

The children who made their First Communion on Sunday week at St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, were entertained in the schoolroom at breakfast, which was provided by the ladies of the congregation, and were attended by the Sisters of Mercy.

The Rev. Father James Gilbert, a native of Westland, lately ordained for the diocese by his Eminence Cardinal Moran, is expected to arrive shortly, and is to be located in the Ahaura district.

Continuing his series of discourses in the Cathedral on 'The Church of our forefathers,' his Lordship the Bishop on Sunday evening treated of the Anglo-Saxon times, when the Church was in communion with Rome, proving from historical records that as a nation the origin of British Christianity was due to the Popes.

The annual retreat of the Sisters of Mercy, which is being conducted by the Very Rev. Father Bannin, C.S.S.R., commenced at St. Mary's Convent, Colombo street North, on last Friday evening. The Rev. Father McGrath, C.S.S.R., is engaged conducting a retreat at Mount Magdala.

Members of the executive committee of the St. Patrick's Day celebration, whose particular object is to aid the funds of the institution, met on last Tuesday evening at Nazareth House to arrange necessary details in connection with the foundation stone ceremonial of the new building on the afternoon of January 17. His Lordship the Bishop presided, and various suggestions were advanced and action taken in matters requiring immediate attention.

A social evening was given on last Tuesday by the Christchurch Catholic Club, for which a large number of invitations were issued. His Lordship the Bishop and Rev. Father Moloney, S.M., were present. The president, Mr. J. R. Hayward, presided. Songs were contributed by the Rev. Father Moloney, Messrs. Schwartz, Beveridge, and J. R. Hayward, and Mr. R. McNamara recited. In furtherance of the object of the gathering, the president outlined the special purposes of the club, and formulated a motion to the effect that 'all present pledge themselves to join and promote by all possible means the interests of the Christchurch Catholic Club.' His Lordship the Bishop supported the motion, and gave an address endorsing the president's remarks, showing the position the club should really occupy in regard to Catholic young men. After refreshments, there was an oratorical competition for the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies' diploma, in which there were four contestants. Messrs. J. R. Hayward and Eric Harper acted as judges, with his Lordship the Bishop as supervisor. Mr. J. McNamara ('Henry Grattan'), with 70 points out of a possible 100, was adjudged the winner; Mr. P. McNamara ('Robert Emmet') was awarded 68 points, and Mr. D. Dennehy ('William Pitt') 64, and Mr. H. Salmon ('Richard Seddon') 62.

## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

December 21.

His Lordship the Bishop is expected to return in February next.

A new presbytery will soon be erected at Taumarunui for Rev. Father Molloy. The parish is fast growing into a position of importance.

The sad news of the death of Mr. Molloy, father of the Rev. Father Molloy, of Taumarunui, has been received from Ireland. Father Molloy has received a number of messages of condolence from various parts of the diocese.

Two old parishioners of St. Patrick's—Mesdames Kavanagh and Clarke—passed away a few days ago. Both were well known at the Cathedral, where for many years they had regularly attended. Both have left sons and daughters to mourn the loss of good, pious, and exemplary mothers who were devoted to God and Holy Church. R.I.P.

Rev. Mother Aquinas, of Sisters of Mercy, Auckland, who was accompanied by Sister Felicitas, returned yesterday by the Manuka from Australia, where she had been on business connected with her community. The Right Rev. Monsignor O'Haran, who had been most kind to them in Sydney, came down to the steamer to see them off.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place at St. Benedict's yesterday, commencing after last Mass, and continuing through the afternoon until Vespers. The handsome altar was beautifully decorated, and looked well amidst a profusion of lighted candles. The Sisters of St. Joseph are to be complimented for their great taste and zeal. Large numbers of the faithful visited the Blessed Sacrament during hours of exposition.

Mr. W. Cleland, formerly a London solicitor, died at Mater Misericordiae Hospital yesterday. He had been

ailing for many years, during most of which period he had been at the Mater Hospital under the Sisters' care, to whom he often expressed his gratitude. He was a devout Catholic, and a patriotic Irishman. He loved Ireland wholeheartedly, and was well acquainted with the late Mr. Parnell. He was acquainted as well with other leaders at Home. R.I.P.

