

The Rev. Father Marnane went up to Wellington at the end of last week, and the Rev. Father Rouillac, S.M., replaced him at St. Mary's on Sunday.

A bonus of one guinea, presented by Mr. W. Hoban, chairman of the committee, to the person who disposed of the greatest number of tickets for the St. Patrick's Day concert was awarded to Mrs. Scrimgeour, whose sales exceeded £6.

The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., leaves to-day (Monday) for Nelson to be present at the Month's Mind of the late Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, S.M. The Vicar-General afterwards goes to Wellington to attend a Conference of the Marist Order.

A well attended meeting of St. Mary's Altar Society was held on Sunday afternoon in the schoolroom, Manchester street, the Rev. Father Gallais, director, presiding. Thirteen new members were elected, and it was decided to arrange a social gathering for next Thursday week, at which it is anticipated a large number of the parishioners will attend.

There was a well attended meeting of the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee in the parochial library on last Friday evening to wind up affairs in connection with the late national concert. His Lordship the Bishop presided. Before reading the balance sheet the secretary (Mr. E. O'Connor), in a few appropriate remarks, extended the committee's congratulations to his Lordship the Bishop on his partial, if not complete, restoration to health. The balance sheet, duly audited, showed the total receipts to be £130 12s 6d; expenses, £30 12s 4d, leaving a net credit result of £100 0s 2d, which, together with last year's balance, leaves the fund for the establishment of the Nazareth Home at £208 3s. His Lordship gratefully acknowledged Mr. O'Connor's congratulations and said he appreciated the kind remarks made in regard to the great assistance given by the clergy to the committee in bringing about such a splendid result as that just published. As for himself, he very much regretted two things in connection with the celebration—his inability owing to an accident which befel him to be present, a treat he had fondly promised himself; and the impossibility owing to the remote locality where he happened to be to intimate by telegraph the cause of his absence. It was with the deepest satisfaction and pleasure he learnt of the magnificent success that had attended the committee's efforts. The object was a noble one, and whilst thanking heartily his own people, he desired most cordially to thank the many friends outside the Catholic body for their patronage, presence at the concert, and valued assistance. With reference to the introduction of the Sisters of Nazareth, he had been in frequent communication with the mother house at Hammersmith, London. As a result of the initial efforts to secure a community, a short time ago the Rev. Mother of a branch house in Australia visited Christchurch with the object of inquiring into existing needs and reporting home. This report he had reason to know was most favorable, and the visitors were so impressed with the work to be performed here, that they even selected a site, one close to the city, a situation deemed necessary, so that medical attendance could be quickly summoned, when needed, by the class of inmates the Sisters shelter and tend. This particular site, however, was found on inquiry to be no longer in the market. Just a few days ago he received a letter from the Mother-General, who expressed the eagerness they felt to commence the work in Christchurch. Thinking at first that the great work of building the Cathedral would interfere with the establishment of their home, the Sisters were reluctant to enter into any undertaking that might tend to financially embarrass his (the Bishop's) plans, but he assured them that such would not be the case, and he urged them to come even after the Cathedral was started. He recognised the great need there existed for such a home, and was only too eager to see the work carried on without unnecessary delay. Mr. W. Hoban, who acted as chairman of the committee during the past two years, outlined various methods of adding to the fund, and for this purpose a standing sub-committee was formed consisting of Mr. W. Hoban, Mr. E. O'Connor, Mr. G. R. Hart, Mr. R. Duncan, and Mrs. Scrimgeour and Miss Murray.

#### WAIMATE.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 11.

The ceremonies in connection with the Forty Hours' Adoration were commenced in St. Patrick's Church, Waimate, on Sunday, May 10. At the nine o'clock Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Aubry, some 50 boys and girls approached Holy Communion for the first time. The girls in their white dresses and veils, the boys in their Sunday best, with white badges on their breasts, presented a very imposing spectacle. The children during the week had been prepared by the Rev. Father McDonnell, of Christchurch. Besides the children, a large body of adults approached the Holy Table. The Rev. Father McDonnell celebrated the Mass of Exposition at 11 o'clock, after which there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. During the day the church was visited by many adorers, who came to do homage to the Most High. In the evening the Rev. Father McDonnell preached an impressive sermon suitable for the occasion. The renewing of the baptismal vows made a fitting close for the day's devotions. The ceremonies commenced on Monday at 8.30 a.m. with High Mass. In the evening the Rev. Father O'Reilly, of Oamaru, preached a fine discourse. The ceremonies concluded with High Mass on Tuesday morning. Great praise is due to the Sisters of St. Joseph for the splen-

did way in which they decorated the altars. The choir, under the baton of Mr. C. J. Goldstone, rendered special music for the occasion.

