

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 22.

On Sunday evening, at St. Joseph's, one of the largest congregations ever assembled in that church was present at the opening of the mission. After the recitation of the Rosary his Grace Archbishop Redwood preached the opening sermon, taking for his text, 'Receive not the grace of God in vain, now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.' His Grace concluded an excellent sermon with an appeal to all present to attend the mission, perform its exercises faithfully, and induce as many others as possible to do likewise. The congregational singing of hymns and Benediction was conducted by the Rev. Father Ainsworth. The mission will be continued for a fortnight. The instruction at the early Mass is given by his Grace, and that at the last one by Rev. Father Ainsworth, while they take the mission sermon in the evenings alternately.

The new church at Petone is to be opened on the 14th of May. For some time past the want of a church at this populous suburb has been a great hardship to Catholic residents. They are to be congratulated on having at last overcome the difficulties.

The young men of Te Aro parish are to be congratulated on their good fortune in possessing St. Patrick's Hall for the purposes of recreation. A billiard-table has now been purchased, and as the attractions have increased, so has the nightly attendance of members of the club.

The Rev. Father McKillop, S.J., of Adelaide, is touring New Zealand for the benefit of his health. After spending three months in the hot lakes district he arrived here last week, and was the guest of the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy. He left for the South by the Mokoia last night.

The termination of the mail service to New Zealand via Vancouver has created a stir in business circles here. It has been suggested that in its place a fortnightly service via San Francisco, instead of a monthly one as at present, should be established, the mail steamers calling alternately at Auckland and Wellington. In Auckland, public meetings protesting against Wellington being made a port of call have been held, the principal objection being that the trip from San Francisco would occupy about twenty hours longer to Wellington than to Auckland. The Auckland Chamber of Commerce has written to the Government to that effect. The Wellington Chamber of Commerce has also written pointing out that under existing circumstances, only letters to the North Island by an incoming mail can be answered by the next outgoing one, whereas if Wellington be made a port of call, South Island letters could, every second mail, be similarly treated, besides which, in spite of the extra twenty hours steaming to Wellington the Southern portion of the incoming mail could be delivered sooner than is now the case. It is understood, replies have been received stating that the matter will have to be dealt with by Parliament.

Mrs. Martin Kennedy and Miss Kennedy returned from a month's holiday in Australia by the Mokoia yesterday.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

April 24.

THE Vicar-General, Very Rev. Monsignor Paul, was temporarily indisposed last Sunday, and Mass at the Church of the Assumption, Onehunga, was celebrated by the Rev. Father Darby, of St. Benedict's. It is to be hoped that the Vicar-General may soon regain health and strength.

I have been informed that Bishop Lenihan awaits Bishop Verdon's arrival in America, thence the two prelates journey together to Europe.

A week's mission was begun at Avondale, on the extreme west boundary of St. Benedict's parish, last Sunday evening by Rev. Father Gillan. There being no church there the public hall was used. Mass is celebrated every morning at nine o'clock, devotions being held every evening at half-past seven. The missionary had, by means of a printed leaflet, scattered throughout the rural districts, made known the subject of his discourse each evening. Father Gillan and his confrères are to be congratulated upon their earnestness and zeal in propagating our holy Faith amongst those who have seldom enjoyed this happy privilege.

A systematic canvass, by a body of duly appointed representative parishioners, having for its object the reduction of the heavy parochial debt, is about to commence throughout the Newton parish.

I have been informed that in addition to the four clergymen comprising the Auckland Catholic Education Board, two laymen are soon to be added to that body.

As a result of the late Provincial Council, the Education Boards representing the four dioceses are to meet periodically to discuss and advance Catholic education generally throughout the Colony.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 24.

The inspection of private schools question, and the attitude of a bare majority of the North Canterbury Education Board in connection therewith, so fully commented upon in your last issue, have given rise to several pointed letters in the local papers very much in favour of the just and reasonable request of the Very Rev. Vicar-

General. With Catholics there is a settled conviction that the matter cannot be allowed to remain without a satisfactory settlement. Besides paying their due proportion of taxes, and at the same time supporting their own schools, they are handicapped still further by having their children debarred from participating in the privileges of acquiring certificates whereby they would be enabled to secure employment in the Civil Service and other walks of life equally with their neighbour of the State schools. Great praise is due to the late Very Rev. Father Cummings for the energetic manner in which he commenced the task of bringing the board to a sense of their duty, and also to his worthy successor, the present Vicar-General, for so ably continuing the work.

