

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 30.

Special music will be given at the Church of the Sacred Heart to-morrow, Whit Sunday.

Rev. Father Rouillac has returned from his visit to Blenheim. He left to-day for Otaki, where he will officiate at the services to-morrow. He has greatly benefited by his rest in New Zealand. Before returning to Australia Father Rouillac intends purchasing an oil launch of 20 or 30 tons. In all probability the purchase will be made in Auckland.

The Marist Brother 'Old Boys' Association have in rehearsal 'The Colleen Bawn.' The popular drama is to be given at the Opera House on the 15th and 16th of next month in aid of necessary improvements, which the Government Inspector has recommended to be made to the Marist Brothers' school. The Club has been most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. G. De Vito, a recent arrival from Australia, who is acting as coach to the Association. The performance is looked forward to with interest and the tickets are selling freely.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

June 1.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced on Sunday last in St. Joseph's Church, Lyttelton. The Rev. Fathers Richards (Lincoln) and O'Connell (Pro-Cathedral) are assisting the Rev. Father Cooney.

The yearly diocesan collection in aid of the seminary fund, usually taken on Whit Sunday, has been transferred in the Pro-Cathedral to Sunday next. Addressing the congregation on the subject his Lordship the Bishop said that on that day (Whit Sunday) a young priest, Father Creed, was ordained in Ireland for the diocese.

At a council meeting of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association held last week, a letter was read from the Nelson Athletic and Cycling Club stating that it intended to give a benefit sports meeting, and the surplus would be devoted to the funds of the Stoke Orphanage. In connection therewith the council granted various concessions asked for. This spirited action of the Nelson sporting people is certainly deserving of warm commendation, and it is to be sincerely hoped their generous efforts on behalf of so worthy an object will prove entirely successful.

St. Mary's school hall, Manchester street, was crowded on last Monday evening, on the occasion of an 'At Home' given by the ladies of the parochial Altar Society in aid of some of their laudable undertakings. Among the large assemblage were a number of the clergy from the city and some of the outlying districts. Games of various kinds were indulged in, evidently much to the enjoyment of the company, whilst musical items and an abundance of excellent refreshments formed pleasant features of the gathering. The president, Mrs. J. C. Chase, aided by other ladies of the Society, left nothing undone in the way of making the event a great social success.

Addressing the congregation of St. Patrick's Church, Akaroa, on a recent Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy directed attention to the neglected and generally uncared for state of what is locally known as the old French Cemetery, where many of the earliest settlers and pioneers of colonisation in Canterbury have found their last resting place. There is now every probability of this historic spot being put in decent order and kept so.

On Whit Sunday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock by his Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Vicar-General was assistant-priest, the Rev. Fathers O'Connell and McDonnell deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The choir, conducted by Mr. H. H. Loughnan, rendered Beethoven's Mass in C. Miss Pender sang the treble solos, other leading parts being taken by Mrs. A. Mead, Messrs. R. Hayward, and R. Beveridge. Miss Katie Young was at the organ. His Lordship the Bishop preached at Vespers on the subject of the day's festival, and afterwards pontificated at Benediction, attended by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais and Rev. Father McDonnell.

A leading article in Saturday's 'Press,' with the heading, 'London's Religious Life,' constituting an editorial review of a work entitled 'Religious Influences,' by Mr. Charles Booth, contains the following extract relating to the Catholic Church. 'He (Mr. Booth) has much to say in praise of the Church of Rome, asserting that the reality of its power is "as remarkable with the cultivated classes as with the rougher, with the educated as well as with the ignorant, with those who have all worldly advantages no less than with those who have none." Amongst those of rank, wealth, and fashion, whether hereditary Catholics or newly-won converts, their faith enters into, and I think governs, their lives to a degree rare among Protestants.'

