

3. This was a good race with a big field. Consolation race—M. O'Grady 1, M. Scully 2. Consolation race for boys—Mitchell 1, Mitchell 2. Between the sports games were entered into, and time was spent in social intercourse, and the gathering was a most pleasant one throughout.

After tea Mr. P. Mulvihill, on behalf of the visitors thanked the members of the Hibernian Society for their hospitality and for their highly successful efforts in entertaining so large a company. He spoke at some length on the advantages of such a picnic in bringing parishioners together socially and promoting friendliness and good feeling.

Mr. O'Malley, president of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, replied and thanked their visitors for their presence and encouragement, and Mr. Mulvihill for his kind and appreciative remarks.

Mr. J. Connolly also voiced the pleasure it had been to Mrs. Connolly and himself to see so many friends around them, and said their grounds would always be open for such gatherings.

Three cheers were then given for Mr. and Mrs. Connolly.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

January 8.

Rev. Father Holbrook was elected to-night president of the Auckland branch of the Hibernian Society.

Rev. Fathers P. and D. O'Neill, of Dunedin, passed through Auckland last night *en route* to Rotorua.

Rev. Father Creed, Kumara, arrived from the South yesterday, and is a guest at St. Patrick's presbytery.

Rev. Father O'Connor, of Ross, who has been for some time at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, is now almost restored to his usual health, and was able to say Mass yesterday for the first time since he underwent a severe operation.

Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., is engaged giving retreats to the religious. He finishes a retreat to the Marist Brothers at the Sacred Heart College on Wednesday.

Rev. Father Moloney, S.M., of Wanganui, arrived here last Wednesday by the second express, and celebrated High Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, Rev. Fathers Ormond and O'Doherty being deacon and sub-deacon respectively.

Mr. J. J. Sullivan is resigning from the local Deeds Office at the end of this month, and joins a leading legal firm in Wellington as senior clerk. During his residence in Auckland Mr. Sullivan has closely identified himself with the Catholic Club and Irish national matters. He gave several most interesting lectures here, and his knowledge of Irish history, past and present, is extensive.

The increase of the Catholic population at Remuera has received the attention of Rev. Father Doyle, and the necessity of providing for the influx has become more apparent every day. The convent chapel (Newmarket), and a school hall in Middlemore road are now used for parish purposes. The time has arrived for the erection of a commodious parish church, and with this end in view a suitable site has been acquired opposite St. Mark's road, with a frontage to Ely avenue. On the allotment is a house of fourteen rooms, which will be removed back from the main road and will serve as a rectory. A sum of £2000, it is stated, has been paid for the place.

His Lordship the Bishop presided at Vespers at the Cathedral on Sunday evening, and preached an impressive sermon dealing with the old year and the new year. His Lordship pointed out to his hearers that while they listened to him their onward race to death was certain, and he exhorted all, young and old, to pause and think on their arrival at another milestone on the journey of life. He asked them to look back on the past year, and profit by their failures, and resolve in this and the years to come to lead better and holier lives. A procession took place after the sermon, the Blessed Sacrament being borne by his Lord-

ship, Rev. Fathers Moloney and Creed being deacon and sub-deacon respectively, and Rev. Father Holbrook, Adm., master of ceremonies. Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, and Rev. Father O'Doherty also took part in the procession. The choir mustered strongly, under Mr. Hiscocks, and rendered the music in a finished manner.

Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

December 31.

The Catholic schools' picnic, advertised to be held on Boxing Day, had to be abandoned at the last minute, owing to the action of the local railway management. It seems the charges had been increased to a considerable extent over those made for carrying the State school children. Rev. Father Lane, speaking on Sunday, stated that he felt the injustice so keenly that he had decided to cancel the whole of the arrangements. However, so as not to disappoint the children, he promised that the picnic should eventuate within two weeks.

In connection with the Christmas festival a mid-night Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church by Rev. Father Lane. The high altar and the altar of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin were beautifully decorated for the occasion by the ladies of the Altar Society. The music of the Mass was taken from Mozart and Hadyn. Novello's fine arrangement of 'Adeste Fideles' was also sung. The choir, though not numerically strong, gave a good rendition of the music, and were ably assisted by an orchestra. The choirmaster, Mr. Kimpton, and the organist, Miss Neil, deserve special mention for their untiring efforts to make the music of the Mass such a success.

After Mass on Sunday the members of the choir were the guests of Father Lane at the presbytery, the occasion being the making of a presentation to Mr. Kimpton, the conductor, who is severing his connection with the choir on account of ill-health. Father Lane, in making the presentation, referred in eulogistic terms to the valuable services so freely given by Mr. Kimpton, who had at all times been most assiduous in his attention to the arduous duties of conductor. Father Lane then, on behalf of the members of the choir, made him a presentation of a handsome travelling companion, suitably inscribed. Father Lane, representing the congregation, presented Miss Neil, the organist, with a handsome silver combined kettle and lamp, and thanked her most heartily for the gratuitous services rendered to the choir during a long period. Both recipients suitably replied, and after being hospitably entertained by Father Lane, the guests dispersed.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

January 8.

St. Mary's Tennis Club will be formally opened on Wednesday afternoon, January 17, when members, and particularly, intending members, are invited to be present. Although the opening day has been fixed so late in the season, still the members have been playing for the past two months or so, but were handicapped by the bad weather prevailing during that time.

I take the following from this morning's *Southland Times*:—The Hibernian Band will leave on the 20th inst. to compete in the brass bands' contest, which will be held in Christchurch about the end of the month. At a promenade concert at Rugby Park yesterday, the band appeared for the first time in their new uniforms, which presented a pleasing appearance. The uniforms are of dark green cloth, with white facings. Under their conductor (Mr. A. R. Wills) the band has lately advanced considerably, from a musical point of view, and it is confidently anticipated that it will make a favorable showing at the contest. Yesterday the band went through the contest quickstep 'Light Cut,' in addition to rendering an all-round programme of music. There was a big attendance of the public, the collection taken up realising some £15.