

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

February 14.

At a meeting of the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee to-night Mr. J. B. O'Connor was elected chairman, Mr. J. O'Shea secretary. A programme was submitted, including many interesting events. The greatest enthusiasm was displayed.

His Lordship the Bishop has cabled that he will leave Sydney on February 17, and will arrive in Auckland on February 21. The reception committee meets to-night, when the final arrangements will be made for welcoming his Lordship. One address will be presented, representing priests and people, which is to be signed by the oldest priest and the oldest layman. It is likely the local Hibernians will present an address.

An old member of the Church in the person of Mr. John Rist passed away last Wednesday. For many years he was a constant collector at the Cathedral. He was an exemplary Catholic and citizen, and commanded the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends. A Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated at the Cathedral on Tuesday morning. The Rev. Father Meagher was celebrant, and there were also present Very Rev. Father Brodie and Rev. Fathers Holbrook, Murphy, and Wright. At the burial service in the afternoon there were in addition to the clergy just mentioned Rev. Fathers Williams and Brennan. The interment took place at Onehunga, where the deceased spent his earlier days. He leaves a widow, two married daughters, another who is a Sister of Mercy, and three unmarried daughters to mourn their loss. The last mentioned are most active workers in all that pertains to religious and charitable work in this city. The deceased was an old member of the H.A.C.B. Society, many of whom attended the funeral.—R.I.P.

Napier

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

February 14.

Prior to the departure of Brother Virgilius from Napier he was presented with an enlarged photograph of the Old Boys' football team. The presentation was made by the captain (Mr. Frank Mahony). Brother Virgilius, in a few well chosen words, returned thanks to the members and wished them every success in the future.

The Catholic Club opened the season by a euchre party in their hall last Friday evening. During the evening Mr. John Coe was presented by Mr. R. P. Clarkson, M.A., with the Federated Catholic Clubs' diploma for oratory for 1908, and Mr. A. Mullaney also received the prize won by him at the previous euchre party. Refreshments were handed round by the committee. During the evening Mr. J. C. Gleeson contributed a song and Mr. Coe a recitation.

At a meeting of the congregation it was decided that St. Patrick's Day be celebrated with a national social gathering. Mr. T. Durney was appointed secretary.

Hokitika

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

February 9.

The work of transforming the presbytery grounds into a presentable state is now being completed, and they should presently bear a very ornamental appearance.

The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., has been in Hokitika on two occasions recently, prior to and after the visit of Father O'Reilly. On the first occasion he preached a retreat to the Sisters of Mercy.

For the past few weeks the Rev. Father Ainsworth has been absent from the parish, on a visit to Christchurch, where he has attended the annual retreat. His place has been temporarily filled by the Rev. Father O'Reilly, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, who, it may be mentioned, is a native of Westland. Father O'Reilly was enabled during his stay to renew numerous acquaintances, and his many friends were very pleased to meet him.

On Sunday last at Vespers the Rev. Father O'Connell delivered a most instructive sermon on 'Catholic Education.' He treated the question in all its aspects, and put forward a most convincing case for the Catholic schools, referring to the permanent influence for good resulting from the training imparted in them, the duty of Catholic parents to provide and utilise them, and the injustice of the attitude of those who opposed them. Father O'Connell also referred in highly eulogistic terms to the series of

articles on 'The Secular Phase of Our Education System,' from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Cleary, which are at present appearing in the *Tablet*. He hoped they would be read widely by Catholics and others throughout New Zealand, as they could not fail to forward the cause which they advocated, being, in his opinion, the ablest presentments of the subject that had been advanced in the Dominion.

OBITUARY

MR. M. J. STAUNTON, WAIPAWA.

The many friends of Mr. Michael Joseph Staunton, not alone in Otago, but in other parts of the Dominion, will hear with sincere regret of his death, which took place at Waipawa on February 5, at the age of 51 years. The deceased had been in poor health for some time, but no serious consequences were anticipated until shortly before his death, when his illness took a turn for the worse. The late Mr. Staunton was a Victorian by birth, and came to Dunedin with his parents in the early days, and joined the Telegraph Department in this city. At various times he had been postmaster at Mosgiel, Milton, Manaia, and on the Otago goldfields, where he made hosts of friends by his courtesy and genial manner. Quiet and unobtrusive, he was a man who had read widely and who was a keen observer of men and manners. The late Mr. Staunton was a devoted and practical Catholic, and was attended in his illness by the Rev. Father Johnson and the Sisters of St. Joseph. On the day following his demise a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, the solemn music being rendered by the nuns and the local choir. The funeral procession to the railway station was representative of all classes in the community. The remains arrived in Dunedin last week, and were interred in the Southern Cemetery on Wednesday. The Rev. Father Gilmartin officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

Interprovincial

Australian papers record the death, on January 20, of Mr. Patrick Leahy, who was formerly a well-known resident of Christchurch (says the *Press*). It is some fifteen years since Mr. Leahy left this city, where he carried on the business of a jeweller, and emigrated to Australia. In his new home Mr. Leahy took a very active interest in public affairs, and at the time of his death he held the office of Mayor of Mosman, which he had held for three consecutive years. He and Mrs. Leahy interested themselves deeply in all charitable affairs, and they were both held in the highest esteem by the residents of Mosman. Mr. Leahy was a native of Foynes, County Limerick, and was fifty-four years of age.

Mr. P. Hally, who, owing to his appointment as Conciliation Commissioner has to leave Dunedin and reside in the North Island, was made a presentation at a representative meeting of citizens of Dunedin on Tuesday afternoon. The Mayor, who presided, said Mr. Hally had been his personal friend for the past seven or eight years—ever since they first sat together at the City Council table. He had learned to respect Mr. Hally as a councillor for his straightforward manner and his truthfulness, and his virtues as a citizen had cemented their bond of friendship. He had, by dint of careful and hard work, managed to fight his way upwards in a manner most creditable to himself, and they (the citizens of Dunedin) were only too pleased to acknowledge in a tangible way their appreciation of such a man. Mr. Hally had been appointed to a position that might rightly be regarded as one of the most important in the Dominion—a position for which his long experience and personal qualities well fitted him, and in which he might do an enormous amount of good for both employers and employed. He (the Mayor) most heartily congratulated Mr. Hally on his appointment. He personally would be glad to see Mr. Hally occupying the highest position the Government had to offer, for his personal qualities were assured by the respect and esteem in which he was held. Not only had he to hand Mr. Hally a present (a silver tea and coffee service) but he had also to offer him the kindly feelings and good wishes of a large body of citizens. Messrs. R. Ohisholm, Sidey, M.P., Arnold, M.P., and others also bore testimony to the tact, ability, and worth of Mr. Hally. Mr. Hally in the course of his reply thanked the donors for their handsome present, and said that too much had been made of his services under the Labor Department.