

Writing from Rome on the 10th November the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy says that he had just met the Rev. Father Kennedy, a son of Mr. Kennedy of Greymouth. The young priest, who is expected to arrive in the Colony about the beginning of February to begin work in the Christchurch diocese, was ordained in the Propaganda College on All Saints' Day.

While at Turin, Italy, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Dean Carew and Father Keogh visited the Royal Chapel behind the high altar in the Cathedral, and there saw the shrine containing the Holy Winding Sheet. They also saw the Palazzo Royal, the paintings and ceilings in which the Ven. Archdeacon describes as 'truly magnificent.' They were at Milan on the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo and had the happiness of celebrating their Masses in the crypt, which contains the body of the Saint and is the only place in the Cathedral where Mass may be said with the Roman rite. Masses were celebrated by the visitors in the Holy House of Loreto where all the treasures of the church were seen. At the time of writing the Archdeacon had no hope of a private audience with his Holiness, but the three expected to be presented during a reception of pilgrims about the middle of the month.

To commemorate the closing of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, his Grace the Archbishop, by direction of his Holiness the Pope, celebrated Pontifical High Mass at midnight in St. Joseph's Church. The church contained one of the largest congregations yet assembled there. The Very Rev. Father Bower officiated as assistant priest, and Fathers Moloney and Clancy deacon and subdeacon respectively. The three choirs of the city united for the occasion and, considering there had not been a practice of the combination, gave a very fair rendering of Mozart's Twelfth Mass, under Mr. M. C. Rowe's conductorship. The solos were well sung by Misses Sullivan, Bigg, and N. Driscoll, Messrs Rows, Loughnan, and Butcher. From the text, 'And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt amongst us,' his Grace preached a short sermon, and showed that the great mystery of the Incarnation was the very base of Christianity. His Grace also explained that the objects of the special service were to thank Almighty God for the blessings bestowed on the Church during the century, and to ask that those blessings might continue, so that in the new century she should progress even more markedly. He contrasted the progress of the Church and the world in the 19th century. Man had, he said, made it one which must ever be regarded as a most marvellous age; he had annihilated space and controlled many of the natural forces; but while working these marvels, how had he fared spiritually? He cited the bloody wars of the middle and end of the century. History contained, he said, no like record, and the unwieldy armies and navies of the nations were proofs that the world had not progressed, but was actually drifting back to a barbarism wherein not moral suasion but brute force must be the ruler. In conclusion, he exhorted all Catholics to stand by their Church and pray unceasingly that such a disaster might be averted.

DANNEVIRKE.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 3.

Mr P. Gleeson, of the Junction Hotel, has sold his property here and has taken his family to Auckland. Mr Gleeson has been a progressive townsman and he will be greatly missed. The Gleeson family have been a great help to the Catholic Church in this young district, and, as a matter of fact, they are a distinct loss to Dannevirke. In choir matters Mr Gleeson's sons were a host in themselves. Mr Gleeson deserves credit for the superior education he has given his children, and it is satisfactory to see that they are making good use of their opportunities. The ladies of the congregation did not let Mrs Gleeson leave without giving her a token of their appreciation of the interest taken by her in Church matters, and on New Year's morning they presented her, through the Rev. Father Cahill, with the accompanying address:—'We, the Catholic ladies of the Dannevirke parish, offer you on your departure this pledge of our gratitude and esteem. Mr Gleeson and you have been singularly generous and devoted to the principles of faith and fatherland, not only in Dannevirke, but in Auckland, Napier, and Wellington. Your only daughter (now Mrs Treston), our dear friend, was always the very soul of our choir and a general favorite. You may well feel proud of your many sons. We too are proud of them. To meet them is a pleasure to be remembered. With such varied accomplishments and such splendid opportunities they can scarcely fail to prove themselves worthy of the inspiring traditions of the great colleges of the sons of St. Ignatius and of this progressive Colony of New Zealand, and worthy also of the ancient name of Gleeson and the Land of the Celt. Accept our heartfelt wishes for your own and your family's welfare. May you delight in the successes of your sons, in the happiness of your daughter, and in the mutual enjoyment of that prosperity with which the Almighty has crowned your husband's labors. And may your old age be a foretaste of the peace of the blessed.'

Mr M. Gleeson, on behalf of his mother, thanked the donors, and said the whole family would have very pleasant recollections of Dannevirke. They left next morning for Auckland.

The address was greatly admired as a work of art, and was enclosed in a case made of polished rimu. It was the work of Miss Flynn, of Hawera, a young lady who, in addition to many other accomplishments, has acquired quite a reputation in the art of painting.

Owing to ill-health Mr Dan Hannan has sold his business and is booked for the Old Country. His many friends here wish him a pleasant voyage to the land of his birth and a safe return.

