

A sum of £15 12s was forwarded from Auckland on Monday to the Rev. Father O'Shea, Wellington, in aid of the Marist Brothers' Indemnity Fund. This is the second instalment sent, making the total amount from Auckland to the fund, £76 4s.

A touching tribute was made to the memory of the late Very Rev. Mgr. McDonald the other day at Panmure. The *Herald* staff were in the vicinity holding a picnic when they left off their enjoyments that they might go and pay their respects to the mortal remains of 'Father Walter.'

The Very Rev. Father Gregory, Superior of the Congregation of Passionists in Australasia, in succession to the late Very Rev. Father Vincent, and Rev. Father Augustine arrived here last week from Sydney. They are to give missions in the city and country parishes commencing at St. Benedict's next Sunday. They are to be joined in a few days by Rev. Father Hilary and another member of the Order.

At the Sacred Heart Church on Sunday week the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., referred to certain comments in a local paper on his sermon of the previous Sunday, explaining the Catholic practice of prayers for the dead. The contributor had written kindly and had offered 'information and encouragement' by stating that many Anglican clergymen believed in prayers for the dead. Dr. Egan remarked that he was well aware of this but that they did so privately. His contention was that public prayers for the dead were not admissible in the Anglican Church, and that recent proof of this was the action of the acting representative of that body in Auckland, who promptly disclaimed the truth of the report that he had offered prayers 'for the illustrious dead' in his church. Many Anglican ministers had become Catholics and, as such conversion is gradual, so their belief in Catholic doctrine. Protestantism did not admit the doctrine of purgatory, and without such admission prayers for the dead were senseless. Catholics pray for the dead with the view of assisting the departed, but, given no middle state, such help is not wanted in heaven and is useless in hell. This was but a proof of the inconsistency of Protestantism, and yet was, in a way, consistent with the right of private judgment which Protestants demand for themselves but refuse to others, especially to Catholics. Privately a Protestant may believe what he likes, but publicly the denomination to which he belongs has its own special code of belief and error. In referring to the funeral celebration of the day before when representatives of the military and civil bodies of Auckland marched in procession carrying wreaths which they deposited at the foot of the Queen's statue in the Albert Park, Dr. Egan called upon his hearers to try and imagine the result of a similar procession formed by Catholics in honor of the Blessed Virgin. There would be, to say the least, an outburst of indignation against the toleration of such an act of idolatry. And yet, judged by the same standard by which Protestants judge us, every member of yesterday's procession was guilty of an open act of idolatry. This was another proof of the inconsistency and prejudice of non-Catholics. The procession of yesterday was a display of reverence and esteem for the royal dignity and womanly virtues of the deceased Queen, and the wreaths placed at the foot of the statue and the uncovering and profound inclination of heads in the presence of the same graven image were but tokens of the devotion and admiration of the pilgrims for her whom the statue represented. This is but natural, it is nothing more than human instinct, and yet when Catholics follow this same instinct in doing honor to the Queen of Heaven, to the Mother of God, to the Mother of the King of Kings, to a woman who was not only virtuous but immaculate, they are accused of idolatry. Dr. Egan concluded by saying that just as there is nothing more consoling and reasonable to the human heart and mind, nothing more consonant with God's infinite mercy and justice, than the doctrine of purgatory, so there is nothing more beautiful, nothing more natural, and nothing more in keeping with the instincts of the human heart than the Catholic practice of honoring the statues, images, pictures, and other representations of Our Saviour, of His Blessed Mother, and of those distinguished heroes in life's spiritual combat, the saints of God.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The annual meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society (New Zealand district) was opened in St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, on Wednesday, when there were present delegates from nearly all parts of the Colony.

The children of the East Gore Convent School held their annual picnic at Croydon Bush on Wednesday (says the local *Standard*). The children and parents, along with a number of friends, took advantage of the fine weather, and attended in large numbers.

On Monday the prelates and clergy, who had been on a visit to Dunedin in connection with the laying of the foundation stone of the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, left for their several dioceses. Archbishop Redwood, Bishop Grimes, Mgr. O'Reilly, Mgr. Mackay, Dean Foley, and Father Lewis left in the morning by the north express, and the Archbishop of Melbourne and Father McCarthy left by the steamer Mokoia in the afternoon for Melbourne. All the visitors were seen off by the Bishop and clergy of Dunedin.

A retreat for the women of the parish, and conducted by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, of Sydney, was opened at Vespers in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday. The opening sermon was preached by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, who spoke on grievous sin and the injury which it did to the soul, basing his discourse on the words, 'It is an evil and a bitter thing for thee to have left the Lord thy God.' The Most Rev. preacher, in the course of an eloquent sermon, showed that grievous or mortal sin was a supreme evil. In every other evil suffered by man, such as the loss of health or property, there was some good aspect, but grievous sin was a act of daring or rebellion against the high majesty of God, Who is our

Creator, and to Whom we owe everything, even our very life. When the sinner conceives the idea of committing a grievous sin he practically decides to commit an act of high treason in the presence of his King and Sovereign Lord. The sinner dares the God who brought him out of nothingness, and to Whom he owes everything. After dwelling on the enormity of mortal sin and showing the goodness of God, Archbishop Redwood concluded by exhorting all to take advantage of this time of grace to give up sin and return to God. Pontifical Vespers were sung by his Lordship Bishop Grimes, the Very Rev. Father Boyle being deacon and the Very Rev. Father Lewis subdeacon. Sermons were delivered each morning of the week at the 6 and 9 o'clock Masses and at the evening devotions. The attendance at all the services was very good. A retreat for men will begin on next Sunday.

