

desired to foist upon her as Governor. Precedents linger and take root, and if his Excellency does not finally decide upon "steering an even keel," he may find plenty of leisure time to spend at Mildura.

Rev. Father Buckley, of St. Patrick's, has gone to Opotiki to officiate for Father Lannuzel who is very ill. In the last great struggle between Germany and France Father Lannuzel responded to the call of his native land. Leaving his college he entered the ranks, and rapidly rose to the position of a French captain. When the war concluded he re-entered the seminary, and was recently ordained priest. To know him is but to love and respect him. May God spare him yet longer to his devoted people.

The Very Rev. Father O'Reilly, P.P., Thames, was highly delighted with the kindness shown to him by priests and people during his recent trip South. With the evident signs—and there were many—of the general advance of Catholicity the Very Rev. Father was well pleased.

The Gisborne Catholic School, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, is making gratifying progress. The following extracts are taken from a flattering report made by Mr. Hill, the Government Inspector:—"Four Sisters and a pupil teacher have charge of this school, which is divided up into an upper, middle, and lower school for instruction purposes. I found the classes working with diligence. The discipline was good, and the methods of instruction showed commendable preparation on the part of the teachers. Altogether I was pleased to find the school working with so much earnestness and future promise. The rooms for the upper and middle classes are well suited for instruction purposes, and are very clean and tidy. The registration is satisfactory. (Signed) H. Hill, Inspector."

Good Friday was spent by large numbers in Auckland as a day of fun and frolic. In this, be it regretted a few Catholic young men and women took a part, and a prominent part, too. If these persons wish to give vent to their sporting proclivities they would do well to select some more appropriate day. I would suggest the 17th of March. On that day's celebrations the Good Friday "sports" are conspicuous by their absence.

Rev. Father Gillan, Ponsonby, and Rev. Father Amandolini, Hamilton, Waikato, have exchanged parishes for a week. Father Luck, O.S.B., Kihikihiki, is, I regret to say, far from being well. The brother of our late Bishop is universally esteemed and respected, and the wish is widespread throughout the whole diocese that Father Luck may be speedily restored to health.

(By Telegraph—From our own correspondent.)

Tuesday.

His Lordship the Bishop made his first episcopal visitation at St. Patrick's on Sunday. He attended 11 o'clock Mass, at which the Rev. Father Purton was celebrant and the Rev. Father Croke assistant at the throne. After Mass the Bishop addressed the congregation, going over the year's work, and giving subsequently a short history of the parish. He mentioned the names of former prelates and priests who had laboured incessantly, and amidst great difficulties. Special mention was made of the late Bishop, of whom too much could not be said. All the parochial works which he had carried out were enumerated, and the fact was noted that he had left the Cathedral free of debt at his death. The Bishop thanked the priests, choir, collectors, and parishioners for nobly working together for the glory of God, and hoped that they would all be rewarded. On leaving the pulpit his Lordship assumed the black cope, and prayed for the souls of the deceased prelates, priests, and people who had laboured in the parish years ago. The choir sang an appropriate and effective "Miserere." His Lordship then inspected the church surroundings, and complimented all concerned on their satisfactory appearance. In the afternoon his Lordship confirmed 150 candidates, comprising both sexes, and afterwards addressed the candidates in suitable language. In the evening, after vespers, an address from the laity was presented at the foot of the throne. The address was read (in the absence of the mayor) by Mr M. J. Sheahan. His Lordship returned thanks in feeling terms recalling with much emotion his early labours in the parish. The children who had been confirmed repeated the avowal after the Bishop, and sang the hymn "Holy Mother." There was a large congregation, and all present were much impressed with the service. Dr. Lenihan continues his episcopal visitation for four weeks.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

In this week's issue of the *Canterbury Times* there is an excellent view of the Catholic Basilica at Oamaru, and also of the Catholic Presbytery at the same place. The foundation stone of the Basilica, which is a very beautiful structure, was laid on May 28, 1893, by the late Most Rev. Dr. Moran (one of his last public acts), and was opened on November 18, 1894, by Dr. Grimes (Bishop of Christchurch). It was re-opened on February 13th last by Bishop Verdon, on the occasion of a new decorated ceiling being completed. At no distant date the local pastor, the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, hopes to be able to erect a new portico, which will give a most effective appearance to the church. The engraving of the Basilica is also accompanied with a very good photo of the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, who was born in Banffshire, Scotland, in May, 1841, and pursued his studies in Blairs, Aberdeen, Douai, and the Grand Seminary of St. Sulpice, Paris. He was ordained priest on June

6th, 1868. Returning to Scotland, he was placed in charge of the parish of Banff, where he built a very pretty church and presbytery. Failing health obliged him in 1872 to seek a more genial climate, and he arrived in Dunedin in December of that year. At the urgent request of the late Dr. Moran, Father Mackay took charge of Queenstown, which included the whole of the western portion of the Otago goldfields. On the death of Monsignor Coleman in January, 1890, he was placed in charge of the parish of Oamaru.

