

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 8.

At a meeting last week of the Anglican Cathedral Completion Committee the chairman, Bishop Julius, in addressing the meeting, said that the executive had been put to shame by their Roman Catholic brethren, having in mind presumably the splendid result of the recent appeal in the Pro-Cathedral for subscriptions towards the erection of the new cathedral. Considering the number of well-to-do members of the Anglican community, and the rich and profitable endowments at their disposal, together with their comparative freedom from the increasing demands for educational and church extension purposes, which their numerically weaker and financially poorer Catholic neighbours cheerfully comply with, the sum total of their efforts for the object advocated by their Bishop is distinctly disappointing.

The Very Rev. Father Le Menant de Chesnais, Vicar-General, was in Leeton on Sunday last establishing the confraternity of the Children of Mary.

On the return of his Lordship the Bishop from the West Coast he will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Pro-Cathedral, for which preparation is now being made.

On Sunday last, as is customary on the first Sunday of the month, there was exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament from High Mass in the Pro-Cathedral till Vespers. At Vespers the Rev. Father Crotty preached a very fine discourse on the Blessed Sacrament to a crowded congregation, after which the usual procession took place, joined in by the various confraternities.

With characteristic enterprise the Catholics of St. Mary's have well in hand elaborate preparations for the carnival which is to be opened by his Worship the Mayor in the Opera House on Monday next, the 15th inst., to provide funds towards liquidating the debt existing on the parish. The committee have styled the event the 'Early History Carnival,' in anticipation of the jubilee festivities which will be in progress next year in celebration of Canterbury's first half century, dating, of course, from the arrival of the first of four now historical ships conveying the pilgrims of the province. It may be noted, however, that, according to Brett's *Early History of the Catholic Church in New Zealand*, two other pilgrims, not as pioneers of civilisation only but as those of love and duty, in the persons of the saintly Bishop Pompallier and his no less devoted companion, the late Very Rev. Father O'Reilly of loving and revered memory, set foot as early as the year 1844 in Canterbury. This was the first known visit of a priest to the province.

The month of May at the Marist Brothers' School was opened on the 1st inst. in a very devotional manner. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., delivered a short but instructive and interesting address. The instructions last week were given by the Rev. Brother Mark, M.A., who is now on a periodical visitation to the various communities throughout the Colony. The Rev. Brother is director of the Marist Brothers' School, Wellington, and has, by his many years of zealous labour, won the love and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 8.

The Church of the Sacred Heart was crowded at the High Mass on Sunday last. The celebrant was the Rev. Father O'Connell, of Waimate; deacon, Rev. Father Tubman; sub-deacon, Rev. Father McDonnell. A very beautiful sermon on devotion to the Blessed Virgin was given by the Rev. Father Tubman. The music, for which the church ranks high amongst the churches of the Colony, was beautifully and devotionally rendered. At the conclusion of the Mass there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In the evening Vespers were sung by Rev. Father Tubman, and the pulpit was occupied by Rev. Father O'Connell, who delivered a fine discourse on the Blessed Sacrament.

Mr. Daniel Mahoney (late of the Club Hotel) is back again in perfect health from the Hanmer Plains, where he went a short time ago to try the effect of the hot springs in restoring his strength.

The Hon. W. Hall-Jones addresses the electors of Timaru in the Theatre Royal on Tuesday, the 9th inst.

HOKITIKA.

A correspondent, writing under date May 1, supplements our report of last week regarding the visit of his Lordship Bishop Grimes to Hokitika. He says:—The mission terminated on Sunday, April 30, when his Lordship Dr. Grimes administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 60 candidates, among whom were some converts. In the evening the Bishop delivered a farewell sermon, when the church was crowded. In the course of the discourse his Lordship referred to the great success of the mission, nearly the whole of the congregation having received the Sacraments during its continuance. He also thanked the congregation for their liberal response to his appeal for funds for the new cathedral at Christchurch, and concluded by giving the Pontifical Blessing.

During the week his Lordship dined with Mr. Joseph Mandl, the other guests present being Very Rev. Dean Martin, Rev. Fathers Goggan, the Right Hon. the Premier and Mrs. Seddon.

Another correspondent sends us the following:—
On Monday morning a thanksgiving Mass was offered by his Lordship, at which a large congregation assisted.

On Monday evening, after the May devotions, a concert was held in the large schoolroom at the convent, when many had to be turned away from the doors, standing room being at a premium. His Lordship, accompanied by Very Rev. Dean Martin and Rev. Fathers Goggan and Le Petit, was present. Miss Stalia Murphy read an address of welcome from the children to his Lordship, in which they expressed their pleasure at his return to New Zealand, and his visit to the West Coast, and asked his acceptance of their

donation to the Cathedral Fund, regretting their inability through the slenderness of their purses to make the gift a hundredfold greater. A long and varied programme of vocal, instrumental, and dramatic items and a spirited debate by the boys, was then given, the performance reflecting great credit on the children and the Sisters. In a few words his Lordship thanked the children for the kind welcome accorded him, and congratulated them on the able manner in which they had performed their several parts, and concluded by asking and obtaining a holiday for the children. As a result of the concert, something like £10 was handed to the Bishop in aid of the Cathedral Fund, making for Hokitika a total of between £300 and £400.

