

Masterton

(From our own correspondent.)

February 8.

It is proposed to form a glee class in connection with St. Bride's Convent. The convent has an excellent reputation for its musical tuition, and doubtless the new class will prove a popular one. The Mother Superior requests that intending pupils make immediate application.

The Very Rev. Dean McKenna, who is attending the annual retreat of the clergy in Wellington will return to Masterton to-morrow in time for the opening of the mission by the Redemptorist Fathers. Rev. Father Kelly is going to take charge of the Pahiatua parish, in the absence of the Rev. Father McKenna, who is to have a well earned holiday.

A recent addition to the grounds of St. Bride's Convent is a very compact and well finished kiosk, which has been erected right in front of the convent on the bank of the creek running through the grounds. It is octagonal in shape, and is an ornament to the already beautiful surroundings. The labor for the buildings was gratuitously supplied by the following:—Messrs. F. Haughey, P. Wilkins, G. Ross, J. J. Powell, Green, J., and E. Bockmann, R. E. Jones, and S. O'Regan. The kiosk was completed on Saturday—the centenary of the Brigidine Order,—and the nuns propose to have a scroll affixed over the entrance, inscribed 1807-1907. To commemorate the occasion a pleasant little function was held on Friday evening at the convent, when the Sisters entertained at dinner persons who so generously assisted in the erection of the kiosk, the Mother Superior and Sisters being very grateful for what had been done on their behalf.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 11.

The Catholic members of the No. 3 Battalion, Wellington Cadets, now encamped in the Exhibition grounds, were marched to the Cathedral for the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday.

A brass band invasion of Christchurch has set in preparatory to this week's contests. About thirty bands are to take part, and will be the greatest event of its kind ever held in Australasia. Altogether upwards of 1000 bandmen will be engaged.

Tickets for the national concert in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, and in aid of the funds of Nazareth House, have been widely circulated, and there is every indication that the event will prove as successful as previous ones for the same deserving object.

With extraordinary perversity many of our Catholic people persistently term the Cathedral the 'Pro-Cathedral,' especially when having announcements inserted in public papers. In the past 'Pro,' as a prefix, was appropriate, but now with absolutely the finest Cathedral in the Colony, ignorance in the direction indicated is inexcusable, and to many most annoying. Those outside our denomination apparently know better, and one never hears them using any other than the proper term. It is to be hoped we have now heard the last of this misnomer.

The meeting held last week to organise a suitable reception to his Lordship the Bishop on his return to the diocese was very enthusiastic. An executive committee was appointed, consisting of the Very Rev. Vicar-General, Rev. Father O'Connell, Mr. P. Burke (hon. treasurer), and Mr. E. O'Connor (hon. secretary) to arrange details. As a tangible proof of the esteem in which his Lordship is held, it is intended to present him with a purse of sovereigns, which will be accompanied by an address on behalf of the clergy and laity, delivered by the Very Rev. Vicar-General. It is also intended to illuminate the Cathedral, the convent, and the grounds with electric light on the evening of the Bishop's arrival, and to admit the public to the grounds of the episcopal residence.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

February 11.

Mr. James Dunne, one of the most highly respected residents of this parish, sustained the loss of his eldest daughter, Catherine Theresa, last month. The deceased was for many years a teacher in the parochial school. About a year ago she entered the Sis-

tërs of the Sacred Heart Order, and she passed away on January 13 at Wellington, where the funeral took place. Sincere sympathy has been extended to the bereaved family.—R.I.P.

A most important meeting of the Hibernian Society was held in St. John's Hall last Monday week, the chief business being the consideration of the Order Paper for the approaching triennial meeting. The matter was brought up according to rule at a specially summoned meeting held a fortnight before, and it was referred to a committee to report on it at a following meeting. The chief interest centred round the motion re the changing of the location of the district office, and when it was brought forward, on the motion of Mr. Dunne seconded by Mr. E. Venning, it was decided to instruct the delegates to support the change. It may be mentioned that the president, secretary, and assistant accepted the motion, although they did not approve of and combated same; therefore it must have been legal, as the rule provides a penalty for receiving an illegal motion. The voting resulted in eleven votes to ten, the total legal voting strength of the branch being 142. Mr. Conlan, before the close of the meeting, asked the chair if the delegates were bound to lend their influence as well as their vote to further the wishes of the meeting, and the vice-president answered in the affirmative.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

February 7.

The ceremony of reception took place at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, on Saturday morning, February 2, when five young ladies were received into the Order of the Sisters of Mercy. The chapel was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the convent choir rendered the appropriate music. His Lordship Dr. Lenihan presided and preached an eloquent sermon. There were also present Rev. Fathers Buckley, Hills, Holbrook, Cahill, Molloy, and Williams. The names of the Sisters received are—Miss E. Kelleher (Ireland), in religion Sister M. Antonia; Miss Lizzie Delahunty (Australia), Sister M. de Ricci; Miss Bridget Rist (Auckland), Sister M. Anselm; Miss Mary Halloran (Wrey's Bush), Sister M. Koska; Miss Annie Creegan (Wrey's Bush), Sister M. Claud.

The re-opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral is fixed for April 21, the third Sunday after Easter, and the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph. In the meantime extensive structural alterations are being made, and great improvements are being effected at a cost of about £6000. On Sunday last a beautiful new stained glass window was unveiled to the memory of Mr. Thomas Egan Payne and Mr. William Egan Payne, and erected by their mother. It is the work of the well known artist, Alex. Booker, of Brussels, and represents St. William of York and St. Thomas of Aquin. The unveiling ceremony was performed at the nine o'clock Mass. In the evening a mural tablet of maroon marble was unveiled to the memory of the late Mr. Michael Davitt. The inscription, which is in gold letters, runs thus: 'Of your charity pray for the soul of Michael Davitt; born at Straide, County Mayo, 25th March, 1846; died at Dublin, 30th May, 1906. "To all my friends I leave kind thoughts; to my enemies the fullest possible forgiveness." God's blessing be with his soul.' In addition to these two memorials the Rev. Father Holbrook, assisted by Rev. Fathers Murphy and Farthing, unveiled a new Station of the Cross. The group represents the VIII. Station, and was erected by Bishop Lenihan to the memory of the late Mrs. Sarah McDonnell, of Thames, one of the benefactresses of the diocese.

Thames

For nineteen years (says the 'Thames Star' of February 5) the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly has held the office of chairman of the Thames Hospital Trustees, having been unanimously appointed each year. This is a speaking testimony to the ability of the reverend gentleman as chairman.

Mr. Paul, in proposing the election of Monsignor O'Reilly as chairman for the ensuing twelve months, testified to the satisfactory and creditable manner in which the rev. gentleman had performed his duties. Mr. Burns also paid a tribute to the chairman's zeal and endeavors to promote the interests of the institution, and to the happy relations that always existed.

Monsignor O'Reilly thanked the members for their renewed confidence in him, as evidenced by his unani-