

There were very large congregations on both occasions, especially at Vespers, when the cathedral was crowded. During the course of the mission Masses will be celebrated on week days at 6.30, 8, and 9 o'clock. Sermons will be preached at the 6.30 and 9 o'clock Masses, and also in the evening at 7.30 o'clock.

The Irish National concert to be given in the Garrison Hall on Monday evening (St. Patrick's Day) promises to be very successful. All arrangements have been completed, and a reference to the list of ladies and gentlemen who have promised to assist show that the committee have been successful in securing the services of some of the leading vocalists and instrumentalists in Dunedin. The following will contribute to the programme: Mrs Hudson, Misses Rose Blaney, Annie Marks, S. and N. Hall, and Winnie MacCormac, Messrs Jago, Eagar, Carolin, Hussey, Vallis, P. S. K. Macassey, and Herr Zimmermann; also double quartet party from St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's choirs. To prevent disappointment it would be well to reserve seats at the Dresden, as there is sure to be a very large audience.

On Sunday last the Catholic members of the Ninth Contingent, under command of Captain Halpin, attended the nine o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, and approached the Holy Table. Breakfast was provided for the troopers in the schoolroom, and a number of gentlemen residing in the district also sat down to the repast. The Rev. Father Coffey presided, and in the course of a few remarks thanked the troopers for their attendance that morning and gave some excellent advice as to their spiritual welfare when away in South Africa. Captain Halpin returned thanks on behalf of the men for the kindness shown them during their stay and especially for the treatment they had received that morning. Before returning to camp the men thoughtfully and generously handed Father Coffey a donation for the Orphanage.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 8.

A large increase in the number of pupils attending our schools is reported.

Miss Maggie Dupre, who acted as pianiste all through the rehearsals and during the time of the Masterton Carnival, has been presented with a carved music stool.

Messrs Whitaker Bros. received this week from the TABLET office the new catechism in the large and small edition. It should command a ready sale.

Rev. Father Holley returned from the Hot Lakes on Thursday. On his homeward journey he went up the Wanganui River and was greatly struck with the beautiful scenery for which it is noted. He is much benefited by his trip.

Mother Mary Joseph Aubert, Superioress of the Sisters of Compassion, is in future to have charge of the infirmary at St. Patrick's College, and Mrs. Delaney has been appointed matron of the institution.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Mary of the Angels' on Sunday last. Rev. Father Herbert celebrated the 11 o'clock Mass and preached on the Gospel of the day. A large congregation was present at Vespers.

A meeting of the Empire Bazaar stallholders was held at the Te Aro presbytery on Thursday afternoon. Rev. Father O'Shea was in the chair. Several matters in connection with the bazaar were discussed. A general meeting of stallholders and assistants is called for March 16.

Mrs. A. R. Bunney, of Masterton, entertained at her residence, 'Makoura,' on Tuesday last Very Rev. Dean McKenna, Signor Borzoni, the lady stallholders, and Mr. B. J. Dolan, secretary of the carnival just concluded. A most enjoyable time was spent by those present. Dean McKenna took the opportunity of presenting Signor Borzoni with a set of silver-mounted hair brushes from those engaged in the display. As a special mark of appreciation Dean McKenna presented Signor Borzoni with his valuable Irish terrier.

The following is the cast of characters in the opera, of the 'Pirates of Penzance,' to be staged during the time of the bazaar, in the Te Aro parish:—Mabel, Miss Sheen; Edith, Miss Hyde; Kate, Miss Lawless; Isabel, Mrs. Nolan; Ruth, Miss White; Pirate King, Mr. Cronin; Samuel, Mr. Tabor; Frederic, Mr. Philip Palmer; the Major-General, Mr. E. D. Danne; Sergeant of Police, Mr. Nowlan; and Corporal, Mr. Zachariah. The scenes are being painted by Messrs. Leader Williams and Gil. Hoskins. The chorus will consist of 50 voices, and an orchestra of 16 performers under Mr. Hotop will assist.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 10.

There is a large number of Catholics among the crews of the Australasian Squadron now in Lyttelton harbor. On the cruiser Phoebe alone there are, I am told, 40 of our co-religionists.

Two Sisters of Our Lady of Missions, from the Christchurch Convent, left recently for Fremantle, Western Australia, to assist in the foundation of a new community of the Order there. Other Sisters will probably be sent from Europe to join them.

The choir of St. Mary's Church propose rendering Rossini's 'Stabat Mater,' with full orchestral accompaniment, on Palm Sunday. Owing to the difficult nature of the solo music this part will be undertaken by outside assistance.

