

Blessed Virgin Mary, by Rev. Father Andersen. All the Masses on Easter Sunday were attended by crowded congregations, as was also Vespers in the evening. There was Pontifical High Mass at 11 o'clock, his Lordship the Bishop being celebrant, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., assistant priest, Rev. Father Kaveney deacon, Rev. J. McRae subdeacon, and Rev. Father Ardagh master of ceremonies. A very fine sermon on the Resurrection was preached by Father Coffey, who prefaced his discourse by extending to the parishioners (as he did at the earlier Masses), on behalf of his Lordship the Bishop and clergy, as well as on his own, sincerest good wishes for all the blessings and joys of Easter. He referred to the great consolation it had been to see the splendid congregations at all the ceremonies of the week, the manifestation of their faith on Holy Thursday morning in honor of Our Divine Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and the vast numbers who approached the Holy Table that morning. At the conclusion of Mass his Lordship the Bishop imparted the Papal Blessing. The music was Mozart's Second Mass, together with the "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus," the Proper of the Mass, and the motet "Victimae Paschali," and was capably rendered by the choir, with Mr. A. Vallis at the organ and Mr. Fred Stokes conducting. The Easter anthem, "Regina Coeli," was sung after Vespers. His Lordship the Bishop officiated at Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in conclusion of the devotions in the evening. The high altar was most beautifully adorned, and when illuminated in the evening presented a strikingly effective sight. This also applies to the altar of repose on Holy Thursday, and reflected great credit on the taste and industry of the ladies whose devoted work it was.

DESTRUCTION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, GREY LYNN, AUCKLAND.

St. Joseph's Convent, Grey Lynn, Auckland, was destroyed by fire in the early hours of Good Friday morning (says a press message). Eight Sisters and six pupils had narrow escapes, the flames rapidly traversing the wooden building, which was two storeys high. When the fire had just started, a man, who first observed it, states that he saw another man leaving the spot and spoke to him; but the latter made no reply, and immediately hurried away across the street and disappeared around the corner. The place where the fire originated is easily accessible from the street, and the building had no gas or electric wires. The inmates of the institution had escaped from the convent before the arrival of the brigade, some by means of the fire escapes, others (including an invalid Sister) by the verandah posts. The Sisters heroically devoted themselves to getting the children under their care out of the place, and only when the girls had been placed beyond any danger did they consider their own welfare. Residents in the neighborhood provided accommodation for the children, and the Sisters were taken in motor cars to their house at St. Benedict's.

In connection with this disaster to the devoted Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the question of rebuilding St. Joseph's Convent was discussed at a meeting held in the convent grounds on last Sunday afternoon, and attended by 3000 people (telegraphs our special reporter). His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of the diocese, and Right Rev. Dr. Liston, Coadjutor-Bishop, being among those present. The meeting was opened by Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, pastor of the parish of Grey Lynn, who said their first duty was one of thanksgiving for the escape of the Sisters and their pupils. In regard to the fire, the irresistible conclusion was forced upon them that there had been foul play. Addressing the great assemblage, his Lordship Bishop Cleary contrasted the newly-opened building of 1917 with the charred and blackened remains then witnessed. He referred to the series of facts which he said clearly proved the incendiary character of the fire. As certain further confirmatory evidence was now being investigated he would say nothing

further at the present stage, but if, and when, it became his duty to speak out he would do so loudly enough to be heard and plainly enough not to be misunderstood. Bishop Cleary concluded with an appeal for funds to rebuild the convent. Messrs. J. J. O'Brien, George Foster, Hon. P. J. Nerheny, M.L.C., R. McVeigh, and his Lordship Bishop Liston also spoke.

The Editor of the *Tablet*, who visited the scene of the fire and saw for himself what the nuns have lost, appeals to the Catholics throughout New Zealand to help the Sisters of St. Joseph to secure a new home free of debt. With this object he wishes to open a fund by subscribing twenty guineas.

THE IRISH FUND.

Rev. Father Daly, Dannevirke, has sent the sum of £72 9s as the contribution of his parish to the Irish Self-determination Fund.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

On St. Patrick's Day, the Right Rev. Dr. Liston celebrated Pontifical High Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Rev. Father Forde, Adm., was master of ceremonies, and Fathers Bradley and Hunt deacon and subdeacon respectively. Rev. Father Hannigan, C.S.S.R., preached an eloquent and impressive sermon, which deeply moved the vast congregation.

In connection with the day's celebrations, the procession left St. Patrick's Cathedral at 10 a.m. Following the band in the lead were the boys from the Sacred Heart College, Richmond Road. Their fine manly appearance made a great impression on the many thousands of spectators who lined the thoroughfares. So also did the boys from the Marist Brothers' School, Vermont Street. A varied programme of events was submitted in the Domain—athletic events for adults and children and games for girls and boys were thoroughly enjoyed by contestants and spectators. By no means the least attractive part of the programme was the display of the living word "Ireland" by 2000 children. Attired in white and wearing green and gold ribbons and carrying flags of the same vivid colors, they formed a picture which will never be effaced from the memories of those who were fortunate enough to gaze upon it. Bishops Cleary and Liston, who were greatly interested in all the events, expressed themselves as being highly delighted with the spectacular display. Rev. Brothers Calixtus and Fergus, who were mainly responsible for the children's efforts, deserve the congratulation of all lovers of Ireland.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, AUCKLAND.

In the University Entrance Scholarship examination, Wilfrid Kalaugher, of the Sacred Heart College, who passed the examination with credit, was third in New Zealand in mathematics, being only 1.3 per cent. behind the boy placed first.

The tennis championship of the secondary schools was advanced another stage last Saturday (19th inst.). C. Nicholls, the Sacred Heart College champion, by defeating Hegman (Grammar School), 6--5, 6--5, and Lusk (King's College champion), 6 4, 6--3, has reached the final. Tom Lanigan (S.H.C.), after a great fight, was defeated by Potter (Grammar) in the semi-final.

The 100yds championship of the secondary schools was run at the St. Patrick's Day sports, and resulted in a win for E. Griffin (Sacred Heart College), Technical College being second and Grammar School third. Mr. Frank Burns timed the race 10 2-5secs. The 220 yds S.H.C. handicap resulted—E. Griffin (scratch) 1, T. Vangioni (9yds) 2, R. Lander (3yds) 3. Time 24 2-5secs.

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