

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 6.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., who had been on a visit to his relatives in Sydney returned here last Friday, and has resumed charge of the Sacred Heart parish, Ponsonby.

A preliminary meeting in connection with the bazaar for the Sisters of Mercy was held in the Marist Brothers' primary school last Friday evening, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, J.P., in the chair. There was a good attendance. It was decided to hold the bazaar in the Federal Hall, commencing on November 5.

Rev. Father King, parish priest of Pukekohe, met with an accident when returning from Bombay. He was driving a pair-horse buggy, and at the Pukekohe East and Bombay roads the king-bolt broke, and the animals bolted. Father King was thrown out, and, getting entangled in the reins, was dragged along the road for nearly half a chain. He was considerably bruised. On arriving at Pukekohe, two miles from the scene of the accident, he was examined by Dr. Dalziel, who found that he had suffered no serious injury. The horses madly galloped on, and at the railway station, Pukekohe, one of them dropped dead. Father King's attendant was thrown out, but he escaped unhurt.

Mr. Maxwell Walker, M.A., lecturer on modern languages at the Auckland University College, has been appointed Latin master at the Sacred Heart College, conducted by the Marist Brothers. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly and the Very Rev. Dean Hackett, when in town last week, went over the fine college and spacious grounds, and they expressed great delight at what they had seen, averring that their expectations had been far more than realised, and prophesied a prosperous future for the college. Brother Basil, Superior in charge, has informed me that the new staff of Brothers to teach at the college will arrive next week in Auckland.

The Hon. William Bechan, M.L.C., has been the recipient of an exceedingly nice letter congratulating him upon his appointment to the Legislative Council from the Very Rev. Father Fitzgerald, of the Franciscan Order Sydney, well and favorably known as a great writer and eloquent preacher in the States of the Commonwealth and in Auckland province, where he has made two visitations recently. Mr. Sutton, corresponding secretary of the H.A.C.B. Society, Sydney, also wrote forwarding the Executive Directory's hearty congratulations to New Zealand's District President, adding that the E.D. voiced the opinions of every member of the Society throughout Australasia at the high honor conferred upon one of its foremost officers, thereby earning for the Society itself deserved recognition. Brother Sutton also conveyed his personal congratulations.

The stained-glass window presented by Mr. M. Waishe, to which I referred in a former letter, arrived by the Delphic last week, and will soon be erected in the Cathedral.

Presentation to Mgr. O'Reilly, Thames

It needed not the crowded attendance and enthusiastic reception at the Oddfellows' Hall on Thursday evening, July 23 (says the 'Thames Advertiser') to signify to the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly the high esteem and unrivalled popularity in which he is held by all classes of the community, irrespective of denomination. For the past 25 years that he has been in our midst, he has indeed labored earnestly and truly for the elevation of his people and the public generally, he has ever been ready to hold out a helping hand to those in trouble, to the poor and needy he has proved an invaluable friend, and by his life-long devotion to the sick and afflicted he has every cause to be universally revered. Sincerely do we add 'By his works ye shall know him.' But actions sometimes speak louder than words, and the Monsignor's congregation recognised the present occasion as befitting a practical demonstration of their appreciation.

The energetic committee, consisting of Mrs. J. Ryan, Misses Lynch, Foy, and N. Twohill (secretary) and Messrs. J. M. Foy, Connelly, Duggan, and McEnteer are to be congratulated on the social success of their undertaking, and for the very excellent programme they provided. Musical items were contributed by Misses Boyle, Poland, Landy, Law, McDonald, Robinson, V. Twohill, and K. Murphy, Fiv. Father Darby, Messrs. Ingram, Ebbott, B. Menzies, J. McLean, and Booth's orchestra. During the evening a purse of sovereigns was presented to Monsignor O'Reilly, the Mayor (Mr. Trevelth) presiding. Among the others present on the platform during the presentation were Rev. Fathers Darby, Brodie, Buckley, Dr. Aubin, Messrs. Theo Wood, S.

Hetherington, J. McEnteer, M. Paul, E. Kenny, J. E. Banks, and J. Connelly. The chairman said he was very pleased to be called upon to preside on such an occasion, and expressed his regret at the death of the Pope, whose influence had been recognised throughout the world. He then referred to the many admirable qualities of Monsignor O'Reilly, who had gained the esteem and love of all.

An apology for unavoidable absence through illness was received from Bishop Lenihan, several of the priests also expressing their regret at not being able to be present.

Rev. Father Darby then read the following address to Monsignor O'Reilly from his parishioners:—'Dear Monsignor,—Do we not meet with delight this evening to congratulate you on this your 25th anniversary as our kind pastor, and to express to you personally our admiration of your great qualities of heart and mind. We thank you most sincerely for the very great interest you have always taken in our spiritual and temporal welfare. In thus thanking and congratulating you we do so to no stranger, for your name and fame are for a long time established not only at the Thames, but throughout the whole Colony. It is now a quarter of a century since you came to labor as our director and guardian, and we can all join with one voice in saying that you have done your part nobly and generously and only hope that we may benefit by your good example and teaching. We hail with pleasure the opportunity of tendering a cordial welcome to Fathers Brodie, Darby, and Buckley and kind friends who have come to join with us in showing our esteem and respect for our worthy pastor. In conclusion we pray that the Thames may long be spared such a laborer for Church and Christian education and a true leader in the person of our present pastor.'

Rev. Father Darby said that the feelings uppermost in his heart were expressive of love and gratitude towards the Very Rev. Monsignor, which was reciprocated on all sides. His attitude with regard to his flock had been that of father and child, which is the highest test of affection; he had been a model in every way; it was a privilege to know him, and during the 37 years of his priesthood his life had been one of self-sacrifice. An act was the expression of the heart as well as words, and he would ask the Monsignor's kindly acceptance of the accompanying memento.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, who on rising was received with great enthusiasm, said: I feel by your attendance here to-night that there is a bond of unity between us, and I heartily thank you all for the sentiments that you have given utterance to. You have always approved of my efforts on your behalf, and I have thoroughly appreciated the respect which has been given me. To my co-trustees in the hospital, Dr. Aubin, and the nurses I tender my thanks, for we have harmoniously worked together. The manifestation of regret towards the late Pontiff from the public, the civic officials, and local bodies have touched me greatly, and the sympathy expressed in the Press of the world tend to show that sorrow is universal. In spite of my shortcomings you have taken the will for the deed, and while again thanking you, I trust by the blessing of God the same spirit will animate all my actions in the future as in the past.

Mr. Theo. Wood, on behalf of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, eulogised Monsignor O'Reilly's many virtues, and voiced the opinion of all in being proud to have him as their chairman.

Father Brodie (Waihi), in a few felicitous terms, testified to the Monsignor's good qualities, whose influence was largely felt in his own parish, Waihi. He hoped that the Monsignor would live to celebrate his golden jubilee at the Thames, which remark was the signal for much enthusiasm.

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