The annual picnic of the children attending the Catholic schools of Dunedin took place on Thursday at Outram, but unfortunately the weather was very unseasonable and consequently the outing was not as enjoyable as it otherwise would have been. This was much to be regretted, not alone for the sake of the children, who had been looking forward with considerable pleasure to the event for some time, but also on the part of the committee, who had worked hard and whose efforts would undoubtedly have been crowned with success were it not for the inclemency of the weather. Hopes were entertained that when the train taking the children and their friends, to the number of nearly 900, left Dunedin shortly after nine o'clock the rain would clear off, but when Outram was reached the party was doomed to disappointment, and it was found necessary to secure shelter for the day. The Rev. Fathers Murphy, Delaney, O'Malley, and the committee secured the use of two public halls which were courteously placed at their disposal by Messrs. W. Snow and J. Grant, whilst the use of rooms in the Terminus Hotel was kindly granted by Mr. G. Magorian. During a fine hour or so the children's races were got off, and the remaining events will be run off on March 16. In addition to the clergy the following were the members of the committee in attendance:—Messrs. L. Clancy, J. Miller, J. Hill, F. Hill, M. Rodgers, J. Collins, M. Coughlan, Fulton, J. Hungerford, T. B. Conway, Brother Fogarty, and the energetic secretary, Mr. J. J. Dunne. The Caversham Industrial School Band supplied the music, which considerably enlivened the proceedings, and after a pleasant run home town was reached shortly before 8 p.m.

Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, was the scene of a distinguished gathering of prelates and priests and a few of the laity on Thursday, when the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon gave a luncheon to celebrate the re-opening of the Seminary after the holidays. Among the guests present were his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, his Lordship the Bishop of Christchurch, the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, Auckland; Very Rev. Dean Foley, Christchurch; Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., Wellington; Very Rev. Father Boyle, Sydney; Rev. Father Regnault, Waimate; the Rev. Father McCarthy, Melbourne; the diocesan clergy being represented by Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton), Rev. Fathers Murphy, Coffey, Lynch, McMullen, O'Neill (Winton), Cleary, Howard, M. Ryan, and Headen. The following members of the Catholic laity were also present: Messrs J. B. Callan, C. E. Haughton, F. W. Petre, J. Murray, Collins, M. Coughlan, and Morkane. Notwithstanding the inclement weather the college and grounds looked splendid, the many visitors expressing themselves in highly complimentary terms regarding the suitability of the building for the purpose for which it is intended and the location, which is an ideal one for such an institution. The chapel, which will be shortly completed, was visited and admired. It is already roofed, the plasterers are at work on the interior, and the embossed zinc ceiling is being put in place so that in a short time the building will be ready for dedication. At the luncheon the Right Rev. Bishop Verdon had on his right the Archbishop of Melbourne, and on his left the Archbishop of Wellington and the Bishop of Christchurch. After justice had been done to the excellent repast the Right Rev. Chairman, in terms of high and well-merited eulogy, proposed the toast of the 'Visitors.' Replies were given in very happy terms by the Archbishops of Melbourne and Wellington, Bishop Grimes, and Monsignor O'Reilly. The following toasts were also honored:— 'The laity of the diocese of Dunedin,' proposed by Archbishop Redwood, and responded to by Messrs. Callan, Haughton, and Petre; 'The bishops and clergy,' proposed by the Archbishop of Melbourne and responded to by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, Monsignors Mackay and O'Leary, and Very Rev. Father O'Neill. Mr. Morkane paid a graceful tribute to the work of Father Murphy in organising the very successful reception of the visiting prelates.

SOUTHLAND NEWS NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Wyndham Catholic Literary Society's social proved a great success. The hall was crowded, people of all denominations being present, which is a happy sign of the society's popularity and the community to which it belongs. Mr. D. Jones discharged the duties of chairman in a praiseworthy manner, and a varied programme was disposed of. In the course of a few remarks on the benefits of a literary society and its usefulness, the Rev. Father O'Donnell, Gore, refuted in strong terms the unwarranted reflection cast on the loyalty of a certain school by Mr. McNab, M.H.R., at Edendale, duly reported in the Press and interpreted to refer to the convent school at Gore. He (Mr. McNab) said he had not seen the flag hoisted half-mast on the Queen's death. Father O'Donnell said the flag was certainly so hoisted, and he was surprised that Mr. McNab should go to the trouble of attempting to convey such a wrong and untruthful impression. He also remarked that the school was a private one, and he would not allow insults to be