

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 28.

The side altars in St. Joseph's Church have been recently renovated, and now present a very handsome appearance.

Rev. Father Quealy, of Brooklyn, U.S.A., brother of Rev. Father Quealy, late of Palmerston North, is in Wellington on a visit, and is the guest of his Grace the Archbishop.

At St. Anne's School, Wellington South, Miss Agnes Delaney was awarded the medal for being dux of the school, and also the good conduct medal.

On Christmas Day Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony's, Brooklyn, by Rev. Father Venning, S.M. The choir of St. Mary of the Angels' Church, under Mr. E. J. Healy, rendered special music for the occasion, their kindness being much appreciated by the Brooklyn people.

At Mother Mary Aubert's Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Christmas was observed by the distribution of presents among the children from a Christmas tree. Willing friends came forward to help the ladies of the Home in the entertainment of the children and inmates.

The great festival of Christmas was specially celebrated in the different churches. At the Sacred Heart Basilica, Thorndon, his Grace the Archbishop celebrated Pontifical High Mass, Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., being deacon, and Rev. Father Doolaghtly subdeacon. His Grace also delivered a short address on the feast of the day.

Mrs. Bridget O'Brien, wife of Mr. Jas. O'Brien, formerly of the West Coast, passed away at the residence of her daughter (Mrs. Kate Beauchamp), Tramway Hotel, on December 21. The interment took place on the 23rd, prior to which a Requiem Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., at St. Joseph's Church. The burial service at the graveside was read by Rev. Father Hurley, S.M.—R.I.P.

At St. Mary of the Angels' Church on Christmas Day High Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), who also addressed the congregation on the festival of Christmas. At St. Joseph's, Te Aro, High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Barra, S.M., Rev. Father Hurley being deacon, and Rev. Father Cullen subdeacon. High Mass was celebrated at St. Anne's, Wellington South, by Rev. Father Geo. Mahoney, S.M., assisted by Rev. Father Herring, S.M., as deacon, and Rev. Father Segrief, S.M., as subdeacon. At all the churches at the early Masses it was most edifying to see the very large number of communicants.

A large number attended the Catholic picnic, which was held at Very Rev. Father Lane's grounds, Lower Hutt, on Boxing Day. The weather kept fine, and a very enjoyable time was spent. The numerous visitors from the city included Sir Joseph Ward and Lady Ward, Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.P., Dr. Cahill, and several of the visiting clergy. During the day a number of sports events were decided, the results being as follow:—100yds (maiden)—A. Sullivan, 1; S. Tresider, 2. 100yds (boys)—O. Dennehy, 1; P. Dennehy, 2. 100yds (handicap)—W. McKain (4 yds), 1; A. Cullen (8yds), 2. Hop, step, and jump—J. Cunningham, 35ft 6in, 1; A. Cullen, 35ft 2in, 2. 220yds (handicap)—W. McKain (5yds), 1; A. Cullen (10yds), 2. Tug-of-war—Mr. S. McGrath's team, 1. Irish jig (ladies)—Miss Reid, 1; Miss Crawford, 2. General arrangements were capably supervised by the secretary, Mr. P. Casey.

The Catholics of the combined parishes of Te Aro, Newtown, and Thorndon held the usual Boxing Day picnic at Khandallah. The weather conditions in the morning were far from promising, but the committee decided to take the risk, and journeyed to Khandallah with the children, who were taken out and catered for

free of charge. As the morning went on the weather improved to such an extent that a great many found their way to the grounds, and by the afternoon there must have been 1000 people present, including his Grace the Archbishop, Sir Joseph and Lady Ward and Miss Eileen Ward, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., the Vicar-General (Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M.), Rev. Fathers Hickson, Herring, Barra, Hurley, G. Mahoney, Venning, and Doolaghtly, and Dr. Cahill. The St. Anne's Drum and Fife Band, under Mr. Dean, enlivened the proceedings with music, whilst the grounds were admirably suited for picnickers. An energetic sports committee provided games for the children, whilst the Marathon race proved very interesting for adults. The course taken was from Khandallah to Johnsonville and back, and was won by Lenihan, of Wellington South. The committee, with Rev. Father Hickson as chairman, and Messrs. Parsonage and McNamara as secretaries, and the ladies' committee, which included an energetic contingent from St. Mary's ladies' branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, are deserving of the highest praise for making the outing such a success.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 29.

Owing to the almost incessant rain on Christmas Day, and the uncertainty of the weather conditions on Boxing Day, the attendance at the annual Catholic picnic and sports gathering, combined with the school children's treat at the Riccarton Racecourse, fell considerably short of previous years' gatherings. At 9 a.m. three electric cars, each with two trailers, left the vicinity of the Cathedral fairly well filled, picking up others at the final starting place. The afternoon proving bright and fine, many others were attracted to the grounds, and everything passed off very happily. His Lordship the Bishop and a number of the clergy visited the scene of the outing during the day, and entered into the pleasures of the assemblage. Athletic contests and amusements of a varied and pleasing nature were provided for the children. On another portion of the grounds a sports programme for those of maturer years was carried out, providing much interest for all present. The Stanmore Band provided music, and incidentally an enlivening effect generally.

In connection with the Feast of the Nativity a Midnight Mass (Missa Cantata) was celebrated at Nazareth House by Rev. Father Graham, S.M., when all who were able approached the Holy Table. The music was beautifully rendered by the Sisters and children's choir. Father Graham preached on the Nativity, and concluded by wishing his hearers all the joys and happiness of the festive season. Father Graham also celebrated Masses at 8 and 8.30 o'clock, and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening. The orphan children were generously provided with seasonable gifts, and the old people with special Christmas fare, a real pleasant time being spent by all. A large Christmas tree, loaded with novelties, was presented to the children by his Lordship the Bishop, and on last Wednesday dismantled, each child receiving a present. The same afternoon Lady Islington, accompanied by the Hon. Miss Stapleton-Cotton and Captain Shannon, A.D.C., his Lordship Bishop Grimes, and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., visited Nazareth House. The Rev. Fathers Graham, S.M., and Gilbert, S.M., with the Sisters and children, received Lady Islington, who was presented with a beautiful bouquet, and entertained with a musical and elocutionary programme by the little ones. In happy terms Lady Islington spoke to the children. His Excellency, she said, after his recent visit, was so charmed and had reported so eloquently of his experience, that she could not resist the temptation of also coming. She was indeed charmed and delighted with all she had seen and heard, and her visit would be to her always a very pleasant memory. At her request Lady Islington was shown every portion of the institution, and entered into kindly converse with the old people.