The results obtained by the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent in the recent London College musical examinations (practical) are as follow:—Advanced senior (pass)—Cecily Douglas, 74; senior (honors), Eileen Jenkins, 87; intermediate (honors), Madge Maun, 90 (first-class pass); Nora Smith, 88; Fanny McGettigan, 77; Ella Charlton, 76. Junior—First-class pass, E. Cooney, 78; K. Draffin, 75 (pass); A. Shaw, 72; M. Alexander, 71; Dorothy King, 70. Primary—First-class pass, Irene McLaren, 92; Kathleen Bowen, 90; Irene Sheehan, 85; Millie Keogh, 81. The examinations were conducted by Dr. E. Thomas, who expressed himself as well pleased with the standard of efficiency attained.

Father Ormond, recently ordained at Propaganda College, Roma, for this diocese, arrived here yesterday from Australia. He was met on arrival by his parents and other relatives and by many friends, and accorded a most hearty welcome. He celebrated Mass shortly after arrival in the Chapel of St. Patrick's Convent, Hobson street, at which his father, mother, and sisters were present; also Rev. Mother Aquinas, several Sisters of Mercy, and a few friends. During the afternoon he called on the Very Rev. Dean Gillan, V.G., who kindly gave him permission to remain for a while with his parents before commencing his missionary labors. On Tuesday evening Father Ormond will be accorded a welcome by his many friends in the Hibernian Hall.

On Thursday evening, in St. Patrick's Convent School, Hobson street, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Rev. Father Murphy's ordination, the Children of Mary, through the Rev. Father Meagher, presented him with a beautiful and costly alb. An address in the form of a poem was read by Miss Kathleen Owens. Rev. Father Murphy, in reply, thanked the donors for their handsome and useful present, which as often as he wore it in celebrating Holy Mass he would pray for them. The following programme was given:—Pianoforte solos, Misses M. Sheahan, K. Owens, and Denz; songs, Misses C. McKenna and N. Rist; recitation, Miss M. Sheahan; vocal duet, Misses E. Miller and M. Sheahan; chorus, 'Many happy returns of the day,' the Children of Mary.

## Nelson

(From an occasional correspondent.)

December 11.

It is with sincere regret I have to record the death of Sister Mary St. Sylvia, of the Order of Our Lady of Missions, which took place at the convent, Nelson, on November 26, after a long and painful illness. Her loss will be keenly felt, particularly by the children, with whom she was a general favorite, and all of whom followed her remains to their last resting place in the Wakapuaka cemetery.—R.I.P.

Last Tuesday night, a rather amusing incident occurred while the nuns of the convent were celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception. They had brilliantly illuminated the whole building for the occasion, especially the large statue of Our Lady in the front of the building. The illuminations, as observed from the town through the trees, appeared as if the convent was on fire. Under this impression somebody sounded an alarm. Soon all the bells in the town were going, and the brigade turned out in force. They proceeded to the convent followed by police and a large number of people. When they arrived in front of the building, breathless from their exertions, they could only gaze in wonder at the scene. The illuminations were successfully carried out by Mr. H. A. Hobbs.

On Monday last St. Mary's Hall was packed by about four hundred children and a large number of adults, when a lecture illustrated by lantern views was given by Mr. C. Y. Fell, who recently returned from a trip to Europe. A beautiful series of views, taken by himself, of various places of interest observed on his tour, were presented to the audience by one of Hughes' powerful biunial lanterns owned and operated by Mr. H. A. Hobbs. The views comprised scenes on board ship, voyage round Cape Horn and up the coast of America, from thence to Lisbon, London, and Norfolk. From this beautiful part of England they hurried through Normandy, Brittany, Paris, Florence, and Naples, where they boarded ship for New Zealand. The audience were kept highly interested right through the proceedings. At the conclusion Rev. Father Clancy thanked Mr. Fell for the lecture on behalf of the audience.