

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

September 9.

The second annual general meeting of St. Patrick's College Old Boys' Association is to be held on the 29th inst.

The social held in the Choral Hall on Friday evening, in aid of Mrs. Cimino's stall at the coming bazaar, was most successful.

The Rev. Mother of the Convent, Hill street, and Sister Mary Agnes returned to Wellington on Saturday last from Palmerston North.

The examination of the Catholic schools in the city by the Government inspectors, Messrs. Bakewell and Fleming, is concluded. The examiners express themselves as being highly pleased with the results.

The church now in the course of erection at Pahiatua is to be blessed and opened by his Grace the Archbishop on October 1. Rev. Father McKenna has asked the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy to celebrate the Mass on the opening day.

Sunday last being Exposition Day at St. Mary of the Angels', the music was of a special nature. A *Missa Cantata* was sung by the Rev. Father Servajean. In the evening Vespers were sung by the Very Rev. Dr. Pestre. Father Servajean preached a most instructive sermon.

The Triduum ordered by his Holiness the Pope in honour of the Sacred Heart, was begun last night throughout the archdiocese. St. Joseph's Church was well filled for the opening service in this city. Rev. Father O'Shea, in the course of a telling sermon, explained the meaning and purpose of the devotion, and concluded with a fervid exhortation to his hearers to assiduously practise it and follow devoutly the exercises of the Triduum.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, V.G., returned on Tuesday from Greymouth, where he had attended the ceremonies in connection with the Very Rev. Dean Carew's silver jubilee. During his short stay on the Coast the Ven. Archdeacon, who was everywhere most cordially received, took the opportunity of renewing his acquaintances with his former parishioners in Kumara, as well as with his very many other friends in that part of the Colony.

The Very Rev. Dr. Watters, S.M., accompanied by the Very Rev. Father Moran, Superior of the Marist Order in Dublin, had, at latest advice, just completed a trip through Ireland. The rest and change of scene had worked wonders in repairing Dr. Watters's shattered health. Dr. Watters was, at the time of writing, preparing for a tour in France. His brother, Father Michael Watters, Provincial of the Marist Order in Ireland, was to accompany him.

The erection of the new basilica in Hill street is now in full swing. The foundations of the building, the concrete die course of the aisle and sanctuary walls and piers are all complete. The building has now reached the level of the aisle window sills or about 8ft 6in above ground. The couple of courses of Oamaru stone ashlar internally, together with the Oamaru stone quoins and equivalent height of brickwork externally—all on top of the concrete die course—give a good idea of the general effect which the completed church will have. The cast iron panel work is also in position, and in all probability the cast iron window sashes of the aisles will be fixed next week. The method of construction and the materials used have created a considerable amount of attention among those engaged in building operations here; the manner of treating the concrete foundations and die course and the composite construction of the walls receiving their full share of notice. Mr. Petre, the architect, who was in Wellington from Friday of last week to the following Monday, expressed himself as highly pleased with the progress made.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent).

September 7.

Rev. Father Croke has arranged for a quartet of singers from Auckland to assist at several church concerts throughout his wide parish.

The Auckland Catholic Literary Society intends to re-produce, in St. Benedict's Hall, in about three weeks, the entertainment lately given with such marked success in the Catholic Institute.

The Rev. Father Gillan, at St. Benedict's, explained very fully the recent Papal Encyclical. The Rev. Father impressed upon the congregation the absolute necessity of carrying out in their entirety the wishes of our Holy Father.

Mr. John Campbell, of Point Erin, Ponsonby, one of our best known Catholics, and vice-president of the local branch of the Irish National Federation, is, I deeply regret to say, dangerously ill. Widespread wishes are evinced for his recovery.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly, last Sunday evening, at St. Patrick's, delivered another fine sermon (one of a series) on the Supremacy of the Pope. The church was filled in all parts. The usual monthly procession of the Most Holy Sacrament took place before Benediction.

Last Monday I had occasion to visit the Very Rev. Monsignor McDonald at Panmure. His parish church and school and cemetery are admirably kept. The venerable and popular *soggarth arvon* looked remarkably well, and still possesses a bright and keen memory, evincing a lively interest in all around him.

The Triduum, preparatory to the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, commences throughout the Auckland diocese tomorrow, Friday 8th, concluding with the Solemn Act on Sunday evening. At the various churches last Sunday leaflets were distributed

containing the authorisation by his Holiness, the Litany of the Sacred Heart, and the Act of Consecration.

The division as to whether the next A.M. meeting should be held in Dunedin was very close at the recent District Board meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society. Fourteen voted against, and 13 for. The two Wellington delegates who had given in an important notice of motion, no doubt in view of the meeting in Dunedin, voted against going there.

