the Rev. Fathers McDonnell and Leen, deacon and sub-deacon of the Mass, and the Very Rev. Vicar-general, assistant priest. Immediately preceding Mass, the *Te Deum* was intoned by the Bishop and taken up by the choir, and at the conclusion of Mass the *Veni Creator* was sung. The church was crowded to excess, and in an address to the congregation his Lordship the Bishop referred to the great solemnity of the occasion, the unique character of the celebrations, the departing year and century, and the dawn of a new one, finally tendering all his earnest and sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous incoming year. During New Year's morning, Masses were celebrated at frequent intervals, and in the evening there were the usual devotions and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

On Thursday evening last the drawing of the art union in connection with the late jubilee carnival in aid of the new cathedral took place. The Choral Hall was occupied for the occasion, and the drawing was preceded by a select concert programme, which was contributed to by Misses L. Thompson, Moir, K. Young, Mrs. Edgar, and Messrs. C. Read, D. Roche, and E. McNamara. His Lordship the Bishop announced that the net receipts from the carnival and art union amounted to £2,000, and that he had received a message from Cardinal Moran to the effect that his Eminence would be in Christchurch early in February, and would lay the foundation-stone of the Cathedral on Sunday, the 10th of that month. He would be accompanied by the Archbishop of Melbourne and several Australian prelates. He thanked all those who had assisted to make the carnival such a great success, and in an especial manner the secretary, Mr E. O'Connor, who had been most indefatigable. As a slight token of his appreciation of the services rendered, he would ask his Worship the Mayor, who was present in the capacity of supervisor of the art union drawing, to present Mr. O'Connor with a gold antique ring. The drawing was then proceeded with, under the supervision of the Mayor and Mr. R. C. Bishop, in the orthodox manner, and proved a large undertaking, owing to the extraordinary number of prizes to be allotted. [The winning numbers will be found in the advertising columns of this issue.—ED. N.Z.T.]

The members of St. Joseph's Cathedral (Dunedin) choir arrived in Christchurch on Saturday night, and on Sunday last took the musical part of the 11 o'clock Mass at St. Mary's Church, Manchester street. The Mass selected for production was Mozart's Twelfth, or such portions of the magnificent composition as is usually possible of rendition within the time at disposal. The soprano solos were taken by Miss Rose Blaney with splendid effect, Miss M. Drumm the principal contralto solos, Mr. P. Carolin the tenor, and Mr. E. MacNamara the bass. A strong orchestra, led by Mr. E. J. Painter, performed excellently, Mr. Vallis presided at the organ, and Mr. H. Rossiter conducted. At the offertory Miss Blaney sang an 'O Salutaris.' The Rev. Father Gallais was celebrant of the Mass. At Vespers in the evening the choir again assisted, and Miss Blaney sang Gounod's 'Ave Maria.' The Rev. Father Price, of Hawarden, preached. All the local papers devote considerable space to a critique of the choir's performance, their remarks on the whole being most complimentary. To-night (Monday) the choir is to be entertained at a conversazione in St. Mary's schoolroom, the Rev. Father Marnane presiding.

At the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday evening a violin solo, an offertory by Ernst, was given by Miss Julia Moran, who is on a brief visit to Christchurch. The item was beautifully played, and Miss Funston's organ accompaniment was in that lady's finished style.

GREYMOUTH.

On Christmas Eve the holding capacity of St. Patrick's Church Greymouth was not sufficient to accommodate the crowded congregation that assembled to assist at the celebration of Midnight Mass. The decorations (says the *Argus*) reflected the greatest credit on the church authorities. A triumphal arch of noble proportions, bearing the words 'Venite Adoremus,' occupied the front of the sanctuary, and through it the high altar, a blaze of light and splendour, presented a brilliant spectacle. The floral designs, festoons, wreaths, etc., which adorned the pulpit, pillars, choir front, and walls of the church completed a scheme of decoration perfect in detail and effect, and in keeping with the magnificent proportions of the church. High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Ainsworth, the Rev. Father Malone acting as deacon. The sermon, suitable to the occasion, was preached by the Rev. Father Ainsworth. The preacher made a deep impression, his discourse being listened to with profound attention. At the conclusion of the sermon, the Rev. Father thanked the church decorators, choir, and congregation for their assistance at the Christmas services. The musical portion of the service has always an attraction, but on this occasion the choir fairly surpassed itself. The full value of the new organ was made manifest under the control of the organist, Miss Hannan. A strong orchestra, consisting of violins, cornet, viola, etc., did excellent service throughout the Mass music and outgoing marches. The choir was assisted by several of our leading vocalists, and on the results obtained Miss Guthrie is to be highly congratulated. The Mass taken was Mozart's 1st in C, which was sung faultlessly and in its entirety. Novello's 'Venite Adoremus' formed the offertory piece, a grand and full-toned 'Laudate' concluding the vocal service. The principal solos were rendered by Miss Galloway and Guthrie (soprano), Burke and Flannery (alto), Messrs. Doogan, Harley, and Burke (tenor), and Moss, Daniel, and T. Phillips (bass).

