

DIocese of Dunedin.

About 50 girls received their First Communion at the nine o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday.

There will be Pontifical High Mass at 11 o'clock in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 136 candidates in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday afternoon.

The friends of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill will be glad to hear that he arrived safely in his native city of Limerick. In a letter received on Saturday last Father O'Neill mentions having had a very pleasant voyage home, and also having met the Rev. Father Lynch and Rev. Father Ryan in Limerick.

The drawing of the prizes in connection with the art union in aid of the new Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, took place on March 19. Mr A. Todd (Mayor of South Dunedin) and a number of gentlemen superintended the drawing. A list of the winning numbers appears in our advertising columns.

Despite the inclemency of the weather during the past three or four days, the attendance at the mission services, conducted by the Vincentian Fathers at St. Joseph's Cathedral, has been very good. The mission will be brought to a close on Sunday evening with a renewal of Baptismal vows.

The Month's Mind of the late Rev. Father Headen took place in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Thursday morning. His Lordship Bishop Verdon presided. Rev. Father O'Reilly was celebrant of the Mass, Rev. Father Murphy deacon, Rev. Father O'Malley sub-deacon, and Rev. Father M. Ryan master of ceremonies. The Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., and the Rev. Father McCarthy, C.M., were also present. The occasional discourse was preached by the Rev. Father McCarthy.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 22.

The children and staff of St. Joseph's Orphanage held their annual picnic on the feast of the patron saint of the institution at Wadestown.

On the feast day of the patron saint of St. Patrick's College the students were treated to an outing at Lowry Bay, on Mr. H. D. Bell's estate, the use of which was very kindly granted for the day.

About 100 officers and seamen from the warships of the Australian Squadron in port on Sunday attended the 10.30 a.m. Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart. His Grace the Archbishop addressed them during the course of his sermon.

A Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Trooper Albert Devine, an ex-student of St. Patrick's College and a member of the Seventh New Zealand Contingent, who died recently in South Africa, was celebrated by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy in St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday morning. Rev. Father O'Reilly was deacon, and Rev. Father Tymons subdeacon. The professors and students of the college were present, and the solemn music for the Mass was sung by the college choir.

The many friends of Mrs. Andrew Duggan will regret to hear of her death, which took place at her residence, Berhampore, last Monday. The deceased contracted consumption soon after her marriage, and for the last four years had been a patient sufferer from the disease. Her funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Thursday afternoon. Rev. Father Mahony, assisted by Rev. Father Holley, officiated at St. Joseph's Church and also at the graveside. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Duggan in his sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

On Sunday last at the college the Rector and professors, in honor of the feast of St. Patrick, entertained at dinner a large assemblage of friends of the institution. The guests included his Grace Archbishop Redwood, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy (Provincial), the Very Rev. Father Lewis (Vicar-General), Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C., Drs. Cahill and Martin, Messrs. Kennedy and Garvey, and a very large number of ex-students resident in Wellington. The Rector of the college presided. He proposed the toast of 'The day we celebrate,' and coupled with it the names of his Grace the Archbishop and Hon. Dr. Grace each of whom made an appropriate reply. The toast of the Rector was proposed in a happy little speech by Dr. Martin. Father Keogh in his reply said that the college was still in its childhood, but during the 18 years of its existence its success had been in every way remarkable, and should be a source of gratification to the Catholics of the Colony of whose faith and generosity the institution was a striking testimony. The college was, he said, admirably equipped for the work of education, on the religious and scientific sides as well as in respect to the ordinary school course, and the teachers are determined to keep it in the front rank as an educational institution.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations here were in every way highly successful. Notwithstanding the fact that a high wind prevailed and the weather in the morning was threatening, school children to the number of close on 500 assembled in Boulcott street, where the free-train tickets for the Hibernian Society's picnic were distributed. The members of the various branches of the Society and the children were formed in procession and, headed by the Garrison Band, marched to the Te Aro railway station. On arrival at the Hutt the procession was reformed, and marched to Father Lane's grounds. There was a large attendance of the public on the ground