At Benediction in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday evening Miss McLoughlin gave a very devotional rendering of an 'O Salutaris,' by Bialli. On next Sunday evening, Passion Sunday, the choir are to produce Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' in its entirety.

The arrangements in connection with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations are now almost complete. Large entries have been received for the athletic and cycling events to be held in Lancaster Park, and a first-class programme has been prepared for the concert to be held in Canterbury Hall in the evening. The afternoon of Monday is proclaimed a half-holiday, and it has been notified that almost every business firm has agreed to close.

The Coronation Carnival, now being vigorously promoted to assist the building fund of St. Mary's presbytery, Manchester street, is to be opened on May 15. The services of Miss Low, a lady who has had considerable experience in Melbourne, Invercargill, and elsewhere, have been secured for rehearsing the children in dancing, marching, grouping, etc.; and the Woolston Brass Band has been engaged for the season. A most varied, novel, and attractive programme is in course of preparation, and all connected with the carnival are working assiduously to make the event a success.

A lesson in geography was being given in one of our suburban State schools the other day (where, by the way, religion and religious matters are supposed to have no place whatever). The lady teacher was dilating upon Rome, and pointing to St. Peter's and the Vatican said to the class: 'This great building was erected by Catholics from monies raised by the sale of indulgences.' A little Catholic girl, who was one of the class, immediately replied: 'We don't sell indulgences and we don't buy them either.' 'Silence,' said the teacher, 'or I will send you to the headmaster for punishment.'

As a sequel to the recent Stoke inquiry, one of the precious witnesses, formerly an inmate but later on transferred to Burnham, and subsequently sent up to Nelson to give evidence for the prosecution in that sorry affair, has now, it may be presumed, found his proper level and abode. This youth, a few weeks ago, escaped from Burnham (which model institution, by the way, is having a rather unenviable notoriety of late in the number of its escapees), and persuaded another inmate to accompany him. Coming to the city, they at night broke into a drapery store and thoroughly equipped themselves. Making their way into the country again, they were fed and provided with accommodation for the succeeding night by a kindly-intentioned but too confiding farmer, whom they repaid the following morning by taking his best horse, saddle and bridle, and another horse from a neighbour. Starting at day-break they managed to reach the Waiau on their way, as they told the arresting constable, to Kaikoura, where they hoped to dispose of their spoil, catch a steamer, and hie away to Auckland to join the Ninth Contingent. Their patriotic zeal was prematurely nipped. Constable Roche overtook them, and turned their footsteps, or rather those of their mounts, citywards, where eventually the worst offender was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in Lyttelton gaol, and the other sent back to Burnham. A training ship is what is sadly needed for this class, so as to put an effectual stop to their promiscuous roaming about the country.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 6.

His Lordship Dr. Lenihan left last Friday evening for Opatiki where on Sunday he assisted at the conclusion of the mission given by the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P.

St. Patrick's Day celebration this year gives every promise of success, and this in no small measure is due to the committee's work, a big portion of the labors of which body has been borne by the chairman, Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., St. Patrick's. The national concert on St. Patrick's night, for which a fine programme is in preparation, will take place in St. Benedict's Hall.

WAIHI NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 3.

The Rev. Father Brodie celebrated the first anniversary of his arrival in Waihi yesterday by saying Mass for the first time in St. Joseph's new church. The church is a handsome building, and a credit to the contractors, Messrs. Mitchell and Eltringham. The dimensions are as follows:—Main building 81ft x 31ft, gallery 14ft x 30ft, sanctuary 16ft x 30, sacristy 14ft x 12ft, porch 10ft x 10ft. The walls are 16ft in the clear. The building is constructed entirely of kauri. The interior is lined with mountain rimu. The church is estimated to hold about 700 people. Yesterday morning the choir rendered Winter's Mass, and were assisted by Misses Lorrigan (2), and Misses Knight (2), of Auckland, and Miss L. Featon, of Te Aroha. Though the church is the third largest in the Auckland diocese, it was taxed to its utmost holding capacity. The Rev. Father Brodie preached an eloquent sermon, taking his text from the Gospel of the day, 'Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.' He prefaced his discourse by returning thanks to the congregation for their co-operation in the building, and congratulated the contractors on the satisfactory way they had finished their work. He was deeply grateful to the members of other denominations for their kindly interest. At the evening devotions the church was even more crowded than at the morning service. After the rosary Miss Annie Lorrigan sang 'O Divine Redeemer.' For an Offertory piece Miss Featon sang 'The Nightless Land.' The dedication of the church is to take place on April 20, and the ceremony will be performed by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan.

The contract for the erection of a convent has now been let for £635 to the same firm who so satisfactorily completed the building of the church, Messrs. Mahoney and Sons, of Auckland, are the architects.