

among the Archbishops assembled, as he was the oldest Archbishop present. Not only that, but his Grace was New Zealand's first Archbishop, therefore the occasion would be a most historical event in the history of the Church in this Dominion.

Rev. Father James Goggan, S.M., who accompanied the Archbishop to Rome on the occasion of his Grace's elevation to the Archbishopric 25 years ago, made eulogistic references to the Archbishop's many good qualities, and to the unique record reign of his Grace as Metropolitan of New Zealand.

A committee of the laity was then set up, consisting of Colonel Collins (chairman), Mrs. Twohill, Miss K. Robinson, and Messrs. B. Doherty (treasurer), W. C. Gasquoine, H. O'Leary, M. Kennedy, J. E. Fitzgerald, J. J. L. Bourke, F. K. Reeves, F. O'Neill, M. J. Hodgins, Hoskins, Healy, Lawlor, Kearns, and F. W. Crombie (secretary). The committee met subsequently, and decided to recommend, at a meeting to be held on Wednesday next, that his Grace be entertained at a *conversazione* in the Town Hall, and presented with an address and a purse of sovereigns.

PRESENTATION TO FATHER PEOPLES, THORNDON

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

April 20.

The high esteem in which the Rev. Father W. J. Peoples, S.M., is held by the parishioners of Thorndon was fully evidenced last evening at the Guildford Terrace Schoolroom, where there was a large attendance to say farewell to the Rev. Father on the occasion of his transference to St. Anne's, Wellington South. Colonel Collins, C.M.G., occupied the chair, and there were present on the platform, which was specially decorated for the occasion, Rev. Fathers McCarthy, Bartley, and C. J. Venning, and Messrs. J. E. Fitzgerald, W. C. Gasquoine, Henrys, and Maher. The presentation consisted of a splendid six-horse-power, twin-cylinder, Victoria motor bicycle, which cost £85.

Colonel Collins, on behalf of the parishioners, made the presentation. He said they were assembled that evening to do honor to one who served for four years amongst them, during which time he endeared himself to all. When it became known that Father Peoples was to leave them genuine regret was expressed, because in him they lost a good priest and a good friend. Father Peoples came to them as a stranger. To many he became known by his good works. He was ever ready at the call of duty, and no one knew the extent of the Rev. Father's devotedness, except those who were unfortunate enough to have experienced sickness or death in the family. He was always found at the bedside of the sick and the dying, extending to them the comfort and consolation of our holy religion. It was not surprising, therefore, when people came forward anxious to show in a slight way the appreciation of his work. In conclusion, he asked Father Peoples to accept the motor bicycle as a slight token of the esteem and regard in which he was held by the people of Thorndon.

Rev. Father Peoples, on rising to reply, was greeted with prolonged applause. He expressed his gratitude to the people of Thorndon for the handsome tribute they had paid him on that evening. He could not, he said, find words to express his feelings in this regard. He regretted he was taking his farewell from a people he was amongst for a period of four years—a sharer in their joys and in their sorrows. What they had done for him that night did not surprise him, as he had experienced the same feeling during the many days he labored amongst them—a feeling that they were a generous and kind-hearted people. It was true he was not going far—only to another part of Wellington working for the same cause,—but he would always consider his association with the people of Thorndon as the brightest gem in his memory. How devoted they were to their priests, to the Catholic education of their children, which was the happiness of homes and the

foundation of society. He would never forget his association with his Grace the Archbishop, who extended to him every consolation, and treated him like a good father. He trusted that the people would rally around the Archbishop on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his Grace's elevation to the Archbishopric. In the Rev. Father Hickson he found a true friend. To the esteemed chairman (Colonel Collins) he felt exceedingly grateful. To the ladies and gentlemen of the committee he also expressed his gratitude, and in conclusion regretted that he had to leave them.

Councillor J. E. Fitzgerald took the opportunity of welcoming to Thorndon the Rev. Father C. J. Venning, S.M., who succeeds Father Peoples. In Father Venning they had one of the keenest and busiest men in Wellington. In him they had one of the greatest defenders of the Catholic faith in New Zealand. He (Councillor Fitzgerald) had been connected with the Rev. Father for many years, and was in a position to assure his hearers of the great work that Father Venning had done and is doing in the cause of charity in Wellington, and how that work was appreciated by non-Catholics as well as Catholics. He extended to Father Venning a real hearty welcome.

Father Venning briefly thanked them for the reception which they had accorded him.

During the evening musical items were contributed by the Misses Gibbs, Mesdames Blythe and Costello, and Master Fergus Reeves. Before the gathering dispersed hearty cheers were given for the Rev. Fathers Peoples, Venning, and Colonel Collins.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Sir J. G. Ward, Rev. Father Hickson, and others.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

April 22.

Feeling references were made in the churches yesterday to the sad tragedy of the *Titanic*.

The Mayor of Auckland waited on the Ven. Archdeacon Brodie, and congratulated him on the stand taken by him against Anarchist propaganda at Waihi.

Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., Adm., Sacred Heart Basilica, Wellington, who is on a visit to Auckland, celebrated Mass at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital yesterday. He returns home via the thermal district, leaving here to-morrow.

The district officers of the Hibernian Society sent the following cable last Saturday morning to his Grace Archbishop Kelly, of Sydney: 'New Zealand Hibernians with you in spirit, rejoice your investiture Pallium.—William Kane (Secretary).'

The Cathedral Feis, which concluded on Saturday night, was a pronounced success, over £2000 being netted. This will be devoted to the reduction of the Cathedral debt. All concerned have every reason to be proud of and satisfied with the achievement. Where all worked so assiduously and constantly it would be invidious to mention names, but Rev. Father Holbrook deserves a special word of praise. He gathered around him as fine a body of ladies and gentlemen as could be desired, but he was the magnet, the incentive power which set in motion the great working machinery. The finale was eminently Catholic. When the body of workers finished, they were conveyed in motor cars to the Cathedral, where, on Sunday morning at 2 o'clock, Rev. Father Holbrook celebrated Mass. One hundred and thirty persons were present, several of whom received Holy Communion. From the altar steps Father Holbrook thanked all for their strenuous and untiring labors of months past, particularly during the past fourteen days. His Lordship the Bishop (he said) would be particularly pleased, as the debt on the Cathedral would be lightened, and in his Lordship's name he thanked them from his heart. Throughout the whole time the utmost harmony prevailed, and they could look back with pleasure to the results achieved. After Mass the workers were conveyed to their homes. What a grand closing to a successful undertaking!