The statistics just published by Mr. Coghlan, Government Statistician, N.S.W., on the spread of divorce and decrease of the birth rate in Australasia, has been commented upon in terms of despair in the local Press. The comments go all round the subject like coopers round a cask, but they fight entirely shy of the real causes—viz., the abolition of the sanctity of the marriage tie, and the banishment from our schools of the name of God. Years ago the late revered Bishop Moran of Dunedin warned our rulers, and his warnings have been proved to the letter.

Speaking of Miss Lorrigan's (Auckland's leading soprano) performance in the oratorio 'The Creation,' at Palmerston North the *Manawatu Standard* says: 'Miss Lorrigan, who sang the soprano parts, had been highly eulogised by the Auckland Press, and therefore a very classical performance was expected from her, and it is only just to her that we should say she satisfied the demands of the most exacting. For purity and sweetness of tone her voice is the nearest approach we have heard to that of Miss Amy Sherwin, and its high degree of culture was exhibited in everything she sang. All through she may be said to have rendered her music with artistic taste and ability.' It is pleasing to record the success of Catholic talent. On the way down she sang in the church at New Plymouth and assisted Father Patterson at Palmerston North.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 9

At Mount Magdala Asylum very extensive additions are in course of construction, fuller particulars of which I hope to be in a position to give in the near future.

The Triduum preparatory to the Consecration of the congregation to the Sacred Heart will commence in the Pro-Cathedral with High Mass on Friday next, the 15th inst., and on Sunday the Solemn Act of Consecration will take place.

A meeting of ladies of the Pro-Cathedral congregation is fixed for Thursday next, the 14th inst., at the presbytery, to be presided over by his Lordship the Bishop, when important matters in connection with the projected cathedral will receive attention.

On Sunday last special services were held at St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, in commemoration of the anniversary of its consecration. At High Mass Weber's Mass in G was rendered by the choir under Mr. Rossiter, Mrs. W. Cronin presiding at the organ. At the Offertory in the evening Miss M. McLaughlin sang Tozer's 'Ave Maria.' The Rev. Father Gallais, S.M., officiated throughout the day, large congregations being the rule.

An enjoyable 'At Home' was given on Tuesday evening by the members of St. Mary's Catholic Club. The president, Mr. A. J. Malley, occupied the chair. Amongst those present were the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chenaies, Rev. Fathers Richards, Tracey, Higgins, and Gallais. Songs were contributed by Misses Lucy Ryan and M. McLaughlin, Messrs. J. Young, R. Beveridge, and L. Blake; piano solos by Misses Burk and C. O'Brien; piano and violin duet by Misses L. and D. Grady; vocal duet, Messrs. L. and F. Blake, and recitations by Messrs. Mahar and L. N. Taylor.

The annual appeal for funds to assist the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in carrying out its numerous works of charity and benevolence, was made at all the services in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday last. At the half-past nine o'clock Mass the Rev. Father Crotty made a few brief but suitable remarks on the claims of the less fortunate to consideration, and at the High Mass the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chenaies, V.G., eloquently appealed, not only for the means whereby the Society's operations may be extended, but also for increased membership. Visiting the poor in their own homes was, the very rev. preacher pointed out, of the most vital importance, and this could not be done to the extent demanded in large centres unless zealously entered into by those with leisure and means at their disposal. Owing to indisposition, the Rev. Father Goggan was prevented from occupying the pulpit at Vespers, and the Rev. Father Crotty gave a fine discourse on the duty of almsgiving.

The only statue of a nun on a public monument in North America is the portrait statue of Jeanne Mance, the first Sister of Charity who landed in North America. The statue (says the *Irish Catholic*) is of colossal size, and is in the Place d'Armes, Montreal. She is represented dressing the wounds of an Indian. Nothing could be more exquisitely beautiful than the unspeakable tenderness, firmness, and skill portrayed by the artist in the monumental bronze. The Indian was modelled from life, the model being a descendant of the tribe which occupied the site of Montreal when Sister Mance landed there in 1642.

Like the good knights of yore, Sir Thomas Lipton has taken unto himself a crest and coat of arms. To his credit, be it said, the *Independent* observes, he has invented his own arms, and has not tried to steal the family label of some ancient name. Sir Thomas Lipton has chosen for his crest two horny hands of labour, one bearing the flower of the tea plant, the other that of the coffee plant. The shield has in chief the shamrock in memory of his native Ireland, and the thistle in token of his beginnings of business in Scotland, while a horn of plenty fills the base. A further touch of autobiography is supplied by the motto, 'Labour conquers all things.'