

The following pupils of Newtown and St. Mary's Convent were successful in passing the theoretical examinations of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London, held on June 6. The names appear in their order of merit:—Local centre harmony—Senior, Jeanette Levastam; junior, Annie Jenkins, Alice McDonald, Brenda von Dadelzen, Mary Campion. Higher school harmony—Matilda Evans (distinction), Kate Palmer (distinction), Christabel Riordan, Margaret McTavish. Rudiments of music—Local centre, Matilda Evans, Kate Palmer, Christabel Riordan, Mary Gudgeon, Sarah Campbell (Newtown), Odile Rittleng, Kate Grey; school, Nellie Aldous, Doris Heywood, Teresa Fitzgibbon (Newtown), Nora O'Shea (Newtown), Ethel Manning.

August 8.

Mr. Hobday, organ builder of Wellington, has been instructed to build an organ at the cost of £1100 for the Church of the Sacred Heart, Thorndon. The instrument is expected to be ready in 12 months time.

Sunday last was quite a red-letter day for the parish of Wellington South, the occasion being the opening of the new church and school by his Grace the Archbishop. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Keogh, the Rev. Father Moloney being deacon, and the Rev. Father O'Reilly sub-deacon. The Rev. Father Kimbell acted as master of ceremonies, and his Grace the Archbishop, together with Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, the Rev. Fathers Lewis and O'Shea, were present in the sanctuary. After the Gospel the parish priest (Rev. Father Ainsworth) in referring to the great progress made by the parish since its formation, spoke of the splendid way in which the people had responded to his efforts both spiritually and materially. An eloquent sermon on the divine characteristics of the Blessed Sacrament, as the greatest of God's external works, was preached by his Grace to a very large congregation. His Grace also made an appeal to his listeners for contributions towards wiping off the debt on the parish occasioned by the alterations to the church building and the erection of a large school. The collection taken up during the Mass amounted to over £100. Gounod's Mass was sung by St. Joseph's choir with fine effect. Mr. W. McLaughlin was conductor, the soloists being Miss Zara Maher and Messrs Rowe and D. Cronin.

The church as it now stands will accommodate over 500 people. The sanctuary is a very pretty one, and over the altar hangs a fine oil painting of the crucifixion, the work and gift of Mr. Philpott, a parishioner, who bids fair to become an artist of great repute. In the afternoon in the presence of a large assemblage, his Grace delivered a forcible address on education, in which he spoke of the determination of Catholics all over the world to give their children an education in conformity with the end and purpose of human life.

The new school is a handsome two-storeyed building designed by the Rev. Father Ainsworth, and erected by Messrs. Campbell and Burke, who also made the alterations to the church. The building will accommodate nearly 400 children. It contains five class rooms—one 40ft. by 20ft., and four others 30ft. by 20ft. Both the church and school are fitted with electric light. Great praise is due to the parish priest, Rev. Father Ainsworth, for the zeal he has so wonderfully displayed, and also to the parishioners for the generous way in which they have responded to the appeals of their pastor.

On Wednesday evening last the third social of a series was held by the parishioners of South Wellington in Victoria Hall, and proved a complete success. There were between 50 and 60 couples present. Vocal items were given between the dances by Misses M. Sullivan, Segrief, and Twohill, Mrs. Ryan, and Messrs. Twohill and Walshe. The arrangements were carried out by the following committee: Messrs. Vanoy (secretary), Fitzgibbon, Rhubic (2), Philpotts, Campbell, and Sullivan.

St. Patrick's Hall, which was recently renovated throughout, now affords the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association facilities for holding their various functions in their own club rooms. The first of these was the annual dinner on Tuesday evening, which was attended by a large and representative gathering. Rev. Father O'Shea, President of the Association, was in the chair, and at either side of him sat Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, members of the local clergy, Messrs. Martin Kennedy, J. J. Devine, and L. Dwan. Several toasts were proposed and suitably responded to. During the evening the pleasant announcement of a donation of £10 10s from Mr. M. Kennedy towards the new billiard table just erected in the club rooms was made and greeted with applause, as was Father O'Shea's renewed assurance of the hall being placed at the disposal of the young men free of charge.

