

Diocesan News

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 13.

The office of Holy Week commenced in the Pro-Cathedral on Wednesday evening. Among the clergy present were the Very Rev Vicar-General (who presided), the Very Rev. Deans Foley and Bowers, Rev. Dr. Kennedy, and Rev. Fathers Ginaty, Regnault, Price, O'Donnell, Richards, Hyland, Cooney, Tubman, Marnane, Kerley, Ahern, Gallais, and McDonnell (2). On Holy Thursday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship (who officiated under great difficulties). The Very Rev. Father O'Donnell was deacon, Rev. Father Price sub-deacon of the Mass, Very Rev. Dean Foley and Rev. Father Marnane deacon and sub-deacon respectively at the throne, Very Rev. Vicar-General assistant priest, and Very Rev. Dean Bowers master of ceremonies. His Lordship the Bishop officiated at the blessing of the holy oils, all the other ceremonies of Holy Week being performed by the Very Rev. Vicar-General. A sermon on the Blessed Eucharist was preached by the Very Rev. Dean Bowers in the evening and watches before the Blessed Sacrament at the altar of repose were maintained throughout the night by members of the H.A.C.B. Society and Catholic Club and others.

On Good Friday morning the services were commenced at 9 o'clock. The Passion was sung by the Very Rev. Dean Bowers, Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, and Rev. Father Richards. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais celebrated the Mass of the Presanctified and was attended by the Rev. Fathers Price and Cooney. The devotion of the Stations of the Cross took place in the afternoon and after Tenebrae in the evening the Rev. Father Regnault preached a sermon on the Passion of our Divine Lord. On Holy Saturday at eight o'clock there was Solemn High Mass, celebrated by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy being deacon and the Rev. Father Cooney sub-deacon. Large congregations were in attendance at all the services, and on Good Friday the church was crowded morning and evening.

The choir are worthy of the highest commendation for the really excellent and efficient manner in which they rendered the service of Tenebrae. Mr. H. H. Loughnan conducted throughout, and to him is due in no small measure the fine degree of perfection attained.

As usual on great festival days, the Pro-Cathedral was most effectively adorned for Easter Sunday, much of the work being performed by a few young men of the congregation, under the direction of the sacristan. The sanctuary and high altar were beautifully decorated and adorned by Miss White, whilst our Lady's altar was tastefully embellished by Miss Kearney. On the high altar a costly canopy was used for the first time and was the gift of a generous benefactor. Very large numbers of communicants approached the Holy Table at the earlier Masses. At 11 o'clock Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, the Rev. Father O'Connell being deacon and Rev. Father McDonnell sub-deacon. The very rev celebrant preached on the day's festival and in concluding referred to the accident which befell his Lordship the Bishop, preventing his presence at the ceremonies of the preceding days and also on the present occasion. At his Lordship's desire, he conveyed his (the Bishop's) heartfelt wishes to the congregation for a happy Eastertide, together with his blessing. In happy terms he thanked the organist, Miss Funston, for her truly great services to the church during all the years of her occupancy of that position, she being rarely from her place on any Sunday or week night when required. He expressed his grateful thanks to the able conductor, the choir, church officers, sacristan and altar society, all of whom devoted their time and energy to the glory of God and the well-being and progress of His Holy Church. The music was Guonod's Messe Solennelle, very finely rendered by the choir under the baton of Mr. H. H. Loughnan, Miss Funston presiding at the organ. The principal soloists were: Misses Pender and Bowler (soprano), Mr. J. R. Hayward (tenor), Mr. E. McNamara (bass). After the offertory the organist played Fawke's Rhapsody, 'O filii et filiae.' Solemn Vespers were sung in the evening, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais officiating, being attended by the Rev. Fathers O'Connell and McDonnell. The Rev. Father O'Connell preached a forceful sermon on the Resurrection to a congregation which crowded the sacred edifice to the doors. During Vespers the Easter hymn, 'Haec Dies,' was sung, and after the sermon, Mrs. A. A. Mead gave a highly artistic rendering of Guonod's 'Ave Maria,' with cello obligato by Mr. H. H. Loughnan. As a recessional Miss Funston played the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's 'Messiah.'

After Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral on Easter Sunday the choir were entertained at the presbytery. Advantage was taken of the occasion by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, on behalf of the Cathedral clergy, to present Miss Funston, on her retirement from the position of organist, with a select little library of handsomely-bound volumes, including the works of Father Faber, 'Catholic Truth,' Lives of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Monica, etc., together with a nice collection of statuary. In doing so, the Very Rev. Vicar-General referred in grateful terms to the self-sacrificing zeal which had all ways distinguished Miss Funston's career in the dis-

charge of duties often onerous and trying. It was (he said) but a feeble return on their part, but its bestowal was at least a grateful acknowledgment by the Cathedral Fathers of what they felt towards her. Mr. H. H. Loughnan expressed his own sentiments towards Miss Funston, and in doing so felt convinced he was also expressing those of the choir as a body (remarks which were unanimously applauded). Mr. James Mercer, on behalf of Miss Funston, thankfully acknowledged the presentation, and suitably responded to the appreciative nature of the many kind things given expression to concerning her.

