

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 30.

St. Anne's Church, Newtown, has just been renovated, and now presents a fine appearance.

Workmen are busily engaged in laying the foundations for the new St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Boulecott Street.

The new Catholic School for Girls, now being erected in Buckle Street, is fast nearing completion, and will be available for use at an early date.

Major Halpin, diocesan treasurer of the Catholic Federation, is at present confined to his bed through illness.

The combined parishes' annual schools' social, in aid of the Catholic education fund, will take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday, June 18.

Father Zeukra, the Syrian priest who has been stationed in New Zealand for some years, is returning to Syria at an early date.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

May 31.

The funds for the new church are gradually creeping up, and are nearing the £6000 mark. Several meetings of the stall-holders of the forthcoming bazaar have been held in order to complete its organisation. The Children of Mary have held a couple of euchre tournaments to form a working fund for their stall, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, also, has held similar functions for the same purpose. Miss Cecily Tabor has offered to organise an entertainment to further augment the working funds of the various stalls.

Father Power left last week for the West Coast, to relieve Father Hegarty, and the local vacancy has been filled by Father Harnett, who had, on a previous occasion, been stationed here.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

May 29.

The H.A.C.B. Society has started on a series of progressive euchre parties, and intends to hold them fortnightly at the Villa Maria. The main object is to establish a fund to provide a scholarship, open to the children of the parish, and then of course, there is the secondary and natural result of bringing members of the congregation in touch with one another. Good prizes are given each time, and the grand prizes, to be awarded at the end of the season, will be worthy of the best players. The third of the series was held on Wednesday night, and so far prizes have been won by Mrs. Smith and Miss O'Neill for the ladies, Mr. C. Trainor and one of a bunch of three who have to play off again, for the gentlemen. In addition to the card parties, there will be a dance on every alternate Wednesday at the Druids' Hall, for the same fund. The society has decided finally on the Roll of Honor, which will contain 50 names, and will be unveiled at a Return Reunion to be held when all the brothers come back. The roll will be a handsome one, having the names of all the soldier brothers inscribed on the marble, and will be an enduring record of the part played in the great war by the members of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society.

Recent arrivals from the Front are Brothers Father Moloney, J. W. E. Miles, W. E. Quirk, J. P. Kenny, F. D. Gaffaney, H. W. Brown, J. H. Richardson, C. H. O. Cock, and J. M. P. Dowdall. A good many still remain on the other side, helping to obtain the peace we all hope for.

Father Bowden, S.M., who has been ill for some time, is just now in Belverdale Private Hospital, having undergone to-day a very serious operation. So far

results are satisfactory, and we all sincerely hope that Father Bowden will make as speedy a recovery as his critical condition will allow.

The cool grass tennis courts and pebbly paths at the convent, so pleasant in summer, but in winter a delusion and a snare, are being asphalted. Winter games and sports, therefore, will be gone on with much more conveniently.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our special correspondent.)

May 24.

His Lordship the Bishop, whose health was a cause of anxiety to his friends for the past week, is at present much stronger, and it is to be hoped that he is on the high road to recovery after his severe illness.

A movement is in train to form a Catholic Club in Auckland. A preliminary meeting has been held, and it was arranged that a further meeting should be called next week in order to give the delegates from the parochial clubs already in being an opportunity for discussion. The club shall be called the Auckland Catholic Club. A central building is to be selected, and it is proposed that a capital of £1000 be subscribed by debentures of not less than £5 each. The subscription for town members will be £1 1s, and for country members 10s 6d; the club to be open to all Catholic men.

The final meeting of the St. Patrick's Day Committee for 1919 is to be held on Monday night. The proceeds are to be given to the Marist Brothers, Vermont Street.

During a visit to Auckland recently I had an opportunity of seeing St. Mary's Orphanage, "The Pahi," Onehunga, which is flourishing under the able management of Sister Mary Liguori. The building is one of the finest around Auckland, and the view of Manakau Harbor is unsurpassed. At present over 170 children are under the care of the nuns. When the Star of the Sea Orphanage was burned the present building was procured as a temporary orphanage, and in the future it will become the Mother House of the Sisters of Mercy.

Preliminary meetings have been held with a view to organising a monster bazaar for the purpose of liquidating the debt on the Cathedral. Under the management of Father Forde, success is assured.

One of the saddest results of the recent epidemic is that many orphan children have been left destitute. Great sympathy is felt for the unfortunate little ones, and the fact that the Government relief can only be obtained through the Industrial Schools Act is arousing great indignation, as it is felt that assistance obtained in this way leaves a life-long stigma on the children. Even in the case of those children who have lost one parent the relief can only be had through the Charitable Aid Board. The arrangements on the whole do not add to the prestige of the moribund National Government.

May 28.

The Bishop has almost completely recovered from his severe illness, and hopes to be able to celebrate Holy Mass on next Sunday.

Father Carran, Adm. Ponsonby, is at present in the Mater Hospital. He is progressing favorably.

On Tuesday I visited Devonport and had an opportunity of seeing the new church, which is drawing near completion. Father Furlong hopes to be able to hold the opening ceremony in about two months. The new building, which will accommodate about 600 people, will be a very beautiful church and a source of legitimate pride to the pastor and people of the North Shore. The cost is estimated at £5000. Messrs. Mahoney and Son are the architects.

The net proceeds of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, which amounted to £200, were given to the Vermont Street Brothers on Tuesday evening. Appreciative references were made to the excellent work of the secretary, Mr. J. Bird, in connection with the celebrations.

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