

Diocesan News

Archdiocese of Wellington

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 2.

The New Year is in with much shrieking of whistles, jangling of pianos, wailing of gramophones, and droning of the pipes. One enthusiastic piper walked the streets in the wee sma' hours, tirling, skirling, moaning, droning. Dirges at three in the morning are a cheerful way of ushering in a New Year. It was useless to point out to the residents that every soul has its own enjoyment, and what was a little loss of sleep provided one soul was made happy. A wakeful night destroys the sense of justice. But the taciturnity of the others did not dim the ardor of the first-footers; 1925 got a great welcome. It is to be hoped we get a spell of better weather. The city has had slips, and landfalls galore, and the country has more than a few Hanrahans prophesying "Roon if this rain doesn't stop."

Father Athanasius Ryan has left to give the Retreat to the Sisters of the Missions, Nelson.

Christmas at the Nai Nai was a very happy function. Santa Claus came in by the door, and found his tree already waiting for him at the end of a long room. The children were delighted, of course.

This year we have had no Boxing Day picnic. Last year after great and tedious preparation the attendance was poor, so this year it was decided to hold only an art union. Catholics are requested to support this art union, since it is a means of helping Catholic education, and of providing scholarships at Catholic schools. The work of those who have till now worked for the picnics is not a thing to be taken for granted. It can best be recognised by the purchase of the tickets.

The Hutt picnic on Boxing Day took place as usual. It was well attended and a fine result was obtained. Rev. Father Daly had the assistance of a very energetic committee. It was a little sad this year for one could not forget that it was the first one without Dean Lane, God rest his soul! He inaugurated these picnics and they were among his happiest days.

Masses were celebrated in all the churches on New Year's Day and were well attended. Everyone seemed desirous of cleaning the skillet for the New Year.

Mother Joseph Aubert, that veteran of charity, acknowledges thankfully donations from the following towards her institutions: Commercial Travellers' Association (£75), Sir James Wilson, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Young, St. Patrick's College, Messrs. J. O'Brien, J. Staples and Co., Dwan Bros., N.Z. Warehousemen's Association, G. Thomas and Co., Combined Aerated Waters Co., Laery and Co., Colonial Motor Co., J. J. Bourke, Frank Fanning, J. Henrys, O. J. D'Ath, J. Gamble, Dealy, H. Abbott, J. Mulhern, W. Wolland, Gamble and Creed, R. Hannah and Co., J. E. Taylor, George Lambert, J. Wall, J. Downes, P. Oakes, E. P. Bunny, J. Carroll,

Creagh O'Connor, F. McParland, M. J. Crombie, J. E. Connor, G. Winder, T. G. Bate, Dustin's, D. Madden, Levin, Gregory, Gordon, Jacobs, Burke (Manakau), H. Ryan, employees Samuels and Kelly, Fagan, Herlihy, Tomlinson; Mesdames C. Rolleston, W. Nathan, V. Riddiford, Abbott, Mulhern, Coles, Peters, Walter Johnston, L. Dwan, Gawne, O'Donovan, Brown, Webb, McEvedy, Sales, Oakes, McGuire, Joseph, Lawlor, Murphy, Clark, J. McManaway, Davidson, Guthrie, O'Regan, Montgomery, Beveridge; Misses Discaceti, Sheedy, Gillespie Barry, Breed, Flaunery; Mrs. Clark's Sewing Guild, and Butter Contributors, and many others who materially assisted in making the Christmas festivities such a success.

RETREATS FOR LAYMEN.

The dates fixed for the various Retreats for laymen are:—Wanganui, January 16 to 19; Wellington, January 23 to 26; Christchurch, January 16 to 19.

CONNEMARA RELIEF FUND.

The Irish Society here had the pleasure of cabling home to Connemara the sum of £100 towards the relief of the starving peasants there. Not since the famine has there been such need, and it is wise to send what help is possible before matters grow worse. Owing to the wet season the potato crop has failed, and owing to the eating of seaweeds, and other unnatural foods from the shore, scurvy and typhus have both broken out in parts. No one could read of such misery in any country and remain untouched. Since the cable additional donations have come in. The list remains open that Irish men and Irish women may still have a chance to contribute.