On Sunday evening last in the Pro-Cathedral the Rev. Father Crotty preached a very instructive sermon on 'St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church,' to a large congregation. Miss Ross Blaney, the talented soprano of the southern city, sang Gounod's 'Ave Maria,' with violin obbligato by Rev. Father Richards, and organ accompaniment by Miss Funston. Mr. Charles Read sang with good effect a new sacred composition, 'In the cathedral' (De Chauéet). Miss Blaney again rendered in a finished manner an 'O Salutaris' at Benediction, which was given by the Very Rev. Canon Franklin.

At St. Mary's, Manchester street, Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle' was sung at the 11 o'clock Mass, the soprano solos being taken with fine effect by Miss Blaney.

Following the example of some of the other Catholic centres, where dramatic productions are taking the place of the time-honoured and somewhat hackneyed concerts, a movement is on foot to form a club or company for the purpose of staging dramas of a semi-religious, or at all events, wholesome character, in aid of deserving objects.

In a letter in the *Lyttelton Times*, commenting on the action of his Worship the Mayor, who had the correspondence between the Town Clerk and the head of the Salvation Army published, because he could not get a satisfactory answer to his communication inquiring why the chief citizen had not been invited to preside at the meeting to welcome General Booth, the writer asks why this display of offended dignity, when, during, a former occupancy of the civic chair, he, of his own accord, refused to preside at a welcome meeting tendered to Messrs. Dillon and Esmond, visitors who were distinguished in their way equally with the General. His Worship can evidently give a slight with better grace than he can accept one.

WAIMATE.

(From our own correspondent.)

The members of the choir of St. Patrick's Church met on Wednesday evening of last week at the residence of Mr. C. Goldstone, to show their appreciation of the many good qualities of Mr. C. Collins, their late organist, who is leaving the district. The Rev. Father Regnault, in a eulogistic speech, referred to the self-sacrificing spirit shown by Mr. Collins in giving his services as organist. Mr. C. Goldstone, on behalf of the choir, presented Mr. Collins with a travelling rug and flask. Several songs and choruses were given by the members of the choir and visitors.

On Thursday the first annual meeting of the St. Patrick's Altar Society was held at the presbytery, a large number of ladies being present. The chair was taken by Rev. Father O'Connell, president, who, in the course of his remarks, reviewed the work of the society, and congratulated the members on the success of their first year's labours. During the year the sum of £35, the result of members' subscriptions, was spent on church decorations and vestments, leaving a balance in hand.

In the course of his sermon yesterday, the Rev. Father Regnault referred to the very able articles lately published in the N.Z. TABLET, marking out two as specially helpful at the present period—'Juvenile Depravity' and 'The Curfew and its Lessons.' The Rev. Father spoke of his appreciation of the merits of these and other articles.

THE REDEMPTORIST MONASTERY, BALLARAT.

ONE of the finest buildings in or around Ballarat is the Monastery of the Redemptorist Fathers, near Wendouree. Some time ago the Fathers, finding the accommodation provided in that portion of the monastery then completed was not sufficient for their requirements, applied to their Superior-General at Rome for permission to complete the building. This was granted, and the work was carried out at a cost of £6,240. As the Fathers have no private means, no endowment, and no income from a parish, their only means of support being the charity of the faithful, they appeal to the generosity of their friends to assist in removing, or at least, lightening, the heavy burden placed upon them by the erection of this new wing. The provincial (Very Rev. Father O'Farrell) is now making an earnest appeal to the generous charity of the bishops, priests, and people of Australasia for whom the members of the Order have laboured, to the best of their ability, in the work of missions and retreats, for the last seventeen years. In building this monastery they have sought to reproduce in Victoria such a house of retreat as has been erected by the Order in Limerick and Dundalk, by the generosity of the Irish people. In making this appeal, they avail themselves of the opportunity of expressing their sincere and lasting gratitude to the many friends who have assisted them in the past, many of whom are now dead, but whose benefactions are daily remembered at the altar, and also twice each day in the prayers of the community. The new wing was solemnly blessed and opened on last Sunday by his Lordship Bishop Moore, who has approved of the appeal, and hopes that the many friends of the Redemptorist Fathers in Victoria and elsewhere will be only too glad of the occasion to testify their esteem by a generous response.