Mr. John Flaherty, a very old resident of the district, had the misfortune to have his collarbone broken on Saturday through falling off a dray.

Mr. Donald McPherson, of Waihai Downs, intends taking a trip to the Old Country. He leaves about the 18th or 20th of this month.

The new church at Makikihi, which is now almost completed, will be solemnly blessed and opened on Sunday, May 24.

#### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 7.

A splendid new statue of our Blessed Lady was blessed at St. Benedict's on Sunday, and was borne in procession through the church on Sunday evening.

Word has been received by letter from Honolulu to say that the Rev. Father Croke, en route to Ireland, who left here in ill-health, has reached the Hawaiian port in good health and spirits.

Rev. Father Tormey has, to the delight of his many friends, left the Mater Misericordiae Hospital after his long and painful illness, and has resumed his spiritual labors at St. Benedict's.

Three Catholic councillors were returned in Auckland city last Wednesday week viz., Mr. Peter Dignan (North Ward), Mr. John Patterson (Grafton Ward), and Mr. M. Casey (South Ward). The two first are old members, the latter sits for the first time. The polling in all wards was very heavy, great interest being evinced in the fight.

The Bishop during nearly all last week was at St. Patrick's, owing to the absence of the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., who took a short holiday at Te Aroha, while Father Buckley spent a few days at the Thames. Rev. Father Furlong, of St. Benedict's, has been on a fortnight's trip to Rotorua.

The month of May devotions began in the four city churches last Friday morning. At St. Patrick's his Lordship the Bishop celebrated seven o'clock Mass, and administered Holy Communion to the members of the Children of Mary Society, and also to large numbers of the parishioners. The Bishop briefly addressed the congregation, during which he enjoined on them to practise devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He urged his people to make it a point to attend, whenever possible, the morning and evening devotions during the month of May. Our Lady's altar was most tastefully decorated. At St. Benedict's the Children of Mary mustered well and approached the Holy Table. Our Lady's altar was handsomely decorated by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

#### THE CHURCH AND SCIENCE

Under the above heading a writer contributes an interesting article to the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal.' Many years ago, he writes, Humboldt, the great scientist, declared that a huge library might be filled with the grammars, vocabularies, and dictionaries of savage people, collected by the Catholic missionaries, of whom the Jesuits were not the least. In commenting on this, Father Dahlmann, S.J., the well-known Indian scholar, claims that the beginning of inquiry into the philology of the Chinese, Indian, and American tongues may be traced to this unwearying Order. As Ulfilas, Otfrid, and Notker, from their German monasteries, at the dawn of the Middle Ages, impelled the spread of evangelical and classical literature among the ignorant and half-civilised people of northern Europe, so in late years Catholic missionaries, pioneers of civilisation and science, rob their secrets from the almost impenetrable depths of forests and fastnesses and collect the dialects of the wildest of savage people. In the modest pages of some learned society's proceedings, possibly in Latin, their labors are tabulated, and their names recorded with no hall-mark but the modest initials of their religious Order, and it is to the savant in Europe who collates and compares their work, and combines it in some brilliant deduction, that the meed of the world's praise is given.

At this moment Father Goetz, S.J., is in Paris procuring the necessary instruments, astronomical, magnetic, and meteorological, to found

An Observatory at Bulawayo,

the capital of Rhodesia. Some four years ago Father Goetz met Cecil Rhodes, who was so much impressed by him that he encouraged him to found this observatory, and no doubt had he lived the South African Dictator would have worthily equipped the institution. But the war, and the death of Mr. Rhodes, arrested its progress, and Father Goetz had to arrange matters otherwise. He went to Georgetown University in the United States, which is also a Jesuit institution, with an observatory of international repute—and from this body, with the aid of the great observatories of Harvard, Lick, and Yerkes, he secured sufficient assistance to proceed to Paris to select his instruments.

Georgetown University mentioned above, has secured considerable respect from the learned owing to the enormous influence of its late president, Father Richard, and the remarkable ability of its astronomer, Father Hagen. Here the world-famous astronomer, Father