On Wednesday evening last a very pleasing concert was given in St. Mary's School Hall, before a fairly numerous audience, in aid of the bazaar and art union fund. Mrs. E. T. Robinson gained encores by her very effective singing of Cowan's "Swallows" and "It was a dream." Miss Lucy Ryan was recalled for her pleasing rendering of Denza's "A May Morning," and Miss McLaughlin sang "Bid me to love" so well as to earn an encore. Two of Mr. Rossiter's pupils, Misses Edith Walker and Everil Haggie, made a creditable first appearance. The former sang, "I trust you still," and the latter "Ora pro nobis," with a hidden chorus. Mr. C. Read was encored for his song, "The coming of the king." Mr. Russell Halley sang "The vagabond" and "The yeoman's wedding" very well. Mr. A. O'Brien was recalled for his singing of "The deathless army." Messrs J. and K. Petersen were encored for their comic duets in character. Misses L. Ryan and Olive King and Messrs J. Allan and A. O'Brien sang the "Madrigal," from "The Mikado." Miss F. Triggs played a pianoforte solo, "Alice, where art thou?" and with Mr. J. Allan played a pianoforte duet, "Sans Souci." Mr. H. Oakey played two concertina solos, and Mr. G. Poore played a flute solo. Four members of the banjo and guitar band contributed a couple of selections, so well played as to be encored. The programme concluded with the "Policeman's chorus" from "The Pirates of Penzance," very effectively sung in costume. Mrs. Robinson, Miss Triggs, and Mr. Rossiter acted as accompanists.

On the same evening a largely attended meeting was held in the library at the Pro-Cathedral to arrange for a recognition of the long and valued services of the Very Rev. Father Cummings, V.G., who is leaving this city on account of ill health. The chair was occupied by Sir George Clifford, who said, in opening the meeting, that it was with deep regret that they assembled there that evening, as the occasion was to take leave of the zealous and self-sacrificing Vicar-General, whose health had, through his unceasing labours, broken down. It was not the time and place to speak of the many good qualities of the Very Rev. Father Cummings; that would come later on, but he felt sure that everyone would join with him in expressing deep regret at losing the services of so devoted a priest. Mr. M. Donnelly moved: "That this meeting deeply regrets the retirement, through ill-health, of the Very Rev. Father Cummings, and desires to place on record its recognition of the zeal, fidelity, and self-sacrifice with which he has discharged the onerous duties of his high office, and trusts that every effort will be made to testify to him the affection and esteem in which he is held, not alone by the members of his Church, but by the community at large. This meeting ventures also to express a hope that at no distant date he will return with restored health and vigour to carry out the missionary work to which he has devoted his life." Mr. Hayward seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The gentlemen present were then formed into a General Committee. Mr. E. O'Connor was elected secretary, and Mr. P. Burke treasurer. The Rev. Father Chervier mentioned that he had communicated with the priests on the West Coast, at Timaru, and in North Canterbury, asking them to take steps to convene meetings. It was decided that a conversazione should be held, at which a testimonial and an address should be presented. It was also decided to make the testimonial as wide as possible, and, though mainly Catholic, not to confine it exclusively to members of the Church. Any friends of the Very Rev. Father Cummings desiring to subscribe can do so by forwarding the amount to the secretary or the treasurer. The meeting of the Executive and Entertainment Committee was fixed for Tuesday next. A Collecting Committee was also appointed and the sum of £50 was subscribed in the room. The meeting adjourned after a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman. In reply to a question as to the time of the departure of the Vicar-General it was stated during the meeting that he would probably finally leave Christchurch in about three weeks from the date of the foregoing gathering.

On Sunday last at 11 a.m. Farmer's Mass in B was artistically rendered by the choir at St. Mary's. The principal solos were admirably executed by Miss Louie Grady (soprano), Misses N. Oakes and N. Slattery (altos), Mr. A. H. Blake (tenor), Messrs. A. O'Brien, R. Beveridge, and C. Goggan (bass). The choruses were well sustained, and the execution of the Mass, which was rendered with full orchestral accompaniment, reflects much credit on the painstaking conductor, Mr. H. Rossiter. Immediately after the conclusion of the Mass the principal of the Redemptorist Fathers, the Rev. Father Barry, opened a mission which will continue a fortnight. Later on the Rev. Fathers Shearman and Mangan, of the same Order, will come and assist in giving the mission. On the occasion the Rev. Father Barry, who took for a text the words "The Lord thy God shalt thou adore and Him only shalt thou serve," preached an eloquent and impressive sermon on the great and many spiritual blessings to be gained by devoutly and regularly attending the mission. There was a large attendance of the faithful, and many persons from the pro-Cathedral parish were also present. During the mission, Masses, which will be followed by sermons, will be celebrated at 6.30, 8, and 9 a.m. On each evening there will be the devotion of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and a mission sermon, which will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Diocesan News continued on page 27.

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