The greater part of the sum collected was obtained at the "at home" for which Mrs. Bourke lent her residence, and most of the donors in the following list attended the "at home" and contributed there also. Here is the list of actual donations:—Rev. Father Collins, C.S.S.R., £2; Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, £1; Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., 10s; Rev. Father Ryan, S.M., £1; Rev. Father Connolly, 10s; Rev. Father V. Kelly, 10s; Mother Joseph, St. Bride's Convent, Masterton, £1; Mr. M. Crombie, £1; Mr. F. O'Neill, Johnsonville, 10s; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brookes, 10s; Mrs. Redwood, £2 2s; Mr. C. Twomey, £1 1s; Mr. Burke, Gisborne, 10s; Mr. Carson, 6s; Miss Goaley, 5s; Mr. Russell, 10s; Mr. Donnellan, £1; Miss Kelly, Newtown, £1; Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Bourke, £10; Mrs. Burgess, 5s; Miss Cotter, 10s; Miss Duggan, 10s; Mr. D. Collins, 10s; Mr. M. Collins, 10s; Mr. Maloney, 10s; Mr. Noone, 10s; Miss Lenihan, 7s 6d; Miss Sawyer, 10s; Miss O'Keefe, £1; donation from Club funds, £12 10s; Mr. Griffin, Newtown, 5s; Mrs. Quirk, Gisborne, £5; Mrs. W. Ferguson, Silverstream, £1; Mrs. Beswick, Wanganui, 10s; collected by Mrs. O'Connell, Onehunga, and by Mrs. Reiridon, Newton, Auckland, £11 10s. The additional donations are being forwarded for the New Year. Anyone de-

sirious of helping a starving people can forward a donation to the secretary, Fletcher's Buildings, Lambton Quay, Wellington. All donations received will be acknowledged. The society thanks deeply those who have helped or given. They will have the prayers of Connemara, and Pearse always said that Christ walks the roads of Connemara.

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Palmerston North

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 2.

Again the ladies' branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society must have its name placed on the roll of well-doers; and again the Old People's Home was the scene of the well-doing. A Christmas party, this time organised by the ladies' secretary (Mrs. Leydon). All concerned enjoyed themselves immensely.

Christmas has gone, but the memory of the Midnight Mass; the crowded congregation; the beautiful singing; and the seemingly endless stream of communicants will linger long in the minds of the people. Although this little church seats about 350 people, 500 managed to squeeze in; and, judging by the numbers at the altar rails, all Palmerston appeared to be here. We had four Masses besides the Midnight; and in the evening Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The festive season brought sorrow into two local homes. Mr. and Mrs. John Holloway lost their little girl (Julia Mary) of 8 years; and Mr. James Sheerin was accidentally killed on the railway line at Khandallah. What a strange world it is! a tiny girl of 8 to whom life was an unopened book, dies peacefully in her bed amidst love and comfort, and an old man of 72 whose life-book, in the ordinary course of events, would soon be finished from cover to cover, has to go all the way to Khandallah to meet his death on the railroad, and die desolate and unknown amidst strangers. Mr. and Mrs. Holloway and Mrs. Sheerin and family have the sincere sympathy of all.—R.I.P.

Oh! where oh! where has the summer gone? oh! where oh! where can it be? Christmas Day was fairly good until about 3 in the afternoon when the weather became dull and threatening. Boxing Day dawned wet and miserable, but to the delight of race-gowers the sun shone out at 10 o'clock, and by the time the first race started the ground was beginning to dry a little. At mid-day on Saturday the rain came down again, and the afternoon was a real "soaker." Sunday was a half-hearted sort of a day; when it wasn't drizzling it was cloudy and bleak. An aeroplane hovering over the town took our eyes and likewise our thoughts from the water and mud for the time being. On Monday afternoon the skies opened upon us; and Tuesday came to life with misty rain. We had heavy showers on Wednesday morning, but dearie me! this will never do! the Beautifying Society will be "having me up" for 'uglyfying' the district in the eyes of the world. When it isn't raining it's fine, so cheerio! and lets be thankful!

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