The names of the vocalists engaged in the production of Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' at St Mary's, on Palm Sunday were not available in time to be embodied in my last week's letter. They are as follows:—Mrs. C. M. Brooks and Miss N. Slattery took the duet, 'Quies est Homo.' The 'Inflamatus' was allotted to Miss F. Gardner, and Miss C. O'Brien sang 'Fac ut portem.' Mr. C. Read sang 'Cujus Animam,' Mr. C. Goggan 'Pro Peccat,' and Mr. Hynes 'Eja Mater.' At the conclusion of the 'Stabat Mater,' the Rev. Father Marnane thanked those outside members of the choir who had given such valuable assistance. As an offertory, Miss Young played Guilmant's 'As pants the heart,' and during the Benediction Miss O'Brien and Miss McLaughlin sang, as a duet, Cartoni's 'Tantum Ergo.'

St. Mary's, Manchester street, was tastefully decorated by the Altar Society. High Mass was celebrated at eleven o'clock, the Rev. Father Marnane preaching on the day's festival. The music was Haydn's Imperial Mass, very capably rendered by the choir, under the conductorship of Mr. W. H. Corrigan, and assisted by an orchestra led by Mr. E. J. Painter. The soloists were: Soprano, Mrs. C. M. Brooke; alto, Miss M. Oakes; tenor, Mr. A. H. Blake; and bass, Mr. J. Hynes. Miss Katie Young was at the organ.

WAIMATE.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 13.

The Rev. P. Rouillac, S.M., the intrepid island missionary, is at present on a visit to his fellow-townsmen, the Rev. Father Regnault, S.M., of this parish.

The ceremonies of Holy Week were commenced on Thursday morning. After Mass—which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Aubry—there was the customary procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. At the close of Tenebrae, in the evening, the Rev. Father Aubry preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Eucharist. On Good Friday the Rev. Father Rouillac officiated, being assisted by Father Aubry. Adoration of the Cross was followed by the Mass of the Presanctified. In the evening the devotion of the Stations of the Cross took place. All the ceremonies were well attended.

At the nine o'clock Mass on Easter Sunday, very large numbers approached the Holy Table. A Missa Cantata was celebrated by the Rev. Father Regnault at 11 o'clock. He also preached a sermon on the festival of the day. The choir, under the baton of Mr. C. J. Goldstone, rendered in a very finished manner Farmer's Mass in B flat, the soloists being Miss Kent, Miss J. T. Quinn, and Messrs. Goldstone and Evans. After Mass the Rev. Father Regnault congratulated the choir for the way in which they had rendered the music, and remarked that it could compare favorably with any of the larger cities. There were crowded congregations at both Masses. The church was handsomely decorated for the occasion.

On Thursday last the Right Hon. the Premier, accompanied by the Hon. W. Hall-Jones (Minister of Public Works), the Hon. T. V. Duncan (Minister of Lands), and Mr. C. J. Moran, M.L.A. (Western Australia), visited St. Patrick's school, Waimate, and were met by the Rev. Father Aubry, and the Rev. P. Rouillac, S.M. The Premier briefly addressed the children, who then sang a song of welcome, and Master Kane, in a distinct and loud voice, read the following address to Mr. Seddon:—Sir,—In the name of the teachers and pupils of St. Patrick's school, I have the honor of tendering you a most hearty welcome, and of thanking you for your kind visit. You have often been spoken of in our homes for the last 10 years. Not only have you opened large estates to small farmers and townspeople, thus enabling them to gain a more independent livelihood, but you have given timely help to the aged poor by the granting of a pension, and to the people in general by large reductions in railway fares and postage duty. The dignity and integrity of the British Empire have been maintained in South Africa through the bravery of our soldiers, who responded so readily to your patriotic appeal. We followed with pride your steps in the country of your birth, when, as the worthy representative of New Zealand at the coronation of King Edward VII., you received all but princely honors. As the interests of education are advanced by our Liberal Government we hope that the work of denominational schools will be recognised and assisted as it is in the United Kingdom. That you will be spared for many years to lead New Zealand in the march of progress is the sincere wish and prayer of the pupils of St. Patrick's school, Waimate. The Premier thanked the school children for their address of welcome. Speaking of the work of the institution, he said that in the broader teaching of Christianity there was room for bringing under the notice of the rising generation that which was of importance to them. This life was temporary, but there was a life hereafter, and people were