The timber industry here is very brisk at present. The order list is heavy and the mills are running at high-pressure rate.

N E L S O N.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 26.

The Feast of the Nativity was ushered in by the celebration of midnight Mass by the Very Rev. Dean Mahony in the convent chapel which was very prettily decorated. In one corner of the chapel a crib was very nicely arranged. At the 8 o'clock Mass Very Rev. Dean Mahony was again the celebrant, when there was a large number of communicants. At the High Mass, which was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy of Napier, Dean Mahony preached an able discourse on the Nativity. The choir deserve a meed of praise for the finished manner in which they sang Palmer's Mass in B flat, under the conductorship of Mr. L. Frank. Those taking the leading parts were Meadames A. P. Burns, Pratt, Machin, Misses I. Frank (soprano), Kelley, and Hyde (altos); Messrs. L. Frank and I. Scott, Condell, Sirling-Butcher, Armstrong. In the evening devotions were held at 7.30 when Rossi's 'Tantum Ergo' was very admirably rendered by Messrs. L. Frank (tenor) and Girling-Butcher (bass). Miss H. Scott presided at the organ in her usual efficient manner. The church was tastefully decorated by some of the convent boarders. On the Gospel side of the altar were the words in red on white ground 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' on the Epistle side 'Et in terra pax' while the sanctuary, pulpit and the body of the church were festooned with greenery and flowers.

The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy is leaving for home to night after having spent a very pleasant fortnight in Nelson being the guest of the Very Rev. Dean Mahony for that time.

WANGANUI.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 28.

The devotions in connection with the Feast of Christmas began with Midnight Mass, at which there was an exceptionally large congregation. In keeping with the festive time the sanctuary and altars were decorated with greenery and flowers, while to the left of St. Joseph's altar there was a faithful representation of the crib at Bethlehem. Mass was said by the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, who afterwards thanked his parishioners for their kindness and co-operation during the year, and also all those outside the Church who had come forward, as several had done on this occasion, to assist the choir. He then gave a short instruction appropriate to the Feast. With regard to the music, the *Herald's* report was as follows:—The music—Mozart's 12th Mass—was exceptionally well rendered by a large choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Holden, assisted by a small, but competent, orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. J. L. Becks, the instrumentalists being Messrs. Hemus, Gilby, and O'Hara (violins), Spackman (violin), Trussell (cornet), and C. Foster (flute). The soloists were Meadames Pinches, Meehan, Labatt, Ahearn, Miss Dempsey, and Messrs Gellately, Pinches, Allen, Randall, Beasley, and McCullough, who interpreted the beautiful parts with pronounced success. The offertory piece was "Adeste Fideles" (Novello's). Mrs. Lloyd presided at the organ, and acquitted herself admirably.

For the first time, the choir used the new gallery situated to the left of the transept, whither the large organ of which we are the fortunate possessors, has been removed. The change is a great improvement, as the position of the new gallery is better suited to the acoustic properties of the church. At the conclusion of the Mass, the members of the choir were invited to the presbytery, and were there entertained by Dean Kirk.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 27.

During the eve of the Feast of the Nativity the priests in the city and suburban churches were kept busily employed in the confessionals up to a late hour, and it was very edifying to see such large numbers approach the Holy Table at the early Masses on Christmas Day. At St. Patrick's Cathedral the earlier Masses were said by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, and Rev. Father Corcoran celebrated Mass at nine o'clock, at which the children's choir sang very creditably. At 10 o'clock the Rev. Father Zainey, an Assyrian priest, said Mass according to the Eastern rite in presence of a large number of his countrymen. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan was present at the Cathedral at 11 o'clock. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly was celebrant of the Mass; Rev. Father Hills S.M. (Wellington), deacon; Rev. Father Corcoran, sub-deacon. After the first Gospel the Bishop briefly addressed the congregation, and in the course of a brief sermon heartily thanked the priests of the Cathedral for their labors during the past year, and the people for their hearty co-operation, without which it would have been impossible to have attained success. The choir, who were at all times so willing to assist in making the services bright and attractive, and to the collectors for their great assiduity, he specially thanked. The choir rendered, in good style, Haydn's 'Imperial Mass,' under the baton of Mr. C. F. Hiscocks, Mr. Hartwell presiding at the organ. Vespers were sung by the Rev. Father Hills, and the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly preached on the 'Nativity.' Pontifical Benediction was given by his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Fathers Corcoran and O'Carroll being deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The high altar was tastefully decorated under the supervision of Miss Gough.

St. Patrick's choir was entertained in St. Patrick's Hall on Christmas evening by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, the Bishop

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