

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 15.

Dr and Mrs Morkane, who had been touring the United Kingdom and the Continent, spent Christmas in Cork, according to advices just received.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the 11 o'clock Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday, with the usual procession and Benediction after Vespers.

The Lenten Pastoral of his Lordship the Bishop, which is devoted mainly to a generous tribute to the religious Orders laboring in the diocese in the interests of education and charity, was read in the churches of the diocese on Sunday.

All the Catholic schools of the Cathedral parish show an increased attendance on last year's roll. This is especially so in regard to the Marist Brothers' primary school, where the greatly augmented numbers have entirely surpassed all anticipations.

Arrangements have been made for an Irish national concert to be given in the Coliseum on the evening of St. Patrick's Day. It is intended to devote the proceeds to the providing of free beds in the Lewisham Hospital, controlled by the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary.

The Rev. Father O'Boyle, although making a good recovery from the effects of an operation for appendicitis, performed in the Lewisham Hospital, other troubles apart from the original one having supervened, has passed through a very critical time. In the face of all he has endured, he is very cheerful.

The members of the Christchurch Catholic Club met in the club rooms, Wiltshire Buildings, last Thursday evening to say *au revoir* to Mr F. Woods, who is returning to Dunedin in order to enter into business on his own account, after some time spent in this city in a responsible position. The president (Dr A. B. O'Brien) occupied the chair, and the Rev. Father Murphy, B.A., was among those present. The president briefly referred to the good qualities of the guest of the evening, and wished him, on behalf of the club, every success and happiness in his new venture. At the same time he was extremely sorry to lose a good worker; besides, the club had lost several of its members, who had gone to the front, thereby reducing the number. He trusted their guest would always have pleasant recollections of his association with the club. Mr J. R. Hayward (vice-president) also spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr Woods, who suitably replied. Light refreshments were partaken of, and the following contributed to an enjoyable programme: Messrs P. C. Augarde, C. Joll, A. McDonald, F. Woods, J. R. Hayward, C. Fottrell, and P. McNamara. Mr P. C. Augarde was accompanist. 'Auld lang syne' was sung by the company in conclusion.

Christchurch North

February 15.

A large number of members of St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society approached the Holy Table in a body at the 7 o'clock Mass on Sunday.

Very Rev. Dean Hyland (Rangiora), Rev. Father Bowden (Leeston), and Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy (St. Patrick's College) were visitors at St. Mary's Presbytery during the week.

The proceeds of the recent garden party, held in honor of the Very Rev. Dean Hills's feast day, totalled £35. On Sunday, the Dean took occasion to thank the parishioners for their generous gift.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

February 15.

His Lordship the Bishop is still on visitation in the north. Last week he was in the Rawene and Hokianga districts.

Rev. Father Hayes, of Tasmania, is at present in Auckland.

Rev. Father Wright, of Waihi, delivered an address at the last meeting of the Holy Family Confraternity.

Very Rev. Dean Lighthouse, who has not yet recovered from his recent motor accident, said the 9 o'clock Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday.

The men of St. Benedict's parish in large numbers received Holy Communion at the 7.30 o'clock Mass on Sunday, and the members of the Holy Family Confraternity, in equally large numbers, approached the Holy Table at the Cathedral.

Rev. Father Stephenson, of Armidale, left on a tour of the Dominion by last night's train. He breaks the journey at Te Kuiti for the purpose of meeting his friend, Father Finn. He returns here in about three weeks on his way back to Sydney.

The following students from St. Benedict's School were successful in passing the Junior Civil Service and Senior Free Place Examination: Eva Simms, Lily Stanley, Constance Taylor, Dorothy Taylor, and George Smithies. In the Junior Free Place Examination twelve candidates were successful.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration committee met at St. Benedict's Hall on Sunday afternoon. Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, Rev. Brothers George and Heinrich, and a large and representative gathering of the laity were present. Most of the time was spent in discussing the arrangements for the children's display in the Domain and at the concert. The evolutionary movements will terminate in the formation of a large living harp, after which all the children will sing 'God save Ireland.' Six choruses will be given by the children at the national concert.

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL, MOUNT EDEN.

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

After many months of hard work, voluntarily given by the parishioners, the members of St. Benedict's Club, and several non-Catholic friends, the school-church, dedicated to the Good Shepherd, was solemnly blessed and opened on Sunday, February 7. The site is an excellent one, beautifully situated, and central for the Mounts Eden, Roskill, and Albert districts. The area is about five acres, this being ample for present and future needs. A large gathering of clergy and laity attended the opening ceremony. Amongst those present were Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, Right Rev. Mgr. Brodie, Very Rev. Father Holbrook, and Rev. Fathers O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., Cahill, Forde, and Stephenson (of Armidale), and representatives of the laity from the surrounding parishes. The building was blessed by Monsignor Gillan. Father Sullivan, C.S.S.R., was specially deputed by his Lordship Bishop Cleary to deliver the opening address, as the Bishop is at present on visitation of the Maori Missions.

Appropriate addresses were also delivered by the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, Right Rev. Mgr. Brodie, and Fathers Forde and Holbrook, and Messrs. J. J. O'Brien, and Fernandez. Reference in the speeches was made in most eulogistic terms to the workers, especially to Father Forde, who has been the guiding spirit in this latest development of Catholic activity in the Auckland diocese. Rev. Father Forde suitably replied.

The collection realised £130, and Monsignor Gillan desires to express his thanks to all who co-operated in any way towards the success of the function.

A sword in the Dijon Museum has just been identified as that used by Joan of Arc and presented to her by Charles VII. of France, says the London *Daily Mail*.

Hon. Thomas W. McGarry, who was recently sworn in as Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, is well known in Catholic affairs in the Canadian Dominion. He was born of Irish parents at Drummond, Ontario, in 1871.