

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 17.

The annual Retreat of the Marist Fathers of the Wellington archdiocese took place during the week at St. Patrick's College.

Father Hurley, S.M., Adm. of St. Joseph's, who has been indisposed, is now convalescent.

As a result of the mission given by the Marist Missioners at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle Street, 20 new candidates applied for admission to St. Patrick's branch of the Hibernian Society at last Monday's meeting.

The mission at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle Street, was brought to a close last Sunday, hundreds being unable to get within the church doors. The large church was packed, at 6.15 p.m. every available space being utilised, including the aisles, choir gallery, the sanctuary, and sacristy, no fewer than 156 men being accommodated in the two latter places. Some of those unable to gain admission went so far as to place ladders against the windows so as to witness the final ceremonies. A unique record of the largest number to approach the Holy Table in any one Catholic parish in the archdiocese was established on Sunday morning, the total being 1287. This makes a grand total of 12,260 communicants during the fortnight's mission, which is a great tribute to the Marist Missioners, Fathers Ainsworth and McCarthy, and to the local parish priests, Fathers Hurley, S.M., and O'Connor, S.M. At the 10.30 Mass, and also at the evening devotions, the missioners congratulated the parishioners on their united response to the holy mission. After the sermon in the evening the solemn ceremony of the Renewal of the Baptismal Vows took place, and the Papal blessing was given. His Grace Archbishop O'Shea thanked the missioners for their zeal and earnestness and the parishioners for their constant attendance at the mission. The Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm. of St. Joseph's, expressed himself as deeply grateful to the missioners. The attendance at daily Mass, when it was difficult to find seating accommodation, even at that early hour, was (he said) most edifying.

On Monday morning three Masses were celebrated, at 6, 6.30, and 7 o'clock respectively, for the repose of the souls of the Catholic soldiers who died during the war, the Catholics who died during the influenza epidemic, and deceased relatives of the parishioners of St. Joseph's parish. There were crowded congregations at each Mass.

Fathers Ainsworth and McCarthy will next transfer their missionary labors to Gisborne, where they will commence a mission on May 21 at St. Mary's Church.

The final meeting of the St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee was held at the Catholic Federation Rooms on last Thursday evening. Mr. J. P. McGowan presided. Apologies for absence were received from the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Fathers Hurley, Smyth and Mahony. The balance sheet disclosed that the celebration was the most successful yet held, the net profit being £352, which sum has been handed to the Catholic Education Fund. Since the inauguration of the Catholic Education Board in 1912 no less a sum than £1200 has been added to the Education Fund by this means. Votes of thanks were accorded to the officers responsible for the organisation of the celebration, to the Marist Brothers, the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and the Sisters of the Mission, for their splendid co-operation, to the ladies who undertook the management of the stalls and tea rooms, and all who in any way assisted to make the celebration a success. The advocates for the celebration of the day on the proper date had reason to feel elated, for although the date this year fell on a Monday, the financial result was greater than the year previous, when

it was on a Saturday, the gate receipts alone being nearly £10 more. The following executive was appointed to prepare plans for next year's effort:—Messrs. J. P. McGowan, P. D. Hoskins, J. J. L. Burke, H. McKeown, and F. Whitaker.

The Thomas Moore Annual Festival will be celebrated for the third time in Wellington on Wednesday, May 28, by an Irish national concert at the Town Hall, at which every item rendered will be from Moore's compositions. The previous concerts have proved a great success, and every effort is being made to attain a high standard. Concerted items will form the majority of the numbers on the excellent programme arranged. A male quartet and two mixed quartets, a trio, a duet, and solos will be rendered. Miss Teresa McEnroe and Mr. Kevin Dillon will also assist. In addition to this, a competition, for which all the test pieces have been selected from Moore's works, will take place on Saturday, May 24, at the Town Hall, and the winners will repeat their items at the Wednesday night concert, thus providing the first part of the programme. For the choir competitions challenge shields have been donated, and handsome cups have also been presented for the elocutionary items. The proceeds from the festival will be donated to the Catholic Education Fund, so that the true ideals of the Hibernian Society under whose auspices the festival is being held, namely, Faith and Fatherland, will be put into practice—Fatherland because the children are being encouraged by means of the competitions to love and make a study of Irish music, while the financial results will help the Catholic Education Board to educate the young in the Faith by providing Catholic schools for Catholic children. These objects should appeal to every Catholic, and it is to be hoped that the enterprise of the promoters will be rewarded by a crowded audience.

We note with pleasure the success achieved by Mr. J. J. Callaghan (an erstwhile executive officer of the Wellington Catholic Club) in the recent municipal elections. Standing as a candidate for a seat on the Waihi Borough Council, Mr. Callaghan polled 616 votes and was duly returned as a councillor.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

May 14.

Father Bowden has been confined to his room for a fortnight, but is getting better now.

His Grace the Archbishop is staying in Wanganui till the end of the week, when he will proceed to Marton.

Father O'Ferrall went on to Wellington on Tuesday to assist with parochial work during the days of the Retreat.

The Very Rev. Dean Holley spent a few days here and renewed the acquaintance of many members of his one-time flock.

We are terribly scorched up here, and in need of a month's steady rain. Most people's tanks are dry, and the place is as dusty as in midsummer. However, we have a great deal to be thankful for, so our visitors tell us, as compared with other districts where there is no feed at all for the stock.

Mrs. James Farrell, Plymouth Street, a well-known and much respected member of our congregation, died during the week at her residence, after enduring a long period of general debility and ill-health. Mr. and Mrs. Farrell came to Wanganui well over half a century ago, Mr. Farrell being a member of the 2nd Battalion of the 18th Royal Irish, one of the regiments which came to these shores to take a hand in the troubles of the time, and a noble old veteran he is. The intervening years have been lived in Wanganui, where the large family was brought up, and some still reside, to all of whom, as to Mr. Farrell, much sympathy is extended. —R.I.P.

On April 23 the marriage took place at St. Mary's Church of Mr. George Watt Mutch, second son of Mr. G. W. Mutch, Fyvie Deers Hill, Aberdeen, Scotland,