

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 22.

The retreat for the Children of Mary commences on Tuesday, September 1, and ends on the following Sunday.

The Children of Mary held a general Communion at the 8 o'clock Mass last Sunday, and in the evening there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the members of the confraternity and the school children took part. There was a crowded congregation.

During his stay in Masterton yesterday his Excellency Lord Plunket was driven to various places of interest in the town. He was accompanied by the Mayor (Mr. P. L. Hollings), Captain Gathorne-Hardy, A.D.C., and others. A visit was paid to St. Bride's Convent. After being received by the Mother Superior and the members of the community, they were shown to the schoolroom, where two of the pupils played a pianoforte duet and the Glee Class sang 'Rest thee on this mossy pillow.' His Excellency thanked the nuns for their genial welcome and the pupils for their concert. Though he had other calls on his time, he could not leave without saying a few words to the children of the school. He reminded them their first duty was to their God and their religion. This, he said, he knew was in safe hands. Their next duty was to the King, the Empire, and their country. In King Edward VII. they had a monarch whom they all loved and respected. The Empire was the freest in the world, and New Zealand was a growing little country which he knew they all loved. In the convents and Catholic schools of New Zealand they were taught one thing better than anywhere else, and that was politeness, respect for their elders, and, for the time being, their betters, and he hoped when they left school they would not forget the excellent training they had received from the nuns.

Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

August 17.

In the June theory examinations of the Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M., London, the following candidates, presented by the Sisters of Mercy, were successful:—Rudiments—A. Carylton, H. Mills, N. Smith; higher division, harmony—E. Martin, E. Crowther; lower division, harmony—C. Mumm (distinction), I. Thompson; rudiments—A. McPadden, A. Corby; primary—B. Elliot, C. Duncan, A. Milligan, M. Doyle.

The new rooms, erected by St. Canice's Catholic Men's Club, which has recently been established in Westport, are now completed. The rooms are centrally situated on a section presented by the Ven. Archpriest Walshe, together with a donation of £100. The building, which is probably the largest of its kind in the Dominion, has a frontage of 62ft and a depth of 40ft, with 16ft walls. It consists of card room (16ft by 12ft), reading room (20ft by 12ft), billiard room (30ft by 20ft), which has a first-class, full-size table, and social hall (40ft by 30ft). On Thursday evening last, August 13, the building was formally opened in the presence of a very large gathering. The Ven. Archpriest Walshe delivered an address, in which he outlined the many difficulties which had to be overcome before the club could be successfully established. He urged the Catholic men of the town, young and old, to become members, and referred to the many advantages to be gained by membership. At the conclusion of a most interesting and instructive address, the Archpriest declared the rooms open. The balance of the evening was occupied in social intercourse. Songs were contributed by Miss Freed and Mr. Doogan, the accompaniments being played by Misses Simon and Still. Refreshments were handed round by the ladies' committee, after which the Rev. Father Molloy, who was unable to be present at the opening ceremony, delivered a brief address, giving to the young men many practical hints on the successful working of the club. At this stage Mr. J. Radford, secretary to the club, thanked the ladies' committee, also Mr. J. Hepburn, who were in a large measure responsible for the success of the evening's entertainment. The speaker also made reference to the valuable assistance tendered by Rev. Father Bergin and Mr. C. Simon in bringing the club movement to a successful issue.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 24.

The Rev. Father Lee, M.S.H., arrived during the week to join other members of the Order in the diocese.

Having concluded his mission at Akaroa and at Little River, the Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., returns to the north to-day (Monday).

The Living Floral Carnival at the Art Gallery, after a very successful season of twelve evenings, has now concluded, and there is every reason to believe that the hopes of the promoters have been fully realised.

It is a notable circumstance that the first mission conducted by the Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., of the newly-organised body of missionaries, should be at the spot where the first Mass offered in the South Island was celebrated by a priest of the same Marist Order.

Akaroa

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

At the invitation of the parish priest of Akaroa, the Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., gave a week's mission, beginning on Sunday, August 16. During the week the Rev. Father gave three instructions each day, and in a special way devoted himself to the children and adults preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. On Wednesday evening a large congregation assembled for the special sermon on the solemn consecration of the parish to the Blessed Virgin. On Friday there was again a large gathering for the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was consoling to find how many approached the Sacraments during the mission. His Lordship the Bishop arrived from Christchurch on Friday, having been driven from Little River by the Rev. Father Bonetto. At Akaroa his Lordship was met by the members of the Church committee, the school children, and a good number of the Catholics of the