

Diocesan News

DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

July 26.

On receipt of the news announcing the death of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII his Grace the Archbishop directed that the bells of the three churches to be tolled for an hour, and the following telegram was sent to the priests of the archdiocese: 'Pope dead. Toll bells for one hour. Celebrate Solemn Requiem Mass as soon as possible.' His Grace also forwarded a cablegram of condolence to Cardinal Rampolla, Secretary of State, from the hierarchy, clergy, and laity of New Zealand. The following letter was received from the Premier by his Grace:—

'Dear Archbishop Redwood,—Though not unexpected, the grief of all our Catholic colonists will be none the less for the loss they and their Church have sustained by the death of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII. He has now passed away full of years and honor, deeply regretted by those of his own faith, revered and admired for his Christian qualities by all classes and creeds; and yourself, the clergy and Catholics of this Colony have my sincere and heartfelt sympathy. Through his Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State our sympathy has been conveyed to the Papal authorities at Rome.'

The children's Requiem Masses for the repose of the soul of the late Pope Leo XIII. were celebrated at the Church of the Sacred Heart by Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., on Thursday morning, and at St. Joseph's Church by Rev. Father Moloney. At the former the sanctuary and pillars in the body of the church were heavily draped. The Very Rev. Father Lewis preached on devotion to the souls in purgatory, and dwelt at length on the many virtues exhibited by the late Pontiff. At St. Joseph's the altar was suitably draped. The Rev. Father Kimbell addressed the children and spoke on the life of the late Pope. The Rev. Father Kimbell also presided at the organ, and at the end of the Mass played the Dead March in 'Saul.' At both churches hymns appropriate to the occasion were sung by the children.

His Grace the Archbishop, in the course of a circular letter to the clergy of the archdiocese, directed:—

'That, besides the High Mass of Requiem which I ordered, by telegraph, to be celebrated on the first possible day in all the parish churches of the archdiocese, one, or more, Requiem Mass be said in every church and chapel of the said archdiocese. That, for nine days after the receipt of this letter, the 'De Profundis' be said in English after every Mass and public service, with any appropriate prayer which the clergy may think fit to add. That, to implore the Divine protection and guidance upon the conclave, in the election of the successor of Leo XIII., the Collect, etc., from the Mass of De Eligendo Summo Pontifice, Sede Vacante, be added to every Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, until the news of the election reaches you. That a Solemn Pontifical High Mass of Requiem be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church, Wellington, on Tuesday, July 28, which all the clergy of the archdiocese, who can possibly come, are invited and expected without fail to attend.'

On receipt of the news of the death of his Holiness the Pope the 'New Zealand Times' printed an extra edition of the paper. Both the morning and evening papers devoted the leading article and many columns of reading matter to the late Sovereign Pontiff.

Thirty men from the H.M.S. Phoebe attended Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart on Sunday last.

The dedication by his Grace the Archbishop of the new organ at St. Mary of the Angels' took place at the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday last. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Hills, with Rev. Father Moloney deacon, Rev. Father McNamara sub-deacon, and Ven. Archdeacon Devoy assistant priest. His Grace the Archbishop, Rev. Father Holley (Thorndon), and Rev. Father Kimbell were present in the sanctuary. The choir sang a Mass composed in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel by Victor Hammeril, and given on Sunday last for the first time in New Zealand. The solos were sung by Miss Hyde (soprano), Miss Kenny (contralto), Mr. Brook (tenor), and Mr. Seivers (bass), all of whom acquitted themselves admirably. Mr. D. Kenny was organist. Signor Boffa led the orchestra, and Mr. F. Oakes, who conducted, arranged the orchestral parts of the Mass. The subscriptions to the organ fund at both services amounted to £72 11s 3d. The new organ, which was built by Mr. Arthur Hobday, of Wellington, is of two manuals, with a pedal clavier, there being 56 notes to each manual, and 30 notes to the pedals. An electric motor is used to supply the wind power for the instrument. This is the first introduction in New Zealand of electric power for such purposes, and it has proved itself thoroughly effective. His Grace the Arch-

bishop preached, and dwelt on the place of music in Divine service.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

July 27.