At an executive committee meeting of the projected carnival, in aid of the Cathedral building fund, on last Thursday evening, his Lordship the Bishop presiding, a large number of suggested titles for the series of enter-

tainments were submitted. It was unanimously decided to adopt one designated 'Polvorama or World's Fair.' Mr. E. O'Connor was elected permanent secretary, and an entertainment committee comprising some of the best-known musical people and organisers was nominated. The following is a synopsis of the programme:—1.—English stall: Costumes of England in various times, old English dances, minuets, glees, and tableaux vivants from English history. 2.—Irish stall: Irish costumes, dances, songs, and choruses, and tableaux vivants from Irish history. 3.—Scottish stall: Costumes, Highland and fashionable Scottish costume—Scottish dances, songs and choruses, and tableaux vivants from the history of Scotland. 4.—French stall: Parisian and Breton costumes, country dances, the Cloches of Corneville and tableaux from French history. 5.—Spanish stall: Castilian and Catalonian costumes, Spanish dances and songs with mandoline obligato, and tableaux from the history of Spain. 6.—Roman stall: Costumes of ancient Rome, the dance of the vestals with lighted torches and orchestral accompaniment, tableaux vivants from Roman history, scenes from Fabiola, Callista and the Sign of the Cross. 7.—Grecian stall: Costumes of ancient Greece, Grecian procession and dance with orchestral accompaniment, and tableaux from the history of Greece. 8.—Japanese stall: Japanese costumes and dances, and tableaux vivants from Japan. 9.—Maori stall: Maori costumes, songs and dances and tableaux vivants from New Zealand. 10.—The Fairies stall: Fairies and gipsies costumes, a fairy dance, gipsy camp and historical fairy tableaux.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 28.

A bazaar is being promoted, the proceeds of which will be given to the Sisters of Mercy Convent, Ponsonby. It is to be hoped a handsome sum will be realised for this most worthy of objects.

A sum of over £300 was handed to the Sisters of St. Joseph, of St. Benedict's parish, being the net result of the bazaar held during Easter week at the Foresters' Hall. It is intended for the erection of a convent near St. Benedict's Church. It is a handsome result, and the committee of ladies and gentlemen deserve every commendation for their good work. Rev. Father Gillan recognised their efforts by entertaining them at a water excursion.

A public reception was tendered the new Anglican Bishop of Auckland, Dr. Neligan, at which the following letter from our Bishop was read by the Mayor, the Hon. E. Mitchelson. It was addressed to the Rev. Archdeacon Calder, of All Saints' Church, Ponsonby: 'I write to thank you for your kind invitation to assist at the ceremony of welcome in the Choral Hall to your new Bishop. I regret that absence from the city will prevent me from attending. Would you kindly convey to him my sincerest wishes for his health, prosperity and happiness. I trust that in the many good works we can mutually engage in for the benefit of mankind, we may work hand in hand, and may all say of him, by reason of his untiring labors, that "Bishop Neligan is a great, good man." With every kind wish for your health, I remain, yours sincerely, Geo. M. Lenihan, Bishop of Auckland.' This letter was received with loud applause. Dr. Neligan later on referred to it, and said, 'Dr. Lenihan, I am told, like myself, hails from the Emerald Isle. You could not do without Irishmen. He trusted that they would always work side by side in harmony, and that they would never excite the staid and sober people of Auckland by anything like a Donnybrook fair.'

His Lordship the Bishop has been on a visitation to the Waikato parishes during the last fortnight. His first visit was to Cambridge, where, on Sunday week, he administered Confirmation and closed the mission conducted by the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P. On the following Monday evening there was a social gathering in the Odd-fellows' Hall in honor of his Lordship. The hall presented a pleasant and animated appearance. At Hamilton on the following Wednesday evening a social was held in the Volunteer Hall for the purpose of welcoming his Lordship. There was a large attendance in spite of the heavy rain which prevailed during the afternoon and evening. The proceedings opened with the presentation of an address by a little girl, Hilda Floyd, who expressed the feelings of joy and pride with which they welcomed the Bishop to the parish. In replying, the Bishop said it was a great consolation to him to feel that his work is appreciated. This was very largely due to the earnest assistance afforded him by his priests and people. His memory carried him back some 18 years, when he had enjoyed a happy time in Hamilton. He was glad to see how much the town had improved, and congratulated the present and past Mayors on the fact. The rest of the evening was devoted to music. The Hamilton band played at intervals. One of the features was the dancing of the cachuca by the pupils of St. Mary's school, a performance which was repeated at the special request of the Bishop. Before leaving the hall three hearty cheers were given for the Bishop. This brought a most enjoyable social evening to a conclusion. On last Sunday the Bishop was at Rotorua, where he also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large number. He visited the newly-opened school, under the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and was highly pleased with the bright prospects in store for it. With the new presbytery in course of construction he was also pleased. His Lordship returned to town last evening.