I am informed the mission at Ross, and more especially the one at Rimu, were equally successful, and the contributions in aid of the building fund were of a like satisfactory nature.

On Tuesday afternoon several of the leading Catholics assembled at the railway station to bid farewell to his Lordship Dr. Grimes and Father Goggan, who left for Greymouth, accompanied by Very Rev. Dean Martin, to open a short mission there.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND.

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

May 8.

The month of May devotions were commenced on Monday the 1st inst., in the city and suburban churches. At the Cathedral Our Lady's altar was tastefully decorated. At the first Mass the Confraternities of the Children of Mary and the Guard of Honour, approached Holy Communion in large numbers. In the afternoon, at three o'clock, eight new members were received into the Children of Mary, by the spiritual director, Rev. Father Buckley, who delivered a very appropriate address to the members, enjoining upon them to remain ever faithful to the promises now voluntarily made, and always to bear in mind the great honour and privilege attached to those fortunate enough to be banded together under the patronage of Mary. At Vespers the Cathedral was crowded to excess; the Rev. Father Mulvihill, of Gisborne, preached a beautiful sermon upon the penalties due to sin. A procession of the Blessed Sacrament followed, the canopy being borne by four Marist Brothers. Father Buckley officiated, accompanied by Rev. Father Mulvihill.

At St. Benedict's Rev. Father Gillan delivered the second of his series of discourses on the Blessed Virgin. The Rev. Father was listened to with close attention by the large congregation present.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration at Gisborne netted £200. How many of the large centres could show a like result?

One more church is to be added this month to those of the diocese. On Sunday, 21st inst., a new church is to be solemnly opened at Driving Creek by the Vicar-General, Monsignor Paul, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly. It is worthy of notice that 27 years ago the latter was parish priest in the parish. The new church will be free of debt at its opening. This speaks eloquently of the indefatigability of Rev. Father Michael Egan, whose untiring zeal throughout Coromandel has borne such excellent results.

For some months past the poor boxes at St. Patrick's have been broken open and robbed. On the 8th inst. a man named Robertson was arrested and charged with the crime.

The agitation concerning the retention of Auckland as sole port of call for the San Francisco mail steamer waxes warm. Sydney is appealed to on the ground that the detour to Wellington would delay their mail by seventeen hours. The South Island would gain eight hours, while Auckland would lose twenty hours. Two-thirds of the cargo carried comes from Auckland.

The following are the report and balance sheet of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Auckland, for the 18 months ending April 20, 1899. The committee in their report say:—The Society wishes to place before its friends, benefactors, and the general community, a report of its transactions for the past 18 months. In doing so we must return our sincere and grateful thanks to all those who assisted in any way, either by subscriptions, donations, or entertainments, to supply the necessary funds to enable us to carry on our work. We would earnestly beg of all the members to use every endeavour in their power to encourage their friends to become at least honorary members. We would also like to see a larger number of our working members attend regularly to assist in sewing and visiting the poor. During the year a great deal of work has been done to alleviate the wants of our poor. We have also provided clothing and boots for several children to enable them to attend school; assisted families in paying rent; sent two persons to the Magdala Asylum, and others to the Little Sisters of the Poor and to the Costley Home; and helped two young people to rejoin their friends. We have also sent two boys to the Dear and Dumb Institute, Waratah, and are paying towards their support. The officers are:—Spiritual director, Rev. Father Buckley; president, Mrs. Dignan senr.; vice-presidents—City, Mrs. Thorne; Ponsonby, Miss Tole; Parnell, Mrs. McCabe; Newton, Mrs. R. Dignan; secretary, Mrs. Derron; treasurer, Miss Lynch; wardrobe-keeper, Mrs. Guscott. The balance sheet showed:—Receipts: Balance in hand October 7, 1897, £14 5s 3d; subscriptions (honorary members), £29 10s; subscriptions (working members), £10 13s 6d; donations, £14 3s 4d; concert, £13 17s 6d; musical afternoon, £2 1s 1d; lecture by Dr. Bakewell, £1 12s; Easter bags, £22 1s 6½d; poor box, £13 14s 1½d; total, £121 18s 4d. Expenditure: Groceries, £61 1s; meat and milk, £7 10s 6d; drapery, boots and shoes, £17 0s 6d; board, lodging, and rent, £8 7s 9d; cash and medicine, £2 18s 6d; passage money, £3 19s 9½; printing and advertising, £2 16s 6d; stamps and stationery, 17s 6d; two boys Deaf and Dumb Institute, £1 6s; sundries, £1 17s 3d; balance in bank, £8 13s 4d; total, £121 18s 4d. General summary:—Orders given, 797; articles of clothing distributed, new, 188; old, 213; and 45yds.