

D. O'Neill; committee, Messrs. W. Tonar, W. Ahern, R. Meekin, W. A. Atwill, and J. Atwill; secretary, Mr. W. Walsh.

Presentation to Father P. O'Neill, Wrey's Bush

A large number of the members of the Catholic community (says the *Oamaru Mail*) met in St. Joseph's school-room on Wednesday evening, March 31, for the purpose of expressing in a tangible manner their appreciation of the services rendered by the Rev. Father O'Neill while in Oamaru. Mr. T. O'Grady presided, and there were also present on the platform the Rev. Father Delany, Messrs. J. Cooney, J. Cagney, J. B. Grave, and H. Curran, and the guest of the evening.

Mr. T. O'Grady, in opening the proceedings, said that on other occasions he occupied a similar position, and had regretted very much to have to occupy the chair to mark the removal of some good priest from their midst. They had met to make a presentation to the Rev. Father O'Neill on the occasion of his departure to Wrey's Bush. All were aware, he said, of the great and good work Father O'Neill had done during his stay in the parish. On behalf of the young men of the parish especially were Father O'Neill's efforts full of zeal. His efforts in every possible way to do good were noticeable not alone by the Catholic community, but by others who did not belong to the Church. He had no doubt that Wrey's Bush would benefit greatly by Father O'Neill's presence. He had been connected with the Boys' Club, and in this connection they hoped for many good things from Father Farthing, but the latter would have to work very energetically indeed to get on level terms with Father O'Neill. He (Mr. O'Grady) knew many little instances where Father O'Neill's charitable disposition had been in evidence, but Father O'Neill was a modest man, and did not care to let his left hand know what his right hand was doing. He asked Mr. Cooney to make the presentation.

In handing Father O'Neill a well-filled purse of sovereigns, Mr. Cooney said that a good many outsiders knew more of Father O'Neill's good qualities than his own people did, on account of his connection with the school.

Mr. O'Grady then presented Father O'Neill with a token of regard from the Catholic Young Men's Club. He said the club had been established under circumstances somewhat difficult. When the formation of the club was suggested Father O'Neill became the mainspring of the movement. And not only had Father O'Neill attended the meetings, but he had taken part in them, and there was no doubt that the young men had benefited by the interest taken in their behalf. He had much pleasure in presenting Father O'Neill with the following address:—

'Rev. and Dear Father,—On this, the occasion of your departure from Oamaru, we, the members of the Catholic Club, desire to place upon record our appreciation of your whole-hearted services which have been so willingly given in the interests of our club. It is nearly three years ago since the club was instituted, during which time you have been one of its members, and the successful issue to which the club has arrived is due in a great measure to your zeal and perseverance. Although you have severed your connection with us, still your memory is not forgotten, and we ask you to accept this address and the accompanying gifts as a token of our esteem for you personally, and as some slight recognition of your efforts in our behalf. Wishing you every happiness and success in your new sphere of labor, We are (on behalf of the club), Yours faithfully—T. O'Grady, M. F. Cooney (hon. sec.), J. R. Wallace (hon. treas.).'

Messrs. J. R. Wallace, M. F. Cooney, Mulvihill, and H. Curran also expressed appreciation of Father O'Neill's work on behalf of the club, and their regret at his departure from Oamaru.

Rev. Father Delany said a good many things had just been said in praise of Father O'Neill, but he (the speaker), who knew Father O'Neill much better than anybody present, knew that not one half had been said of what ought to have been said. The speaker and Father O'Neill had been boys together at school, they had studied together in the same ecclesiastical college, and now they were priests together. As a priest, he (Father Delany) yielded to no man in his regard for Father O'Neill's character. Father O'Neill was a priest who would be found wherever his duties called him—at the sick bed, amongst the children, and in the Young Men's Club. He was pleased that Father O'Neill had been so successful in his work among the young men.

Mr. J. Cagney also paid a tribute of praise to the zeal of Father O'Neill.

The Rev. Father O'Neill, on rising to reply, was greeted with loud and prolonged applause. He said he

did not expect such praise would have been given to him, but he knew that much of what had been said had been said out of kindness of heart and that his good deeds had been magnified. He had been praised and over-praised till he had almost come to the conclusion that what had been said was true. Reference had been made to his connection with the club, but the speakers seemed to forget that it was as much a part of his duty to attend the club as it was to preach from the pulpit or seek those who were going astray. The care of the club was one of his chief duties, and if he had not done it he would have been guilty of neglect of duty and worthy of blame. Mr. Mulvihill had given him much praise, but Mr. Mulvihill had worked hard in the interests of the club. Mr. O'Grady and Mr. Cagney also deserved the thanks of the club for the interest they had taken in it. Father O'Neill said he did not forget the generosity of the congregation. There were many things he had done and many things he had not done, but his faults had been overlooked. He could not be human and forget the kindness he had received in Oamaru, and wherever he went he would look back with grateful feelings on the encouragement he had received. He thanked Father Delany for the kind expressions that he had made. Father O'Neill said it might be presumption on his part to ask a welcome for Father Farthing, for he had already received a welcome. It was not necessary to ask the congregation to be kind to Father Farthing, because they could not be anything else. Father Farthing would be successful where he (Father O'Neill) had failed. Nothing would obliterate from his memory the Oamaru people and their kindness. He asked that he should be remembered in their prayers. Before concluding, Father O'Neill said he could not leave Oamaru without making some public acknowledgment of the good feeling that had always existed between himself and the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, whom he had learned to honor for his great worth and sterling character. He thanked the performers who had helped to make the gathering a success. His last remark would be a formal good-bye.

During the evening instrumental and vocal items were given by Miss O'Grady, Miss Barry, Miss Cagney, Miss McGhie, Rev. Father Farthing, and Mr. Curran, and Mr. Barry gave a recitation.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

April 5.

The Timaru Catholic Tennis Club intend visiting Christchurch to play St. Mary's Club on Easter Monday.

There was a large attendance at the quarterly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society on Monday evening, March 22. Four new members were elected, and one clearance granted. The payments received for the evening totalled £30 14s 2d, and £4 16s 8d was passed for sick pay.

The Rev. Dr. Kennedy officiated at the ceremonies of Palm Sunday just prior to the eleven o'clock Mass in the Cathedral. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass, adoration during the afternoon, and the usual procession followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after Vespers. The Rev. Dr. Kennedy continued his series of Lenten discourses in the evening.

At St. Mary's Church, Christchurch North, on Sunday, the palms were blessed and distributed by the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M., V.G., to a large congregation at the eleven o'clock Mass. The evening devotions during Lent have been largely attended at St. Mary's. On week nights instructions have been given, and a fine series of discourses appropriate to the holy season preached on each Sunday evening by the resident clergy.

Preparations are now complete for the opening of the All Seasons' Carnival in His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday evening next. The Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., has expended a large amount of energy, and indeed accomplished a considerable amount of hard work, not alone in regard to this particular enterprise but in the interest of the Cathedral parish generally. It but remains now for the people to do their share, and, judging by the ready response hitherto, every help will be forthcoming.

In connection with the Christchurch Catholic Club an enjoyable entertainment was given in the club rooms on last Thursday evening in the presence of a large audience. Mr. W. A. Kennedy's orchestral party provided an excellent programme. Additional items were given by Messrs. W. Moor and T. Geoghegan (instrumental), Mr. J. W. Bailey (recitations), and Mr. J. Johnson (songs). The Rev. Dr. Kennedy was present, and expressed the thanks of the club to the performers for their generous efforts in its behalf.