On receipt of the news of the new Pope's election his Grace addressed the following letter to the clergy of the diocese: 'Rev. and dear Brethren,—With great joy you have received the announcement that Almighty God,

whose arm is not shortened and whose Providence never sleeps, has given to His Church without delay a successor to Leo XIII., by the election of Cardinal Joseph Sarto, who has taken the name of Pius X. To him has been confided the trust so long and so successfully administered by the late venerated Pontiff; on him has been conferred the authority of representing Christ on earth; to him has been given the assistance of the Holy Spirit, that, in his decisions to regulate the Church in faith and morals, he may never err. He is the Vicar of Christ, and to him we continue the obedience and veneration and love, which bound us so closely to his venerable predecessor. In him Peter, the rock, continues still; through him Peter speaks to us with the authority of Christ; and where Peter is, there is the Church. To that centre we are all drawn, thither we turn our eyes to see the light of the watchtower of faith, our ears listen always for the trumpet which sounds thence with a never uncertain sound. And so Pius X. shall be to us another Leo, or rather he shall be to us the same Vicar of Christ, to whom we will render the same obedience, veneration, and love. We know not what lot awaits him on earth, but we are ready as affectionate, dutiful children to soften his trials by our prayers and sympathy, to rejoice with him in his consolations, but above all we are determined that he shall find us true sons of the Church, unwavering in our faith, and persevering in our efforts to be faithful in the discharge of our duties.'

His Grace directed that the 'Te Deum' be sung in every church of the archdiocese after Mass and at the evening service on Sunday following the receipt of letter, that for three days five 'Our Fathers' and five 'Hail Marys' be said after Low Mass; the collect, etc., 'Pro Papa' be said, and that at least one Mass of the Holy Ghost be celebrated, and that the prayers after Mass for protection against the enemies of the Church be continued unless order to the contrary is received from Rome.

Lower Hutt

The Very Rev. Father Lane and his parishioners in Porirua are exceedingly thankful and grateful to Mr. Robert O'Connor, of Te Aro, Wellington, for his generous gift of a very fine bell for use in the newly-built Catholic church in Porirua. Priest and people highly appreciate this generous action of Mr. O'Connor, as it was not intended to have a bell erected until the debt on the church was paid off, which meant some few years yet. As Mr. O'Connor does not reside in the parish the gift is all the more meritorious and deserving of grateful thanks, and Father Lane and his people pray to the 'Giver of all good gifts' that he may be long spared to his family.

Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

July 29.

His Grace the Archbishop is expected to visit Westport next month. In anticipation of his Grace's visit several candidates for Confirmation are now receiving the necessary instructions. The blessing of the new Convent of Mercy, and other important religious functions, will receive the attention of his Grace during his visit to this portion of the archdiocese.

The new Convent of Mercy is now almost completed, and the fine edifice is admired by all. The new building is another conspicuous addition to the ecclesiastical structures of Westport.

The editor of the Westport 'Evening Star' courteously sent the press association telegram announcing the Pope's death to the Ven. Archpriest Walshe. Immediately on receipt of the news the Ven. Archpriest had the bells of St. Canice's Church tolled, and prayers were recited for the repose of the soul of the late illustrious Sovereign Pontiff.

The announcement of the death of Dean Rolland, of Reefton, was received in Westport with feelings of the deepest regret by all classes of the community. A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated in St. Canice's Church by the Ven. Archpriest Walshe.

The news of the death of our illustrious Sovereign Pontiff, Leo XIII., was received in Westport with manifestations of great sorrow on all sides. A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated at St. Canice's Church on Friday, the 26th inst. The Rev. Father Malloy was the celebrant. The church was appropriately draped by the Sisters of Mercy.

The half-yearly meeting of St. Canice's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in St. Canice's Schoolroom on July 22. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, Bro. T. Enright jun.; vice-president, Bro. John Dixon; secretary, Bro. B. R. Gap-