

its usual high standard. Miss Moran's concert on Thursday evening served to show the possession of great gifts by many of the younger Wellingtonians.

The concert arranged by Miss Julia Moran, an artist of exceptional ability and one ever ready to assist in any good cause, proved a treat of a very high order. The majority of the performers were Miss Moran's own pupils, and the manner in which they acquitted themselves reflects greatly to the credit of their teacher. The items were mainly violin and piano selections. Misses Amy Hyde, Lenore Pulsford, and Lily White, all former pupils of St. Mary's Convent, assisted during the evening, and greatly added to the enjoyment. The first part of the programme consisted of a violin solo by Miss Langdon, a piano solo by Miss Ida Moran (a pianist of great promise), a violin solo by Miss Moye O'Sullivan, and a song and encore number by Miss White. In the second part songs were given by Miss Hyde and Miss Pulsford. Miss Moran played Leonard's 'Souvenir de Haydn,' and being heartily encored contributed a tuneful setting of 'When other lips.' The other items were all rendered in creditable style, and the entertainment throughout was most enjoyable.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.

The Rev. Father O'Brien, C.S.S.R., is to commence a mission at Halswell to-day (Monday).

A mission is to be commenced at Akaroa on Christmas Day, probably by the Rev. Father Stack, C.S.S.R.

Last week a large number of the police and detective forces met at the police station to say good-bye to Sergeant P. Ryan, who has been transferred to Dunedin. Sergeant Bourke presided, and on behalf of his comrades presented to Sergeant Ryan a gladstone bag and an umbrella, both bearing silver plates inscribed with a message of esteem and farewell, and a gold and emerald brooch for Mrs. Ryan. Sergeant Bourke gave expression to the regret felt by members of the force in and around the city at their having lost a valued comrade and a trusted friend, and assured their guest of their sincere wishes for his prosperity in his new district. Sergeant Ryan thanked his colleagues for their presents and their good wishes, speaking of his own regret at having to leave a district with which very many happy memories were associated.

During the course of his address at the Sacred Heart High School prize distribution Bishop Grimes spoke as follows on the Bible-in-schools agitation: There had been some remarks made recently with regard to the Bible-in-schools, and it had been said—'Look at the Catholics. What they are doing is the thin edge of the wedge.' He denied this, and he asked why did not those who made the statement do what the Catholics were doing, and make the sacrifices they were making in the interest of their children. They gave them an education which not only fitted them for any position they might be called upon to occupy in this world, but also fitted them for the next. Catholics put their hands in their pockets and paid for what other parents should give their children, not what they relied instead upon the State to give them. It was also made a cry that Catholics had no love for the Bible. Why, it was due to the Catholic monks of the middle ages that they had the Bible. They had spent years in translating and transcribing the manuscripts, such as were to be seen in the British Museum and elsewhere. They as Catholics loved and revered the Bible, and regarded it as a divinely inspired book, and there was nothing in the statements which had been made to the contrary.

The greatest interest has been maintained throughout the week in the mission at the Pro-Cathedral by the Redemptorist Fathers. On Wednesday evening the service was especially in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, when the Rev. Father O'Brien preached a fine discourse on the Real Presence. On Sunday evening the mission was solemnly closed, when probably one of the largest congregations ever gathered within the walls of the church assembled. On the text, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all He hath rendered unto me,' the Rev. Father O'Brien discoursed impressively and in such a manner as to leave a lasting remembrance on all present. A wondrous spectacle was presented when, with lighted candles, the vast concourse renewed their baptismal vows. After imparting the Papal blessing, the preacher feelingly referred to the extreme kindness and assistance extended towards the missionaries by his Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Vicar-General, and the clergy of the parish. His Lordship the Bishop expressed the deep debt of gratitude they were under after Almighty God to the apostolic sons of St. Alphonse Liguori for the time of such abundant grace.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

December 17.

A bazaar is to be opened at Brunner on Monday evening for the purpose of liquidating the school debt.

On returning from Blackball after saying Mass a few Sundays ago, the Rev. Father Leen ran serious risk of being drowned when crossing one of the rivers, it being in high flood. The Rev. Father, however, was fortunately rescued by some onlookers.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week special services were held in connection with the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Fully 200 received Holy Communion on the feast day, and also a large number of children made their First Communion. Impressive sermons were delivered each evening by Very Rev. Dean Carew and Rev. Father Herbert.

The Rev. Father Herbert, who left here last Monday for Wellington, en route for Sydney, where he goes to see his mother, who is seriously indisposed, was presented on last Sunday evening with an address and a purse of sovereigns. Mr. M. J. Fogarty read the address, and Mr. Felix Campbell, in making the presentation, referred to the many good qualities of the recipient. The Rev. Dean Carew also bore testimony to the good work done by the Rev. Father. The Rev. Father Herbert suitably replied. The Rev. Father Herbert was also presented with handsome gifts and illuminated addresses by the Children of Mary and she altar boys.

On last Sunday the quarterly Communion of St. Columba's Club took place. A billiard table is now in full operation and the membership is nearing 100. A cricket club has also been formed. It is captained by Mr. T. O'Donnell, who represented Greymouth against the English eleven some few years ago and made a brilliant stand.

To aid in liquidating the debt on the Blackball church a concert was held there on last Friday evening. Mr. Bird and the Rev. Father Leen, who got up the affair, were well rewarded for their efforts, and had a good house. The Rev. Father thanked all those who had assisted in any way with the new church, and hoped that on the opening day not a penny would be owing.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 15.

At St Benedict's at the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday his Lordship the Bishop preached. There was a very large congregation. In the evening his Lordship was again present, when the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P. was the preacher. St. Benedict's is a very fine church, both externally and internally, and I am safe in saying that few finer churches are to be seen in New Zealand.

Rev. Father Carroll, of Melbourne, preached last Sunday evening at St. Patrick's, and left the following Monday evening for the Victorian capital.

A well attended meeting of St. Patrick's Day celebration committee was held in the Marist Brothers' Schoolroom, Pitt street, last Tuesday evening, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, J.P., in the chair. The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., Fathers Patterson, Adm., McMillan, Holbrook, and Dignan were present, and several ladies representing St. Benedict's parish. The utmost enthusiasm was displayed, and a large amount of detail work was gone through. The nucleus of a sports committee was set up, while the national evening entertainment was left in the hands of Dr. Egan, and Messrs. R. A. Keenan, Scanton, and M. J. Sheahan. The tickets for the art union are to be issued forthwith.

Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., arrived last Tuesday morning from Australia via the south, and will conduct the annual retreat of the religious of this diocese.

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

The High School, conducted by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, celebrated the approach of the Christmas vacation on Thursday, December 15. As usual the exhibition of art, needlework, etc., was on an extensive scale, the display reflecting credit on the artistic taste, talent, and diligence of the pupils. Where year after year everything is done so well it is unnecessary to go into details, but if one branch of study more than another appears to have made a distinct advance, such must be said of the wood-cutting, some really excellent specimens of which were on view, a beautifully finished folding desk and an overmantel, with hand-painted mirror, being conspicuous. The paintings and draw-

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