during the day, amongst whom were Archbishop Redwood, Sir Joseph Ward, Archdeacon Devoy, Fathers Lewis, Lane, Holley, Herbert, Maples, Mahoney, and O'Shea. Sports and amusements of all kinds were provided for the children. At night, despite a regular downpour of rain, the Skating Rink was filled, when a national concert was given. In a long programme, the following were the items:—'Off to Philadelphia' and 'Storm Fiend,' Mr J. Jones; 'Kathleen, Mavourneen,' and 'Ben Bolt,' Miss Tansley; 'Father O'Flynn' and 'Asleep on the Deep,' Mr Arthur Hahn; 'Asthore' and 'The Minstrel Boy,' Miss Birch; 'The Last Rose of Summer' and 'Killarney,' Miss Randall; 'The Dear Little Shamrock,' Mr. E. J. Hill; 'Barney O'Hea,' Miss Hall. Miss Minnie McLean recited 'French's Ride to Kimberley,' Miss Julia Moran played a violin solo, and Miss Tansley and Mr. E. J. Hill sang a duet, 'Beauty's Eyes,' the violin obligato to which was played by Miss J. Moran. Miss E. Norden acted as accompanist. Mr H. C. Houldsworth was secretary of the concert committee.

SHANNON.

(From a correspondent.)

There was a very nice concert given in the Town Hall, Shannon, to a large and appreciative audience on St. Patrick's Day, and its success was in a great measure due to the assistance of lady visitors. Miss Staunton, of Dunedin, sang with great taste the 'Dear little shamrock,' and 'We'd better bide a wee.' Miss O'Neill, also from Dunedin, charmed the audience with her rendering of 'Killarney,' and later on 'Arrah go on,' which was encored. Mrs. Darr and Miss Wallace, both from Otaki, gave that pretty duet 'Hear me, Norma.' The Shannon Orchestra gave two operatic selections in good style, and the following songs and other items were given by local ladies and gentlemen, the talent displayed being much above the average:—Miss Hurley, 'The meeting of the waters'; Miss Richardson, 'Gondola Dreams'; Mrs. Harnish, song; Mr. Holcroft, 'Father O'Flynn'; the Misses Carroll and Hurley, Irish reel; Mr. Lynch, recitation; Miss Wallace, of Shannon, 'The dear Homeland'. Mr. Curran, Irish song and dance; Miss Doherty, piano solo; Misses Richardson, duet, 'Whispering hope'; six children, a Spanish dance. The accompaniments to the vocal items were nicely played by Miss Wallace, of Shannon, Miss Withers contributing the dance music. A word of praise must be given to the ladies who decorated the stage in a very tasteful manner with ferns and flowers. Mrs. Moynihan took the leading part in getting up the concert, and the result must be most gratifying to her.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 24.

The Rev. Father John Hegarty, of Red Hill, Brisbane, is at present a guest at the episcopal residence.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley is now at Waimate engaged in collecting for the funds of the new cathedral.

The Catholic Church now in course of erection at Cheviot is nearing completion, and will be opened by his Lordship the Bishop at an early date.

Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' was produced at St. Mary's, Manchester street, on Palm Sunday evening by the choir conducted by Mr. W. H. Corrigan. Miss Katie Young presided at the organ, and an orchestra of 16 performers assisted.

One of the most pleasing features of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations was the number of our non-Catholic friends who devoted so much time and energy to the preliminary work, and also took an active part in the day's proceedings. To these, the happy results of the celebration are in a large measure due.

Palm Sunday was observed with the customary solemnity in the Pro-Cathedral. There was a large congregation at Vespers when his Lordship the Bishop read, and briefly commented upon, the Pastoral of the Hierarchy of New Zealand on religious education.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 20.

Rev. Father Lane, of Toowoomba, is at present here, and, will, I believe, take up his permanent residence in the diocese, as he finds it beneficial to his health.

Rev. Father Costello has written to me from Melbourne, where he intends staying for a while for medical treatment, which he is assured will result in complete restoration of health.

District Secretary Bro. W. Kane, of the H.A.C.B. Society, opened a new branch of the Order on St. Patrick's Day at Gisborne, under circumstances which give every promise of success. Rev. Fathers Mulvihill and O'Connor heartily supported the movement. Bro. Kane had intended to visit the North Island branches, but want of time compelled him to abandon his journey.

The sons and daughters of Erin began the celebration of the feast of their national saint by attending Mass. After Mass the children of the Cathedral parish were marshalled in the square under the direction of Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., and Rev. Father Buckley. These were quickly reinforced by the confraternities of the Children of Mary, the Guard of Honor, the children of the Sacred Heart parish, the orphans from St. Mary's, and the boys from the Takapuna Orphanage. The Hibernian Society mustered in good force, and, with their banner, marched behind the Garrison Band, which led the procession. On its way to the Domain the procession was joined by the children of St.