

Dempsey was soloist in the 'Kyrie,' Mrs. Meehan in the 'Gloria' and 'Dona Nobis,' while Miss Northcote undertook the beautiful solo 'Et incarnatus est.' The other soloists were Madames Labatt and Butler, and Messrs Gellately, Aves, Blair, Beasley and Randall. Mrs. Lloyd presided at the organ, and her fine playing greatly assisted towards the success of the choir. Mass was sung by the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, who also preached an excellent sermon from the gospel of the day. At Vespers on Christmas evening, a striking feature was Zingarelli's 'Laudate pueri,' which was rendered in a finished and devotional manner by the choir, Mr. D. Gellately taking the solo parts. Throughout the services the congregations were exceptionally large, but ample seating accommodation was provided by the completion of a part of the new alterations.

Everyone is delighted with the improved appearance of the church, but what has been done so far is only an indication of the great change that will be effected when the whole of the alterations now in progress are finished. The work, it is worthy of note, has been planned by and receives the personal supervision of the Very Rev. Dean Kirk.

In the report of the Convent school entertainment an important fact was omitted, namely, that there were present five priests—the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, Rev. Fathers Power, La Croix, Tymons, and O'Sullivan.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 1.

At the Pro-Cathedral on Christmas Day, Masses were celebrated almost continuously from 6 a.m. till 9.30 a.m. At 11 o'clock Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, the Very Rev. Dean Foley and the Rev. Father Crotty being deacon and sub-deacon respectively, the Rev. Father Richards master of ceremonies, and the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Ohearns assistant priest. The congregation was addressed by the Bishop on the festival of the day, who wished them all the joys and blessings of the holy season, and subsequently imparted the Papal and Episcopal blessings. The music of the Mass was Haydn's Imperial, which was exceptionally well rendered by the choir, the soloists being:—Miss Jacques (soprano), Mrs. Bowler and Miss A. Bryant (altos), Mr. Lenihan (tenor), Mr. Hynes (bass). At the offertory, Novello's arrangement of the 'Adeste Fideles' was sung, the solos being taken by Mrs. Mead, Miss Bryant, and Messrs Lenihan and Cunningham. Mr. H. H. Loughnan conducted, and Miss Funston presided at the organ. The church was prettily decorated with clusters and wreaths of foliage and flowers. A very naturally constructed 'crib' formed a most conspicuous object. The sanctuary, high altar, and side altars looked extremely pretty. The work of decoration was done by the ladies composing the Altar Society and a few willing assistants. Pontifical Vespers were sung in the evening by his Lordship the Bishop, who also preached and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At the presbytery after Vespers the choir were entertained by the Bishop, who heartily thanked them for their faithful services during the year, and paid a well merited compliment to them for their admirable rendering of the musical portion of the day's services. In the chorus work of the Mass on Christmas Day the Pro-Cathedral choir received able assistance from two visiting gentlemen, members of St. Francis' Church choir, Melbourne, and Brisbane Cathedral.

Besides the early masses at St. Mary's, Manchester street, on Christmas Day, High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock by the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., the Rev. Father Marnane being deacon, and the Rev. Father Gallais sub-deacon. The music was Weber's Mass in G, in which the choir was assisted by a capable orchestra.

After Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday evening there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and the *Te Deum* was sung in thanksgiving for the many favours received during the expiring year.

On Boxing Day an excursion by train to Rangiora was organised by a committee of St. Mary's parishioners. The day being perfect for an outing a large number took advantage of the occasion for a run into the country, including some from the Pro-Cathedral parish. A sports programme and various amusements for the children were carried out in the local domain. A good many from the surrounding districts drove in and augmented the party during the day, it being estimated that about 1200 were present.

At the meeting held in the Chamber of Commerce last week to inaugurate a war fund, his Lordship Bishop Grimes said in his address that it might seem out of place for him to be at such a gathering and for such a purpose seeing that he was by nature and profession a man of peace. He had, he said, just received a letter from a Bishop in South Africa, who was not an Englishman and whose sympathies were not generally with the English, who stated he could safely say that very seldom had England had a more just cause for war than in the present case. Concluding amidst applause Bishop Grimes said, 'We do not want peace at any price—we are anxious for peace and praying for peace, but we want peace with honour,' a sentiment which received conspicuous attention in a subsequent leading article in the *Lyttelton Times*.

There departed this life on Christmas Day at the residence of Mr. Kennedy, North Loburn, Mr. Patrick Higgins, who had reached the exceptionally ripe age of 100 years. The funeral took place a few days later, the remains being interred in the Loburn Catholic Cemetery.—*R.I.P.*

A paragraph in the telegraphed report of Bishop Grimes's circular on the war where the words 'it were needless even though possible to go into the origin of that fearful war' should read 'it were needless even were it possible,' etc.

The Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., is at present conducting retreats for the Sisters of Mercy at Greymouth and Hokitika.

I regret to hear that the Rev. Father Salvador of Lyttelton is very seriously ill.

His Lordship the Bishop proposes to visit Cheviot next week for the purpose of giving a mission and in the interests of the projected Cathedral.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes, accompanied by the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, reached Dunedin on Tuesday. During their stay here Bishop Grimes and Dean Mackay will be the guests of the clergy at the Bishop's palace.

The prayers of the congregation were asked at St. Joseph's Cathedral on New Year's Day for the repose of the soul of the Very Rev. Monsignor McDonald, of Panmure, Auckland, who died on Sunday afternoon. Sincere regret was felt in Dunedin on receipt of the sad news of the death of the venerable and popular priest. The Dunedin papers—the *Otago Daily Times* and *Evening Star*—had lengthy and eulogistic obituary notices with reference to the demise of Monsignor McDonald.

The music at High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday was Haydn's No. 2—the same as that on Christmas Day. The choir was assisted by Mr. Walter Kirby.

The Rev. Father Moloney, of St. Patrick's College leaves Dunedin this week on his return journey to Wellington.

There were large congregations at all the Masses at St. Joseph's Cathedral on New Year's Day. Numbers began the New Year well by receiving Holy Communion at the early Masses.

I N V E R C A R G I L L.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Hon. J. G. Ward returned from Wellington on Saturday. He was heartily welcomed both here and at the Bluff.

The Rev. Father O'Dea, who had been ill from a severe cold, is now convalescent.

Midnight Mass was celebrated for the first time in the church at Rakahooka on the festival of Christmas by the Rev. Father Hearn. Many of the congregation came a very long distance, some even 14 miles, to be present at it. The choir, under Miss Fahey, was very efficient and rendered the music in a creditable manner. On the same morning the Very Rev. Dean Burke said Mass at the West Plains Church, where there was also a very large attendance.

In Invercargill at the 8 o'clock Mass, Father Hearn officiating, there was a very large number of communicants, and at 11 o'clock St. Mary's Church was packed, when Solemn High Mass was celebrated. The Very Rev. Dean Burke was celebrant, the Rev. Father Hearn acted as deacon, and the Rev. P. O'Neill as sub-deacon. The choir's singing of Farmer's Mass was very good. The Very Rev. Dean Burke delivered an eloquent discourse.

The new directors of the Irish Athletic Society held their first meeting on last Friday week. In the absence of the president (the Hon. Mr. Ward) Mr. J. W. Forde occupied the chair. Nearly all the directors were present, and a large amount of business was disposed of.

A mass meeting in aid of the Transvaal Fund was held here on Thursday evening. Though there was a downpour of rain all the evening the Theatre Royal was thronged. From the start the whole assemblage showed much enthusiasm in the cause. By common consent the best and most appropriate speeches were those delivered by the Hon. Mr. Ward and the Very Rev. Dean Burke, who urged 'the meeting to distinguish itself, not by frothy vaporings about parliaments of man and federations of the world, not by sentimental quotations from British poets and orators, not by analysis of these emotions which a time of war evokes, but by the eloquence of silver and gold chinking on the collectors' plates.' I heard it said that £100 were lost by the speeches of a few of the 'abstract justice' men coming between the Dean's appeal and the taking of the collection. However, the collection was creditable to the town, £671 being raised—a sum expected to reach £1000 in a few days. The Hon. Mr. Ward and the Very Rev. Dean Burke addressed the Campbelltown meeting on Friday at the invitation of the Mayor of the borough.

O B I T U A R Y.

SISTER MARY BERCHMANS.

At the Waipawa Convent on Christmas Day (writes our Wanganui correspondent) Sister Mary Berchmans passed peacefully away. General regret is felt at the death of so good a Sister, who, not many years ago, was attached to the Wanganui Convent, and proved an especial favourite with both pupils and teachers. The remains were brought into Wanganui on Wednesday evening, and the funeral took place on Thursday afternoon from St. Mary's Church, the coffin being followed by a large concourse of people. Sincere sympathy is everywhere expressed towards the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth in their sad loss.—*R.I.P.*

MR. AUGUSTINE GEORGETTI, WANGANUI.

It is with regret that I record the death of Mr. Augustine Georgetti (writes our Wanganui correspondent), which occurred at his residence, Sedgebrook, on Sunday morning, December 24. The deceased, who was 65 years of age, claimed as his birthplace the historic island of Corsica. During his long residence in the district of Wanganui he had been a hard-working, conscientious, and successful settler, respected by all those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. The funeral, which was largely attended by people from the town and country, took place on Wednesday afternoon. The Very Rev. Dean Kirk officiated at the grave-side. To his widow and family of six sons and three daughters the sincerest sympathy is extended in their sad bereavement.—*R.I.P.*