

Christchurch North

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Tuesday evening, August 19, the Children of Mary, of St. Mary's parish, met in the schoolroom, Manchester street, to bid farewell to their president, Miss Bridget McGrath, who was leaving to enter the Convent of St. Joseph, Wanganui. The schoolroom was tastefully decorated, and a short musical programme was gone through, each item receiving a well-merited encore. The Rev. Father Dignan, S.M., Misses Brick, Cosgrove (2), Barnett, and Haughey contributed.

The Rev. Father Hoare, S.M. (spiritual director), in a few words, explained the object of the gathering, and on behalf of the Children of Mary, wished Miss McGrath every success in her new choice of life. During the short time she was amongst them she had endeared herself to the hearts of all, and would leave behind her many kind friends in St. Mary's, who would think of her and strive to follow out the good advice she had given whilst president of the sodality. He then presented Miss McGrath with a little souvenir from the Children of Mary in the form of a book.

Miss McGrath carries with her the good wishes of all in her new sphere of life.

Manaia

(From an occasional correspondent.)

An Okaiawa Catholic resident is one of the representative footballers chosen to represent New Zealand in the tour to America. I refer to Dick Roberts, and offer him congratulations which his merit as a footballer deserves.

Manaia is the principal town in this parish, which also includes Okaiawa, Otakeho, Auroa, and Kapuni. This parish, acre for acre, surpasses anything in this Dominion as regards the production of milk, from which is manufactured principally Cheddar cheese for the English market. The Rev. Father Saunderson, late of Waipawa, is the parish priest, and celebrates Mass at Manaia every day, and on alternate Sundays at Auroa and Okaiawa. The Manaia church is taxed to overflowing on Sundays, and has, I believe, twice as large a congregation as any other in the district—Catholic or non-Catholic. Our pastor has been delivering, on Sunday evenings during this last three months, a series of lectures on the Bible, tracing its history from century to century down to the present day, which is essential, as well as educative, on account of the Bible-in-schools agitation just now. The church property in Manaia has just been painted, and a number of willing workers among the parishioners have cut fences, etc. As many as twenty-five men, and half a dozen drays and teams have been engaged weekly during the winter in improving the church property. The result is not only a credit to them as Catholics, but it beautifies the town, and shows they are a live body.

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