

these altar rails that your children will stand to declare their mutual love and take each other for life in the holy Sacrament of Matrimony.

So much for your children. But for you yourselves what will this church be? It will be for you as the oasis in the desert; a place of refreshment and rest set aside from the distractions, trials, and turmoil of the busy and storm-beaten world. It needs but little reflection to account for such a blessing. Giving all due weight to the many reasons we have been considering why a Catholic church is a house of prayer, what, after all, is the supreme gift which our Heavenly Father has granted that makes our churches so sacred and so venerated? Is it not the presence there of the Blessed Sacrament? A spiritual writer has pointed out that on reflection we could hardly help expecting that in our churches there would be some visible presence of the Godhead. For it would appear that God has always longed to lift a corner of the veil which hides His glory from mortal eyes. The greatest revelation undoubtedly was when God the Son came down to earth and assumed human nature; when the Word was made Flesh; when Jesus Christ walked amongst men, going about doing good. But that sensible Presence of God in the Flesh was not to last always. A day came, Ascension morn, when it ceased for us; when Our Divine Lord arose to heaven from Mount Olivet and a cloud took Him out of the sight of the apostles. Still His love was not to be outdone. He would still be with us. "Having loved His own who were in the world, He would love them unto the end. And so we find Him on the first Holy Thursday night pronouncing those words which still re-echo throughout the world and by which He has left Himself with us in the abiding presence of the Holy Eucharist: "This is My Body; this is My Blood: Do this in commemoration of Me." His apostles and their successors have hearkened to His command so that every Catholic church is the scene of the great Eucharistic Sacrifice, a continuance of the Sacrifice of Calvary. Here in this new church of yours, every morning at this altar, those words of consecration will be pronounced in the Sacrifice of the Mass, helping to fulfil the prophecy of Malachias: "From the rising of the sun, even to the going down, My name is great among the gentiles, and in every place there is sacrifice, and there is offered to My name a clean oblation." And so this sacrifice will go on to the end of time, all the world over; the great act, the great worship, the great gathering together of the people of Christ.

The Eucharist, however, is not only a sacrifice but also a Sacrament, to which the faithful are invited and in which they receive the Body and Blood of Christ as nourishment for their souls. Nor does Our Lord's love stop even here, for in this Sacrament He abides with us continuously. Here on this altar He will remain during the long day and the silent night, waiting to receive your love and adoration. In Him will you find the Great Consoler. When your souls are enfeebled by sin; when spiritual fervor is dead within you and everything religious has lost its

charm, in Him will you find strength and nourishment; from Him will you receive that enlivening faith and ardent charity which long for nothing but God.

In conclusion, I congratulate you, the members of this congregation, on the beautiful and artistic edifice which, out of your generosity, you have raised to the Living God. And I appeal to all present to extend their generosity once more to-day to help in the extinction of the debt that still exists. I congratulate also your parish priest, who to-day sees his hopes and aspirations realised, on the success of his undertaking. Lastly, I congratulate his Lordship, whose heart must rejoice this day on the addition of such a noble structure to the churches of his diocese.

One final word. Remember always what your church should mean to you. It is "a house of prayer." Let it be so for you in very truth. Love your church. Attend Holy Mass here as often as it is possible and receive Holy Communion. Pay frequent visits to your Divine Lord, Who is ever waiting to receive you. If you do so, then this opening day will ever be a pleasant memory. Then when at last your sojourn here on earth is at an end, and you go to claim the reward of Everlasting Life for faithful service here below, it will be with the consolation that you at least were of the number who truly made of your church, what Our Divine Lord wished, "a house of prayer."



#### ARCHBISHOP MANNIX

The Archbishop of Melbourne has left Ireland on his homeward journey (says the *Catholic Press* for November 12). Speaking at a London welcome on Saturday, he said:

"I have been up and down that part of Ireland south of the sectarian line drawn by Great Britain within what is called, but is not, the Free State. I can tell British politicians that the Irish question is not settled, and never will be until Ireland's ideals are realised. I went to Ireland a few months ago, having nailed the Republican flag to my mast, and I found that I was welcomed by tens of thousands of Irish men and women. Though a declared Republican, I received the freedom of every city in Ireland south of the sectarian border. The report of the Boundary Commission would be found to be a complete disillusionment. Our country has been partitioned by a people who have no more right to draw a line across China. It is untrue that Ireland is prosperous. It really is facing economic ruin. It is impossible for Republicans to enter Parliament while the oath of allegiance remains. The division of Ireland is the work of wily British politicians. I am confident that Ireland one day will be a republic and undivided."

Right Rev. Dr. Cotter, Bishop of Portsmouth, associated himself with "every word of Dr. Mannix's address."

Few take care to live well, but many to live long, though it is in every man's power to do the former, but in no man's power to do the latter.

## Diocesan News

Archdiocese of Wellington

(From our own Correspondent.)

November 27.

Wellington is greatly saddened this week. The news of the death of Rev. Father More O'Ferrall came as a great shock to the city. He had been at St. Patrick's and he was well loved. When he arrived here first he was a guest at Government House, but his thoughts were with God and not with the world. Owing to physical weakness he had broken down in the Novitiate at Tullabeg, but his vocation was perfect and an interview with Very Rev. Dean Regnault decided him upon the adoption of this country as his ground of service, and the Marist Order as the home of his spirit. A rare, sweet soul has gone to rest in Father More O'Ferrall. The peace of God to him!

The Requiem of Father More O'Ferrall was held at the Basilica on Tuesday morning. Forty-one priests and the two Archbishops were present. Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M. (Wanganui), was the celebrant; Rev. Father Campbell, C.S.S.R., deacon; Rev. Father Quealy (Petone), subdeacon. A choir of priests sang the Mass, the soloist being Rev. Father Ryan, S.M., M.A., St. Patrick's College. The sermon for the occasion was preached by his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, who also officiated at the graveside. Rev. Fathers O'Connell, Barra, and Seymour were up from the South, and the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy went right out to the graveside.

Great sympathy is extended to Mother de Sales, of the Sisters of Mercy, Hill Street, on the death of her sister, Mrs. Trolove, of Christchurch. The family is an old one and widely known. May she rest in peace!

Mrs. McEnroe, of Kensington Street, is very ill, and many friends are concerned for her.

The Basilica was full again on Thursday morning for the Requiem of Mr. Tymons, of Guildford Terrace, father of Rev. Father Tymons, V.F., Napier, and Rev. Father James Tymons, Kimberley. Mr. Tymons was The Grand Old Man of the parish of Thorndon, a chieftain of the faith. He bought the house in which he died in order that he might be near the church, and so might continue to the end his hearing of daily Mass. May he rest in peace.

There was a profession ceremony at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, recently, when Miss Molly Conaglen was received into the Order as Sister Eustace. Sister Eustace is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conaglen, of Taranaki. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father McHardy, S.M., St. Patrick's College. After it was over the relatives were entertained to breakfast by the Sisters. Among those present were Rev. Father Doolaghty, Palmerston North; Rev. Father Kelly, Newtown; and Rev. Father M. Devoy, Island Bay.

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