

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

May 23.

Mr. H. H. Loughnan, having retired from the position so long and with such conspicuous success held by him, Mr. H. Rossiter has received the appointment of choir-master and conductor of the Cathedral choir.

Many outside his own immediate denomination will learn with regret that Dr. Julius, Anglican Bishop of Christchurch, is suffering from a break-down in health, which necessitates his relinquishing duty and undertaking a voyage to England.

On Sunday last, the feast of Pentecost, a very large number of children, who were prepared by a three days' Retreat conducted by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, made their First Communion at the half-past nine o'clock Mass, celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop in the Pro-Cathedral. The young First Communicants were afterwards provided with breakfast in the boys' schoolroom, and attended by ladies of the congregation. Shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon all assembled at the episcopal residence and joined in the procession to the church for Confirmation. At the appointed time the Pro-Cathedral was filled with parishioners, the candidates for Confirmation occupying the front rows of seats. His Lordship the Bishop, who was attended by the resident clergy, administered the sacrament to 69 boys, 130 girls, and a number of adults. After the ceremony his Lordship spoke to the newly confirmed on the significance of the holy Sacrament just administered, pointing out the new duties and responsibilities incumbent upon them. In the evening at half-past six the Pro-Cathedral was densely thronged. His Lordship the Bishop, whose duties throughout the day had been most arduous, preached an earnest and impressive discourse on the subject of the day's festival. Dedication to the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph and the renewal of baptismal vows were followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout the day's ceremonies the large body of young people comported themselves in a manner highly edifying, evidencing a careful training at the hands of their teachers, the Sisters of the Mission and the Marist Brothers. The girls with cardinal sashes, veils, and wreaths, and the boys wearing white sashes presented a remarkably pleasing appearance. Owing to the solemnity of the occasion the sanctuary was tastefully adorned. Special items were introduced in the musical arrangements, and that most inspiring of hymns, 'Faith of our Fathers,' was unitedly sung.

Among the numerous Catholic institutions of charity and benevolence scattered widely throughout the Colony, probably the latest, but certainly not the least, is that of the Sacred Heart Orphanage and Industrial School for girls, situated on the Mount Magdala estate. It is as distinct and separate from the Magdala Asylum as if it were miles and miles away. There, in its own charming seclusion, with its tastefully laid-out grounds, its flower plots, and the numerous little aids to healthy out-door pursuits, stands a fine two-storey structure in brick and stone, only erected during the past few years and opened but two. It shows that the need exists near the great centres of population for such havens of rest and rescue, as there are already twenty little charges within its walls, as happy, healthy, and contented as it is possible to conceive. There is room for many more, and it is the anxious desire of the Sisters who have control that all available space should be occupied rather than even one of those little ones, so dear to His Sacred Heart, should be neglected or lost. The orphanage building, as previously stated, is constructed of brick and stone, and therefore absolutely fire-proof. On the ground floor is a spacious class-room, and near by a large refectory. Ascending a flight of stone steps to the second floor the dormitory is entered, and just off this is the lavatory. On this floor, too, are situated apartments for the Sisters. Everything is, of course, spotlessly clean, and the whole aspect of the institution cheerful and bright to a degree. Detached from the main building and in an enclosed yard are the kitchen, laundry, drying, and ironing room. One of the Sisters is constantly in attendance; she is Mother of the little community, and to her the children cling with all the love and confidence usually bestowed on a natural parent. At least two other Sisters assist in the duties of the institution, ordinary school studies occupying a great portion of the day's routine. Arts and crafts and domestic duties are taught, and nothing left undone to perfect the mind, body, and character of the children, whose ages range from four years upwards, and many with no other friends in the world than the Sisters. Surely we owe them and the revered Very Rev. Rector and manager a debt at least of gratitude, with a promise of kindly and timely assistance and help.

Waimate

(From our own correspondent.)

May 23.

On Thursday evening, May 22, the Waimate Brass Band tendered to their many friends a grand complimentary concert. During the interval the Rev. Father Regnault, as president of the Band, presented the conductor, Mr. C. J. Goldstone, on behalf of the members, with a handsome watch guard and pendant, in recognition of his valuable services as leader and conductor. The rev. president spoke in highly complimentary terms of the energy and ability that had been shown by Mr. Goldstone as conductor, and the great and rapid progress the Band had made under his guidance. The gift was suitably acknowledged by Mr. Goldstone.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, in order to keep members in closer union with each other, have decided to hold social evenings during the winter months. A committee has been formed to work the matter up, and members will no doubt appreciate their efforts. The first of those gatherings takes place this evening, when the members meet the local Oddfellows in a crib and euchre match.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

May 19.

The pupils of the Sacred Heart College are at present enjoying their vacation, and resume studies towards the end of the month. The numbers in this institution are increasing in a very satisfactory manner.

The signs are evident of an increase in the city rates. Much needed improvements are necessary, and there is little money with which to carry them out. The loan placed upon the market is not being subscribed so readily, because of the low rate of interest—4 per cent.

At a complimentary social given this week to Mr. Paul Hansen, General Manager of the Auckland Electric Tramways, prior to his visiting Europe and America in the interests of his company, the chair was occupied by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan. Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., was also present.

The Marist Brothers' primary school football team began their part in the public schools Rugby football competition last Saturday, when they defeated the Napier street school team by 27 points to nil. Mr. George Tyler, a well known New Zealand representative, is coaching both Marist Brothers' teams—the college and primary school.

Mr. Patrick Darby, so long and so favorably known in this city and beyond it for his many sterling qualities, is, I regret to say, very ill. For half a century he has been known throughout Auckland, and many a heartfelt prayer for his recovery will, I am sure, be offered up. His son, Rev. Father Darby, came down from Hamilton to be near his father in his illness. Rev. Father Furlong, of St. Benedict's, meanwhile takes temporary charge of Hamilton during Father Darby's absence.

Very Rev. Dean Lighthouse, Superior of the Maori Mission, left for Sydney en route to England by the 'Mararoa'. He goes to attend the Chapter of the Order of St. Joseph at Mill Hill, London, for the purpose of electing a Superior in the place of the late Cardinal Vaughan. Rev. Fathers Patterson, Adm., Holbrook, and Kreymsborg (Rotorua), and your Auckland correspondent saw the Dean off. Dean Lighthouse has, by his zeal, courtesy, and tact, won for himself countless staunch friends, not only in Auckland but throughout New Zealand. It is to be hoped that his Superiors will again send him to the land of the Maori. Wherever Dean Lighthouse may be stationed he will always have the prayers and good wishes of his New Zealand friends.

Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

That the Athletic Football Club, Invercargill, is a progressive body no one will dispute. This was the first Southland club to open and maintain a gymnasium, also to institute a series of socials during the winter months—both of which departures have been copied by other clubs. Last week a debating society was formed, to be called the Athletic Debating Club. The following officers were appointed: Patron, the Very Rev. Dean Burke; president, Mr. W. O'Brien; vice-presidents, Messrs. L. W. Morton and T. Cavanagh; secretary, Mr. D. Corcoran.

The Balfour Catholic church is to be blessed and opened about the end of the month.