

Blenheim

(From our own correspondent.)

St. Mary's Boys' School has again succeeded in winning the senior schools' Challenge Cup.

The Rev. Father O'Sullivan has received news of the death of his sister, Sister Mary Catherine, of the Sisters of Mercy, Sydney.

A delay has taken place in the erection of the Father Lewis Memorial School (girls). The contract price is £100 above the architect's estimate.

The Rev. Father Holley has returned to Blenheim, after conducting a successful mission in the Thorndon parish on behalf of the Cathedral fund.

The Sisters of Mercy are to be congratulated on the success of their pupils in the musical examinations, conducted by the Trinity College examiner, Mr. Saint-George. Miss Chambers succeeded in tying for the Plunkett gold medal for the whole of New Zealand.

Greymouth

(From an occasional correspondent.)

October 15.

The practical examinations in connection with Trinity College, London, were held at the convent in Greymouth on October 15. All the candidates presented passed, and Mr. Saint-George, the examiner, expressed himself as being highly pleased with the results. The following is the list of candidates:—Higher examination.—Certificated vocalist—Eileen Hannan. Senior—Erin O'Reilly, 74; Gladys Hannan (singing), 64. Intermediate—Mary Egan, 85 (honors); May Johnston, 84 (honors); Hilda Garth, 82 (honors); Lucy Richards, 78; Mary O'Neill, 77; Rita Hannan, 76; Mary Creagh, 76. Junior—Kathleen Gieseking, 80 (honors); Nora Donnellan, 63. Preparatory—Annie Balemi, 76; Aloysius Johnston, 73. The Sisters of Mercy have just received intimation from Trinity College that one of their pupils, Miss Mary Clarke has been awarded a national prize of £5 for obtaining honors last year in theoretical and practical music (senior division).

Hawera

The following address, signed by Mesdames Roche, Gallagher, Barry, Cullinan, and O'Shea, was presented the other day to the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, Hawera:—

'Rev. and Dear Father,—On behalf of the lady members of the congregation we wish to convey to you, before you relinquish charge of the parish on the return of the Very Rev. Father Power, an expression of our gratitude and of our appreciation of your devotion to our spiritual interests during your residence amongst us. Your zeal in the confessional and your attentive and fatherly care of the sick, your kindness in visiting and consoling them, are characteristics that have endeared you to all. Ever at the service of those who need your advice and help, you have given us the example of every priestly virtue, and we feel that in you we have a true friend and father. We ask you to accept the accompanying chalice as a slight token of esteem, love, and gratitude, and beg that you will remember us and our friends at the altar when you are offering up the Holy Sacrifice. We pray that God may long spare you to labor for our spiritual welfare, and asking your blessing. We beg to subscribe ourselves your devoted children in Jesus Christ.'

The Rev. Father O'Dwyer, in replying, said:—On occasions like the present, a person placed in my position, as a rule, is filled with feelings of joy and sadness. He is like that dear little Isle from which most of us came, which the poet addresses as 'Erin, the tear and the smile in thine eye.' The cause of his joy is that he has made some dear friends, and that they are true friends is seen from the address and presentation which he receives; the cause of his sadness is that he has to part with these dear friends. On the present occasion, however, my feelings are feelings of joy—the parting hour has not yet come. The beautiful chalice which you have presented to me shows me that I have made some dear friends during my stay in Hawera, and also that my humble efforts to do my duty to God and to my people have merited your approval. I do not think you could have chosen a more useful present, or one which could be more pleasing to me, for it will always be the means of reminding me of the good ladies of Hawera; and no matter where I am working in the vineyard of the Lord, whenever I offer up the

Holy Sacrifice then at least I shall remember them. I thank you, my dear friends, for your useful gift, and earnestly pray that Almighty God will bless you and your families.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

October 19.

The returns from the late social in aid of the Cathedral parish are not yet completed, but it is expected that a substantial sum will be netted.

On next Sunday the time and place for the meeting for making arrangements for the reception of his Lordship the Bishop will be announced.

The Cemetery Board meets on next Monday night to arrange for the annual mortuary service at the Symonds' street cemetery on Sunday, November 8.

The annual collection in aid of the seminary fund is now proceeding throughout the diocese, and in view of the heavy calls made in educating students for the priesthood, it is expected that a generous response will be made by the laity.

For some time the ladies of the Sacred Heart parish, Ponsonby, have been working assiduously in making arrangements for a bazaar in aid of the church debt. On Tuesday, October 27, the opening takes place. There is every indication that it will be a great success.

News to hand to-day furnish particulars of another great meeting at Belfast, at which Mr. John Redmond, Mr. John Dillon, and his Lordship Bishop Lenihan delivered lengthy speeches. His Lordship, who was accorded quite an ovation, is evidently very popular on Irish platforms.

On next Sunday the new church at Avondale will be opened by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Gillan, V.G. St. Benedict's choir will assist in rendering the music appropriate to the occasion. It is expected that large numbers from the city and the surrounding districts will be present.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

An impressive ceremony took place on Wednesday, October 7, at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, when three young ladies made their vows in the Order of Our Lady of Mercy. Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly (Thames), Very Rev. Father Brodie (Waihi) being deacon, and Rev. Father Darby subdeacon. The Very Rev. Dean Gillan, V.G., conducted the retreat preparatory to the profession. The names of the young ladies who were admitted as members of the Order are: Miss Nelly Sullivan, Waihi (in religion, Sister M. Aidan); Miss Emily Graham, Dublin (Sister M. Gerard); Miss Lillian Casey, Ponsonby (Sister M. Marguerite). The Very Rev. Father Brodie preached an impressive sermon on the occasion, taking for his text, 'Master, I have left all things to follow Thee.' The convent choir rendered in a devotional manner the music appropriate to the ceremony. The clergy, parents, relatives, and friends of the newly-professed were entertained after the ceremony by the Rev. Mother and Sisters. Among the guests were: Rev. Fathers Kehoe, Furlong, Tormey, Murphy, Wright, Williams, and Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Casey, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Casey, Mr. Graham, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. W. J. Ralph, Mrs. Brown, and the Misses Lynch, Casey, Ralph, Cronin, Gallagher, Sullivan, and Brown. Monsignor O'Reilly congratulated the young Sisters who had chosen the better part, and wished them many years of happiness in the religious life. Mr. Maurice Casey, in a few heartfelt, eloquent words, responded for the novices. Mr. J. J. O'Brien spoke of the noble work effected by the different Orders in the Church, and alluded in an especial manner to the work of the Sisters of Mercy in Auckland. Father Edge replied on behalf of the Community. Rev. Father Darby congratulated Monsignor O'Reilly on his restoration to health, and expressed a hope that he would be for many years the corner-stone of the Church in Auckland.

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