The drawing of the art union in aid of St. Patrick's Church, Waimate, will take place on St. Patrick's night. All who have books of tickets and have not yet returned the blocks are requested to do so before March 15, and at the same time to forward remittances.—***

OBITUARY.

MR. OWEN P. M'NAMEE, GARSTON.

THE opening of the century brought sorrow to the household of Mr. Patrick M'Namee, Garston, for early on the morning of the 1st inst. there passed away at the Invercargill Hospital, where he had gone for treatment, his son, Mr. Owen P. M'Namee, a promising youth of 13 years of age. The deceased, who was the second youngest of the family, had been ill only for a few days, and consequently his demise was wholly unexpected, and came as a great shock to the family, who have the sincerest sympathy of the whole district in their affliction. The interment took place at Garston on the 3rd inst., the funeral being very large and was attended by representatives of every family and creed from Athol to Kingston, who thus showed in a practical manner their sympathy with the family in their bereavement. The Rev. Father O'Donnell officiated at the graveside. We may state that it was Mr. P. M'Namee who gave the land for the intended Catholic Church at Garston, and contributed handsomely towards its erection.

THE COADJUTOR BISHOP OF SYDNEY.

A CABLE message dated Rome, January 5, states that the Right Rev. Mgr. Kelly, Rector of the Irish College in the Eternal City, has been appointed Coadjutor to his Eminence Cardinal Moran. The appointment is considered very probable, but we believe the news is somewhat premature. The voting for coadjutor took place on November 14. The three names selected, before being sent to Rome, had to be submitted to the hierarchy of the Sydney Province and the Australian Archbishops. After that, due time for inquiry and consideration is taken by the Holy See previous to making so important an appointment. In all probability the Rome correspondent mistook for an appointment the mere announcement that the names of the three prelates selected on November 14 had reached the Holy See.

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

JANUARY 1 was a red-letter day in the history of Australia, for on the first day of the new year and of the century was inaugurated the Australian Commonwealth. The swearing-in of the Governor-General took place in Sydney, and the auspicious event was made the occasion for the most impressive and imposing demonstration which has ever been witnessed in the Southern Hemisphere. The people of Sydney rose to the occasion, and on the morning of the new year the principal streets presented a magnificent sight—triumphal arches, flags, flowers, and festoons of greenery meeting the eye everywhere, the decorations being on a lavish scale. A procession was formed in the Domain, and proceeded through the principal streets to the Centennial Park, where the swearing-in ceremony took place. What lent additional *eclât* to the proceedings was the presence of representatives of the British army, consisting of Indian troops and the crack British and Irish regiments, with the visiting troops from the colonies, including New Zealand. The principal visitors from the other colonies occupied carriages in the procession, which was viewed by close on 750,000 persons, and took two hours to traverse the route from the Domain to the Park.

In the evening there was a great state banquet in the Town Hall, when the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, several New Zealand legislators, and other distinguished visitors from the Colony were present. Mr Seddon delivered an eloquent speech in responding to the toast of 'The visitors.'

The celebrations in various forms were continued during the week.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

WE reciprocate the 'century greetings' of the literary staff of the *New Zealand Times and Mail*.

WE have to thank Messrs. Whitaker Brothers, booksellers, of Wellington and Greymouth, for a neat pocket calendar.

WE understand that his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne will preach at Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral, Christchurch, on the second Sunday in February—the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Cathedral.

A POSTAL note for 10s from Waimate, and a postal order for 11s from Invercargill have been received at this office, the senders in both cases forgetting to send their names. The manager would be pleased to hear from the senders as soon as possible.

MR. T. FERGUS, of Dunedin, who has just returned from a trip to Europe, says with regard to the Royal Society's Horse Show at Dublin that it was excellent. 'It was,' he says, 'an exhibition of nearly all heavy hunters, weight carrying hacks, and blood horses. There were over 1200 entries, and certainly it was an eye-opener to one from the colonies. In this department Ireland is certainly far ahead of either England or Scotland. I believe the show is one of the biggest in the world.'

THE Rev. James Kennedy, of Greymouth, was ordained for the Christchurch diocese by the Cardinal-Vicar at Rome on All Saints' Day. Father Kennedy's first Mass at the Tomb of the Apostles in St. Peter's was served by his companion, Mr. Buckley, of Dunedin, and by Mr. James Liston, also of Dunedin, a former class-fellow of his at Manly College. After visiting Lourdes, Paris, Brussels, and

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