

Hospital, where he remained for six months. With his younger brother, who was wounded about the same time, he returned to New Zealand, and shortly afterwards the sad news was received of the death in action of another brother (Rifleman F. J. Graham). The deceased was throughout life a strictly practical Catholic, and was a member of the Hibernian Society and of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association. Sincere sympathy is extended to his parents, two sisters, and five brothers in their bereavement. One of the sisters of deceased (Sister M. Evangelist) is a member of the Dominican Order in Australia, the eldest brother (Mr.



P. E. Graham) is a school teacher at Pukemiro, and the youngest is still on active service in England. Among numerous messages of condolence received by the parents of deceased was one from the traffic foreman of the Auckland Railways expressive of the deep esteem in which the late Private Graham was held and of the regret felt by his fellow-workers at his demise.—R.I.P.

WHAT IS LENT?

The word itself is derived from a Saxon word which means "spring." Etymologically, the Lenten season means the spring season, and has no spiritual significance. We, however, give it a spiritual character by the use we make of it. It is a spiritual spring-time when a deep, full ploughing into the conscience of the people—when a generous sowing of the Word of God—will later on bring forth a rich harvest of souls, sanctified and made like unto the Son of God, and of deeds holy and good, like His.

It is a time when a man puts his soul on trial; examines rigorously its motives and doings; judges it by what God requires, and sees where it stands in its progress heavenward.

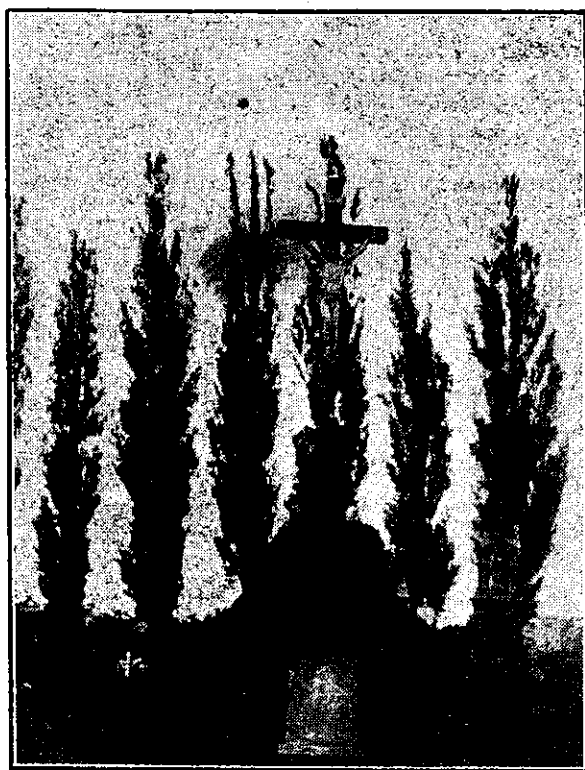
It is a time when we enter, as it were, a cloud which hides the world and its vanities from view, that in communion with God we may learn how best to resist the everyday temptations which waylay us from birth to death.

It is a time when the repentant soul, like the prodigal son, arises and goes home to his Father and says, "I have sinned," and feels the joy of forgiveness in His loving embrace.

It is a time of spiritual refreshment for honest souls seeking God.

It is commemorative of the forty days of fasting and prayer which our Saviour spent in the wilderness—and during this season we learn the wilderness lessons of life.

It is the preparation for the great feast of Easter—the festival of victory over sin and death. And every one who keeps Lent well can rejoice in the victories that have secured to him a "risen life."



GRAVE IN FRANCE OF CHAPLAIN-FATHER McMENAMIN, who was killed in June, 1917, on Messines Ridge while conducting the last sacred rites at the burial of soldiers.

CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL GARDEN FETE.

A very successful and enjoyable garden fete was held in the Cathedral grounds, Barbadoes Street, on Saturday afternoon, February 15, in aid of the schools' fund (writes our own correspondent). There was a large attendance, the numerous entertainments offered proving a great attraction. The pleasant weather also added to the visitors' enjoyment. A number of stalls erected round the Cathedral Tennis Club's court did a brisk business throughout the afternoon and evening. The following were the stall-holders:—Flower and cake stall, Mrs. G. Dobbs, Mrs. P. O'Connell, and Miss M. Cronin; produce stall, Mrs. Scanlan; variety stall, Children of Mary; ice-cream and soft drinks, Mrs. Blakeby and Miss Farrell; sweets and tobacco, Mrs. Mahoney. Refreshments, under the charge of St. Matthew's (ladies' branch) H.A.C.B. Society, were served in a large marquee, the tables being most daintily and attractively arranged. A programme of entertainments proved interesting to those present. A feature was the baby show, in charge of Mr. Cahill. A special prize for twins donated by Nurse King, of Salisbury Street, who acted as judge, was won by Donald and Francis McLean. Other items on the programme were displays by the boys of the Marist Brothers' School, a basket ball tournament, and dancing competitions (judged by Father Fogarty). Side-shows were conducted by the members of St. Patrick's branch H.A.C.B. Society, in charge of Mr. W. Rodgers. Mr. P. A. O'Connell was a capable and energetic secretary. Derry's Band contributed a programme of music. Among those present were Bishop Brodie, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, and many other prominent citizens. The electric lighting arrangements, carried out by Mr. Cotter, were all that could be desired. Mr. F. Blom arranged and erected the stalls in a satisfactory manner.

Eternal is his gladness who rejoices in eternal good.—St. Augustine.

FIRE
ACCIDENT
MARINE

The

Phoenix

(Established 1783)

Funds, £17,000,000;

Claims Paid, £98,000,000