A very fine enlarged framed photograph of his Holiness the late Pope Leo XIII. has been on exhibition in the window of the Sarony Studio, Colombo street, since the announcement of the death of his Holiness was received. The picture was appropriately draped in black and purple silk.

The following paragraph appeared in the 'Lyttelton Times' on the morning following that on which the news of the Pope's death was received: Indignation was freely and strongly expressed in Christchurch last evening, when the (Anglican) Cathedral bells, only a few hours after the death of the Pope had been announced, rang a peal. The feeling was not restricted to Roman Catholics alone. Members of several other denominations, including the Anglican, spoke very warmly of what they considered a display of extremely bad taste. It is understood that Bishop Julius was communicated with, and that the ringing was stopped.

On the occasion of the marriage of Mr. John Hennessy at the Pro-Cathedral on last Wednesday morning, Mr. E. O'Connor, church secretary, waited upon him and presented an address and purse of sovereigns on behalf of the subscribers, members of the congregation, in recognition of his (Mr. Hennessy's) sterling qualities as a citizen and Catholic and in appreciation of innumerable services rendered to the church.

The many friends and acquaintances of Mr. E. O'Connor will be pleased to learn of the marked improvement in the health of his son, Master Patrick O'Connor. After ten weeks' treatment in the Strathmore Hospital, he was able to leave that institution for his own home, and since then has made rapid progress. So satisfactory, indeed, as to be enabled to take outdoor exercise.

Very sincere sympathy is expressed towards Mr. W. S. Malaquin, who had the misfortune to lose by death his eldest daughter, aged sixteen, last week after a brief but acute illness. Mr. Malaquin is secretary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Pro-Cathedral Conference, and vice-president of the Hibernian Society, and is always to the fore in any good work connected with the church, education, and charity.

Wednesday last, the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, was observed at Mount Magdala with the customary special solemnity. High Mass was celebrated in the beautiful little chapel of the institution by the Rev. Father O'Connell, at which a panegyric of the saint was preached by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais.

Owing to circumstances it has been found necessary to defer the charity sermon and special collection in aid of the funds of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul until August 9.

The Very Rev. Dean Lighthart, Superior of the Maori Missions, arrived in Christchurch on Friday last and is a guest at St. Mary's, Manchester street.

In memory of his Holiness the late Pope Leo XIII, the Pro-Cathedral was appropriately draped in mourning for Sunday and succeeding days. At High Mass there was a crowded congregation, many non-Catholics attending thereby eloquently testifying to the sympathy felt by all classes towards the Church which has recently sustained so severe a loss. There was again a large congregation at Vespers, when the Rev. Father McDonnell preached a particularly fine discourse on the Church, which, despite her trials, sufferings, and persecutions, was found to-day with over 250 millions of devoted adherents who obeyed the Supreme Pontiff. After High Mass and Vespers the organist, Miss Katie Young, played the Dead March in 'Saul.'

Speaking at his Mass on Sunday the Rev. Father O'Connell said everything worth knowing or reading in newspapers concerning the event of the Pope's death and earthly deeds was most admirably summarised in last week's 'Tablet.' The articles had the merit of perfect accuracy, a feature not attainable in a purely secular paper, although the latter, according to their lights, had treated a great subject on the whole in a praiseworthy manner. He exhorted everyone to procure a copy of the 'Tablet' and send copies to their friends abroad, as the next best thing to becoming regular subscribers to a paper which had done, was doing, and still capable of doing immense service for the Church in this Colony.

The Very Rev. Vicar-General presided at an executive committee meeting of the 'Polyrama' on last Thursday evening, when Mr. R. O. Duncan was appointed a lay chairman. The entertainment committee submitted a draft programme for twelve nights' performances, which was adopted. This includes several operas. Mr. King, bandmaster of the Engineers' Band,