

## Diocesan News

### Archdiocese of Wellington

(From a correspondent.)

March 13.

On Thursday night at the Don Kiosk, Evans Bay, Mrs. Hickmott was farewelled by the members of St. Patrick's choir, Kilbirnie. The "evening" was a very pleasant one, those contributing being Miss Keegan, and Mesdames O'Donohue, Tracey, Kelly, Hickmott, and Collins, and Messrs. Foote, Conroy, Kelly, and Hickmott. Rev. Father Connolly presented Mrs. Hickmott with a handsome silver fruit stand and afternoon tea-set of Boulton ware from the choir. He stressed the regret of the members at the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Hickmott from the district. Mr. Hickmott responded and thanked the members for their beautiful gifts, assuring them that he and Mrs. Hickmott would retain their interest in Kilbirnie.

Rev. Father Lysaght, S.M., recently ordained, is to go to Mittagong, New South Wales.

Friends here of Father Minogue, of Wai-pawa, will be delighted by his appointment to the parish of New Plymouth.

The Superior of the Dufferin Street Convent has received advice of the following successes of her pupils at the recent examinations:—Matriculation and Solicitor's General Knowledge and Medical Preliminary—Beatrice Hoskins. Senior Free Place—Agnes Thurston.

Catholics of this city will be interested to hear of the visit of their Excellencies Sir William and Lady Ferguson and staff to the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. Mother Aubert's work is so well known that comment on it is needless. The children were lined up on the verandah, and the Governor-General gave a kindly word of praise to their singing. The Vice-Regal party then visited in turn each department of the Home, conversing with the patients, watching the play of the children, and leaving behind them everywhere a memory of exquisite graciousness and warm-hearted human interest that made their visit an event in the lives of all. The visit was plainly not a mere duty call. There was evident a great love of childhood for its own sake and a great sympathy with suffering humanity.

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### Palmerston North

(From our own Correspondent.)

March 13.

Miss Mary Bahout, whose name appears on the hospital list, is progressing favorably.

Since the first Sunday of this month we have been having our Sunday Masses at the old hours—half-past seven, nine, and eleven o'clock.

We are not holding a picnic on St. Patrick's Day this year. The children will be very disappointed; it certainly is hard luck. The parochial programme is full already, and those who would have the responsibility of running the picnic must feel relieved at its omission as they have their hands full in connection with the opening of the church, euchar, the bazaar, and a host of other things.

Everybody is talking "opening day" so the scribe had better be in the fashion and write about it. Well, that wonderful day is fixed for the 22nd, which means that next Sunday will be the last Sunday that the people of Palmerston North will ever assist at Mass in the old church. How paradoxical is human nature! We have (for over twelve years) longed and prayed and worked for a new church. Although we have abused the old building for the last twenty months we have been standing on its doorstep gazing down Broad Street to the new place, dreaming of the day when we would pray our prayers beneath its tower; and now that our golden dream is within a few days of its realisation, we say that it is hard to part with the old church. We recount to each other the events (joyful and sorrowful) connected with it; and the tears glisten in the eyes of the old folk, for sentiment is a strong thing. "I've grown so used to you" is as true of places and things as of persons. But one question answered rightly dries the tears and ends the regrets: "Are we Palmerston people satisfied that God should continue to dwell in such a home?" Never! never! never! The first Mass in the new church will be celebrated by Archbishop Redwood at 7 o'clock—not 7.30 as usual. His Grace will preach the sermon. Then there will be the 9 and the 11 o'clock Masses and a special sermon at each. The latter will be a High Mass; and if the choir is not at its best it will not be the fault of the indefatigable conductor (Mr. Cosgrove). This red-letter day will be brought to a close with Rosary, Sermon, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. May the weather be our best friend that day!

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### Hastings

(From our own Correspondent.)

March 13.

The fortnight's mission preached by the Marist Fathers was brought to a brilliant close on Sunday night, the 8th inst. For the whole fortnight Fathers McCarthy and Vincent preached to a crowded church. The closing night showed a sky of rain, but the weather remained unbroken. It was quite impossible to accommodate the hundreds that kept crowding into the church. The porches and sacristies overflowed and people looked in from the church gates. The congregation had a fair sprinkling of our separated brethren—several prospective converts are a tribute to the missionaries' clear and eloquent exposition of Catholic belief. The final night was a stirring one. Father McCarthy's sermon on the Divinity of the Church was a magnificent piece of oratory—a compelling and forceful discourse that quite thrilled his hearers and disposed them for the impressive renewal of baptismal vows. Eight hundred voices thundered out the hymn that has become the vocal expression of loyal Catholic sentiment—"Faith of Our Fathers." Men and women left with hearts brimming with pride in the grand old Church that has come down to us from the days of Christ, marching through the centuries with unflinching step and clear purpose, and her footsteps still ring with a music like the tramp of armies. A divine power is hers that could only come from the God of Battles.

## Diocese of Christchurch

(From our own Correspondent.)

March 14.

The garden fetes at New Brighton and Riccarton have had to be postponed indefinitely, owing to the prevailing epidemic.

The coming engagements of his Lordship the Bishop are as follows:—March 15, blessing and opening new church at Beckenham; March 22, blessing and opening of new church at Dallington; March 29, blessing and opening of new school for boys at Timaru; April 5, blessing and opening of new church at Kokatahi, West Coast. His Lordship has purchased a further block of land adjoining the church property at Beckenham, which will now make the property 2½ acres in extent.

Sir Westby B. Perceval, now of London, and a former resident and prominent layman of Christchurch, who was a member of the House of Representatives over 25 years ago, is at present on a visit to Christchurch, and is greatly impressed with the progress the Church has made in this part.

Rev. Father Long, Adm., Greymouth, will arrive in Christchurch on Wednesday, and with Rev. Father Murphy (New Brighton) will leave for Wellington, where they embark on a trip to the Old Land.

### THE BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH AT MARSHLANDS.

The blessing and dedication of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, at Marshlands, was performed by his Lordship Bishop Brodie on Sunday morning last, the 8th inst. Many visitors from town and country parishes were present. Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated by the Bishop; Father T. Hanrahan being assistant priest; Father O'Meehan, deacon; and Father D. Lordan, subdeacon. Rev. Father J. Hanrahan, pastor of the district, presented a financial statement showing the expenditure that had been involved in the erection and furnishing of the church, a sum totalling £1280. Through the generosity of the people a debt of only £150 remains, which is to be cleared off in the near future. While thanking the congregation for the generous assistance he had received, he expressed his gratitude to kind Catholic friends who had co-operated with the people of Marshlands in bringing about the happy result.

His Lordship the Bishop preaching from the text, "I have loved the beauty of Thy house and the place where Thy glory dwelleth," referred to the inspiration which came to King David to erect a temple in Jerusalem of unsurpassed magnificence. The Bishop stated that the parishioners of Marshlands had received a similar inspiration, and thus had been erected the house of God in which they were now assembled. Although small in numbers they had shown a generosity worthy of the highest praise, and the result of the day's efforts would practically mean the complete extinction of any debts existing on the building. The Bishop expressed his congratulations to Father Hanrahan and to his parishioners on the success that had already crowned their efforts.

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