

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Christmas Day at the Sacred Heart Church, North-east Valley, Masses were celebrated at 6, 7, and 7.30 by the Rev. Father Skinner, and at 8.30, 9, and 11 o'clock by the Rev. P. O'Neill.

At St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, there were Masses at 6, 7.30, 9, and 11 o'clock on Christmas Day. A feature of the day's ceremonies was the very large number of communicants at the early Masses. Midnight Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Convent of Mercy, and also in the chapel of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Anderson's Bay.

Sincere regret was felt in Dunedin when it became known that the Rev. Brother Brady, principal of the Christian Brothers' School, had been recalled to the mother house of the Order in Sydney. During the seven years that Brother Brady was principal, the school made considerable progress, and the many successes of the pupils at the annual public examinations bore testimony to his ability as an educationist. Brother Brady during his stay in Dunedin had the entire confidence of the parents of the pupils, and his popularity with the boys was unbounded. He took a very keen interest in athletics, and encouraged in every way the various football and cricket teams from the school which had been so successful in past seasons. In his departure from Dunedin Brother Brady took with him the best wishes of the Catholic community.

On Christmas Day at St. Joseph's Cathedral Masses were celebrated continuously from 6 to 9 o'clock, at all of which very large numbers approached the Holy Table. At 11 o'clock his Lordship the Bishop celebrated Pontifical High Mass, Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., being assistant priest, Rev. Father Scanlan deacon, Rev. Father Skinner subdeacon, and Rev. Father Corcoran master of ceremonies. The sermon on the day's festival was preached by the Rev. Father Coffey. The music was Gounod's Messe Solennelle, which was remarkably well rendered by the choir, under the conductorship of Brother Cusack, Mr. A. Vallis presiding at the organ. The proper of the Mass was chanted, and the 'Adeste Fideles' was sung at the offertory. There were large congregations at all the Masses, and the Cathedral was crowded in the evening when the choir gave several sacred selections appropriate to the Feast of the Nativity. Brother Cusack again conducted, and Mr. A. Vallis presided at the organ. The following were the selections:—Solos—Mrs. Power, 'Ave Maria' (Gounod); Mr. McGrath, 'Nazareth'; Mr. Popplewell, 'Noel' (Barby); Mr. Eager, air from 'Rebekah.' The choir sang 'Joseph Fili David,' the 'Adeste Fideles,' Santley's 'Ave Maria,' and Mozart's 'Gloria.' At the conclusion there was Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The high altar was very artistically decorated for the festival, white and scarlet flowers and graceful foliage being used for this purpose with much taste and judgment. This was the work of Misses Murphy and White. At the conclusion of the day's ceremonies, the choir was entertained in St. Joseph's Hall. Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., who presided, speaking on behalf of his Lordship the Bishop and himself, thanked the choir for the very excellent music rendered in connection with the day's ceremonies, and also for their services during the year. Thanks were specially due to the conductor (Mr. Vallis) for the state of efficiency to which he had brought the choir, and also to Miss Callan who had proved herself a very capable organist, and one who had a thorough knowledge of Church music. He concluded by wishing the members a very happy Christmas. Messrs Flynn (secretary) and Vallis briefly replied.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 26.

Midnight Mass was celebrated at Christmas in the chapel of the Sacred Heart Convent by Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., chaplain.

Very Rev. Father Brown, C.S.S.R., Superior of the Waratah Monastery, concluded a retreat to the

Sisters of Mercy at the convent, Colombo street, on Saturday.

Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., M.A., commenced to-day a retreat for the Sisters of the Missions, at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, High street.

Christmas Day in Christchurch was marred by very inclement weather. At the time of writing the conditions are unfavorable for out-door pleasure, necessitating the abandonment or postponement of the Catholic excursion picnic and sports gathering.

Masses were celebrated in St. Mary's Church, on Christmas Day, almost continuously from 7 o'clock, and attended by large congregations, there being over 500 communicants at the early Masses. There was a Missa Cantata at 11 o'clock, at which the Rector, Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., was celebrant. Brief addresses were given at all the services on the subject of the day's festival, cordial good wishes for all the joys and blessings of Christmas being also extended. The music was selected from various Masses and was excellently rendered by the choir, Mrs. W. Cronin being organist. In the evening there were Solemn Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, given by the Very Rev. Dean Hills, attended by Rev. Fathers Hoare, S.M., and Dignan, S.M. Rev. Father Morkane, of Holy Cross Ecclesiastical College, Mosgiel, Dunedin, assisted in the morning. In the suburban churches of the parish Masses were celebrated as follows:—The Church of the Immaculate, New Brighton, St. Joseph's, Papanui, and St. Michael's, Hornby.

On Sunday evening at the Cathedral there were Solemn Pontifical Vespers and Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Masses were celebrated on Christmas morning almost continuously from 6 o'clock to half-past 9, each being attended by very large congregations, the greater portion of which were communicants. At 11 o'clock there was Pontifical High Mass. His Lordship Bishop Grimes was celebrant, the Rev. Father Graham, S.M., M.A., assistant priest, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy and the Rev. Father Gilbert, S.M., M.A., deacons of honor at the throne, the Fathers Daull, S.M.A., and Hanrahan, deacon and subdeacon respectively of the Mass, and the Very Rev. Father Price (Administrator) master of ceremonies. First addressing the congregation in general terms, and then from the gospel of the day his Lordship the Bishop preached an impressive discourse, showing the birth of the Divine Saviour to be the fulfilment of the prophecies of ages and the realisation of the symbols and figures predicting the advent of the Messiah. The music was Gounod's Messe Solennelle, excellently rendered by the choir, with Mr. Alfred J. Bunz at the organ. At the offertory Novello's arrangement of the 'Adeste Fideles' was sung. In the evening there was Pontifical Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The occasional preacher was the Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., M.A., of St. Patrick's College, who delivered an eloquent sermon to a very large congregation. The sanctuary and high altar were profusely and most tastefully adorned with choicest flowers and foliage, and in the evening brilliantly illuminated. The whole of the nine fully-furnished side chapels were also beautifully adorned for the occasion. Masses were celebrated at the suburban churches of the Cathedral parish at 8 a.m. in that of the Sacred Heart, Addington, and at 9 a.m. in St. Agnes's Church, Halswell.

The death is reported of the Rev. Father John Keogh, until lately professor at St. Patrick's College, Manly. Father Keogh was a man of exceptional ability and was a graduate of the Royal University of Ireland. He arrived in Australia twelve months ago. After spending some weeks at St. Mary's Cathedral, he was appointed assistant priest at St. Francis', Albion street. On March 1 his Eminence the late Cardinal appointed him Professor of the German and French languages in St. Patrick's College, Manly.

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