

But the needs of the soul, which so transcend those of the body, have above all engaged Our paternal attention. To this end, We have furnished the military chaplains with the most ample faculties, authorising them to avail themselves for the celebration of Mass and for assisting the dying, of privileges which can only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances. Of those faculties and of these privileges We intend that not only priests who are now called upon to act as chaplains in the Italian army should avail themselves, but also all priests who may in any capacity find themselves in the ranks of that army. And we conjure all, through the charity of Jesus Christ, to show themselves worthy of a mission so holy, and to spare no pains or labor so that the unspeakable comforts of religion may not be in anywise lacking to the soldiers in the arduous struggle.

The hour through which we are passing is painful, it is a terrible moment; but *sursum corda*. More frequently and more fervently let us send up our prayers to Him in Whose hands are the destinies of the nations. Let us all address ourselves with confidence to the sorrowful and immaculate Heart of Mary, the most sweet Mother of Jesus and our Mother, that she may by her powerful intercession obtain from her Divine Son that the scourge of war may soon cease and that peace and tranquility may return. And as, according to the admonition of the Holy Scriptures, to draw down upon the earth the divine mercies the ardor of prayer ought not to be separated from generosity of sacrifice and of penance, We exhort all the children of the Catholic Church to practise with Us for three consecutive or separate days, according to each one's choice, a strict ecclesiastical fast: and We grant that this pious practice of Christian mortification may avail to gain, on the usual conditions, a plenary indulgence, applicable also to the souls in Purgatory.

May the echo of this Our voice reach all Our children who are afflicted by the ruthless scourge of war and convince them all of Our participation in their woes, for there is no sorrow of the child which does not find an answering chord in the heart of the Father.

Meanwhile to you, Lord Cardinal, and to all the members of the Sacred College, We impart with effusion of paternal benevolence the Apostolic Benediction.

From the Vatican, May 25, 1915.

BENEDICT XV., POPE.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

July 24.

The Rev. Father Travers arrived from Tasmania last week for the purpose of taking up work in the Wellington archdiocese.

The Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., M.A., of St. Patrick's College, has been appointed assistant at Nelson in succession to the Rev. Father Finnerty, S.M., transferred to St. Anne's, Wellington South.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Oscar Johnson, of St. Joseph's parish, in the death of her son, a bright young man of 22 years of age, who was killed at Eltham as the result of a railway shunting accident. The interment took place at Wellington.—R.I.P.

Advices received from his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, who is now in America, are to the effect that after leaving Rarotonga a concert was held on board the Marama in aid of the Wounded Soldiers' Fund. His Grace presided, and made a patriotic speech. The concert was highly successful, and the collection amounted to about £30.

The Fifth Regiment Band, under the conductorship of Mr. McCormish, very kindly visited the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, and treated the inmates and Sisters to an excellent musical programme. The Rev.

Sister Clavier showed the visitors over the home, which now contains over 120 children, varying in age from a few days' old. The bandsmen were much impressed by all they saw.

I very much regret to chronicle the death of Mr. W. E. Keefe, of the Accountants' branch of the G.P.O., and for many years superintendent of the Wellington Telephone Exchange. The deceased was a staunch Catholic, and a member of the congregation of the Sacred Heart parish for over 49 years. He was born in Ireland, and came out with his parents to New Zealand when a child. Mr. Keefe was only 50 years of age and next year would have completed his 40th year as an officer of the Post and Telegraph Department, entitling him to retire on pension. The Very Rev. Dean Regnault and the Rev. Father Smyth attended him during his last illness, and he died fortified by all the rites of the Church. He leaves a widow but no family, and to her is extended the sympathy of a large circle of friends.—R.I.P.

Last Tuesday the literary and debating branch of the Catholic Club held its usual weekly meeting at St. Patrick's Hall, when Mr. L. T. Reichel presided over a fair attendance of members. The programme for the evening was a debate, 'Was excessive wealth more harmful than excessive poverty?' The branch is to be congratulated on having such an able and energetic chairman as Mr. L. T. Reichel, whose ability and wide experience eminently fit him for the position. The executive of the club held its usual weekly meeting on Friday last, when Mr. R. Grant presided over a good attendance of members. It was decided to have a suitable memorial erected to the memory of the late Rev. Father Venning. At the club's request, Mr. L. T. Reichel has kindly consented to give a lecture on his travels.

During the time that all the forces were concentrated at Trentham no less than 700 Catholics were in camp, and whilst the hall is large and commodious, it was taxed to its utmost in accommodating the number of soldiers wishing to hear Mass on Sundays. Rev. Father Daly, chaplain at the camp, is most popular with the men, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, and he makes it a point to at all times do what is possible for their comfort. The cost of the hall came to £300, but half of the amount has not yet been subscribed, and it is to be regretted that Catholics should be so apathetic in assisting this good and patriotic work. During the week the Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., treasurer of the fund, received the following donations from the parish committees of the Catholic Federation:—Wairoa, £2 2s 6d; Dannevirke, £1; Napier, £10 15s; also £20 from the Auckland Diocesan Council, and £5 from Mr. E. Sullivan, Pahiataua.

The quarterly meeting of the Wellington Catholic Education Board was held in St. Patrick's Hall last Wednesday evening. Mr. J. J. L. Burke (vice-chairman), in the absence of his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, presided. There were also present the Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., and the Rev. Father O'Connor, Messrs B. Doherty, T. O'Brien, P. D. Hoskins, J. Stratford, J. D. McPhee, L. Blake, and T. J. Davis. Rev. Father Hurley reported that as a result of the combined schools' social the board benefited to the extend of over £150, and Mr. Hoskins reported that the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee had paid over £140 during the year to the fund. Accounts totalling £180 were passed for payment. It was decided to meet again on the first Wednesday in August to receive the third annual report and balance sheet. Mr. Burke, on behalf of the trustees, reported that since the last meeting the sum of £350 had been lent on freehold mortgage, at 6 per cent. interest. This made a total of £500 now loaned on good substantial security, whilst a sum of £500 was earning 3½ per cent. interest in the Post Office Savings Bank. The present board and committees, according to rule, retire and fresh committees will be elected by the contributors in each parish, and from these committees the new board will be elected. Steps have been taken to register the board under the 'Reli-