

themselves up to lasciviousness, unto the working of all uncleanness, unto covetousness. But, you! you have not so learned of Christ.' Would he make appeal in your case to dull minds and cold, indifferent hearts. No! you exclaim; a thousand time, no; we have sworn and resolved, with the help of God, to be equal to our vocation and destiny.

At the end of Mass a procession was formed from the church to the new building. The cross-bearer (Mr. John Boyle) led the way, followed by the school children, the Children of Mary, fifteen members of the community of the Sisters of Mercy, the Young Men's Society, the Hibernian Band of Invercargill, the general congregation, and his Lordship the Bishop, clergy, and acolytes. On arrival at the convent, his Lordship proceeded with the blessing of the different apartments, the band meantime playing some sacred motets outside.

At the end of the blessing of the building his Lordship, standing in cope and mitre, addressed the assemblage from the steps of the front entrance. He congratulated the congregation on the progress the parish had made since its inception 17 years ago. The church had been enlarged and improved, a Catholic school had been provided, and the Sisters of Mercy had been introduced. No doubt, these religious teachers had been a great blessing to the parish. The members of this Order were scattered throughout the whole British Empire; they approved themselves to bishops, clergy, and people by their unselfish and whole-hearted devotion to works of charity among the sick and poor, and to the religious education and Christian character-building of the coming generations. He was pleased that their labors in this parish had produced so marked an effect on the children and young girls of the district, that the fathers and mothers of families were anxious to show their appreciation of it by generously providing them with the means necessary for the efficient carrying out of their work. Hence, they were here in such large numbers at the day's ceremony. A new and more spacious building was deemed necessary, and so those large and airy apartments, just blessed by him, and so necessary for the health of hard-worked teachers, were constructed. He need hardly say that he hoped that the generosity of the people and their desire to see the institutions of religion progressing year by year in this parish, as indeed he had to say they were in a very remarkable way, would result to-day in contributions so generous as would clear the new convent of debt and so save their zealous and energetic pastor and the good nuns from all anxiety, and set them free for further improvements in the schools, churches, and religious societies of this parish.

The collection taken up came to £167 10s, which, when added to sums previously given, would go a good way towards clearing off the debt. At the conclusion of this part of the ceremony the congregation retired to the school and in relays partook of the good things to which the Children of Mary helped them, the band enlivening the feast all the time.

At 3 o'clock the people came again to the church, when the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered. About 50 children were confirmed. At the conclusion of the ceremony his Lordship explained the effects of the Sacrament, put before the children the dangers they were likely to meet during life, the necessity of avoiding the dangers of bad books and newspapers, the prevalence of vice, luxury, and intemperance, whilst he impressed on his young hearers the advantages of following the lessons and advice given them by pastors, parents, and teachers, and the fruits of daily prayer and of the Sacraments. In concluding he asked the children to make a solemn promise to avoid bad companions, to shun the reading of bad books, to take upon themselves the obligation against intemperance imposed by the pledge of the League of the Cross.

Very Rev. Father Lynch here thanked the Bishop, the preacher, the Children of Mary, the band, the choir, the contributors, and all who had helped to make the opening of the new convent such a pronounced success.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament concluded a memorable day in the parish of Wrey's Bush.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The festival of Pentecost was kept with fitting solemnity at the Cathedral on Sunday last, when High Mass was sung at 11 o'clock by Very Rev. Father Price, D.C., Adm., assisted by the Rev. Father Murphy, B.A., as deacon, and the Rev. Father Long as subdeacon. The sermon was preached by Very Rev. Father Price, who took for his subject the 'Inspiration of the Church.' In announcing the annual collection for the Seminary Fund, the Very Rev. Administrator said:—To have continually to replenish the ranks of his clergy and to keep up an adequate supply in every emergency, is one of a Bishop's greatest anxieties and responsibilities. A steady supply of young priests is needed year by year to fill up the gaps created by death, or age, or the extension of parochial needs. There are many worthy young men, willing and eager to become priests and consecrate their lives to the sanctification of others but whose parents cannot afford to educate them. It is to assist such deserving youths that this collection for ecclesiastical education is made. I would, therefore, exhort and entreat you to contribute with all possible generosity, in view both of the singular importance of this charity to the best interests of religion, as well as of the urgency of our present and future needs. Although our annual supplies derived from our own students are at present by no means equal to our wants, we sincerely hope that with the funds you will place at our disposal, the supply of our clergy will before many years be equal to diocesan requirements. For the fulfilment of this condition, without which religion can make no reliable progress in the diocese, we must pray that God may inspire all those who, in their latter days, would wish to do a signal work of charity for their own salvation and for the benefit of the Church, to bequeath a legacy to ecclesiastical education or that parents would pray that their sons may be blessed with a vocation to the holy priesthood. There would then be, year by year, an ever-increasing number of fathers and mothers in this diocese privileged to enjoy that greatest consolation that God sends to Catholic parents—that, namely, of seeing one or more of their own sons consecrated to the order of priesthood and standing at God's altar, to offer the awful Sacrifice of Holy Mass, there to intercede for the father and mother to whom they owe life and so many temporal blessings, and later on, when they have been called to their reward, to continue to offer prayer and sacrifice for the repose of their souls.

The Allen Doone Season

After playing to good houses during the week, the Allen Doone Company brought its season to a close on Saturday evening. On Monday the Invercargill season of three nights was commenced, at the conclusion of which the company will proceed to Nelson, playing there for two nights. Greymouth will be visited from May 22 to 26; Reefton, May 27; Hokitika, May 28; Westport, May 30, 31, and June 1; Blenheim, June 5 and 6. After concluding the West Coast tour, another season will be played in Wellington for a week, and the company will then make a tour of the smaller towns, arriving in Auckland for a season lasting from July 7 to 19. At the conclusion of the New Zealand tour Mr. Doone will proceed to Melbourne, opening there during Show Week in a new piece which he has purchased entitled 'Barry of Ballymoore.' After an extensive tour of the Australian States, the company expects to be in New Zealand again next summer. Mr. Doone is highly gratified with the success of the present New Zealand tour, and speaks in terms of warm appreciation of the exceedingly kindly welcome he has received from New Zealanders. He has made many friends during his previous and present tours, and is looking forward to the return visit and to the renewal of his acquaintances.

RONALD STEWART TESTIMONIAL FUND

We have received 10s for the above fund from Mr. James Walsh, Harringtons.

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