

ii) only within the limits of their territory, within which they assist validly at marriages not only of their own subjects, but also of those not subject to them;

iii) provided when invited and asked, and not compelled by violence or by grave fear, they demand and receive the consent of the contracting parties.

V. They assist licitly:

i) when they have legitimately ascertained the free state of the contracting parties, having duly complied with the conditions laid down by the law;

ii) when they have ascertained that one of the contracting parties has a domicile or at least has lived for a month in the place where the marriage takes place;

iii) if this condition be lacking, the parish-priest and the Ordinary of the place, to assist licitly at a marriage, require the permission of the parish-priest or the Ordinary of one of the contracting parties, unless it be a case of grave necessity, which excuses from this permission;

iv) concerning persons without fixed abode (*vagos*), except in case of necessity it is not lawful for a parish-priest to assist at their marriage until they report the matter to the Ordinary or to a priest delegated by him and obtain permission to assist;

v) in every case let it be held as the rule that the marriage is to be celebrated before the parish-priest of the bride, unless some just cause excuses from this.

VI. The parish-priest and the Ordinary of the place may grant permission to another priest, specified and certain, to assist at marriages within the limits of their district.

The delegated priest, in order to assist validly and licitly, is bound to observe the limits of his mandate and the rules laid down above, in IV. and V., for the parish-priest and the Ordinary of the place.

VII. When danger of death is imminent, and where the parish-priest or the Ordinary of the place or a priest delegated by either of these cannot be had, in order to provide for the relief of conscience and (should the case require it) for the legitimation of offspring, marriage may be contracted validly and licitly before any priest and two witnesses.

VIII. Should it happen that in any district the parish-priest or the Ordinary of the place or a priest delegated by either of them, before whom marriage can be celebrated, is not to be had, and that this condition of things has lasted for a month, marriage may be validly and licitly entered upon by the formal declaration of consent made by the spouses in the presence of two witnesses.

IX. i) After the celebration of a marriage the parish-priest or he who takes his place is to write at once in the book of marriages the names of the couple and of the witnesses, the place and day of the celebration of the marriage, and the other details, according to the method prescribed in the ritual books or by the Ordinary; and this even when another priest delegated either by the parish-priest himself or by the Ordinary has assisted at the marriage.

ii) Moreover, the parish-priest is to note also in the book of baptisms that the married person contracted marriage on such a day in his parish. If the married person has been baptised elsewhere, the parish-priest who has assisted at the marriage is to transmit, either directly or through the episcopal curia, the announcement of the marriage that has taken place to the parish-priest of the place where the person was baptised, in order that the marriage may be inscribed in the book of baptisms.

iii) Whenever a marriage is contracted in the manner described in VII. and VIII., the priest in the former case, the witnesses in the latter, are bound conjointly with the contracting parties to provide that the marriage be inscribed as soon as possible in the prescribed books.

X. Parish-priests who violate the rules thus far laid down are to be punished by their Ordinaries according to the nature and gravity of their transgression. Moreover, if they assist at the marriage of anybody in violation of the rules laid down in ii) and iii) of No. V., they are not to appropriate the stole-fees, but must remit them to the parish-priest of the contracting parties.

XI. i) The above laws are binding upon all persons baptised in the Catholic Church and on those who have been converted to it from heresy or schism (even when either the latter or the

former have fallen away afterwards from the Church) whenever they contract *sponsalia* or marriage with one another.

ii) The same laws are binding also on the same Catholics as above, if they contract *sponsalia* or marriage with non-Catholics, baptised or unbaptised, even after a dispensation has been obtained from the impediment *mixta religionis* or *disparitatis cultus*; unless the Holy See decree otherwise for some particular place or region.

iii) Non-Catholics, whether baptised or unbaptised, who contract among themselves, are nowhere bound to observe the Catholic form of *sponsalia* or marriage.

The present decree is to be held as legitimately published and promulgated by its transmission to the Ordinaries, and its provisions begin to have the force of law from the solemn feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, next year, 1908.

Meanwhile let all the Ordinaries of places see that this decree be made public as soon as possible, and explained in the different parochial churches of their dioceses in order that it may be known by all.

These presents are to have force by the special order of our Most Holy Father Pope Pius X., all things to the contrary, even those worthy of special mention to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome on the 2nd day of August in the year 1907.

† VINCENT Card. Bishop of Palestrina, *Prefect*.

C. DE LAY, *Secretary*.

St. Mary's Cathedral Building Fund, Wellington

The following circular letter has been issued to the clergy of the Archdiocese of Wellington by his Grace the Archbishop:—

Archbishop's House,

Wellington, September 28, 1907.

Reverend and Dear Father,

I desire to inform you that the annual meeting of parishioners to receive the annual report and balance sheet of the trustees of the above fund was held here on Sunday afternoon, the 15th inst. The report stated that although no special canvass for subscriptions had been made (except in one parish, viz., Thorndon) during the year ended 30th April, 1907, yet £486 3s 3d had been donated; this amount together with the rent from a portion of the Cathedral site in Buckle street, and the interest on invested funds brought the total receipts for the year up to £1243 9s 7d. The amount of the fund at the date of the meeting was reported to be £12,520. The meeting discussed at some length the question as to whether or not a start should soon be made with a portion of the Cathedral. It was eventually resolved that the trustees be directed to arrange with me to commence a portion of the building as soon as £15,000 was in hand. Great enthusiasm was manifested by those present in the undertaking and the successful management of the fund; several of the speakers said that seeing there was now a sum of £12,520 in hand, it ought not to be a very difficult task to obtain the balance of £2480 to bring the total up to the required £15,000. I informed the meeting that I had arranged for a collection to be made in every parish of the archdiocese by the end of the present year, and that I anticipated a very successful result therefrom.

As you are aware, Reverend and dear Father, this work of the Cathedral of the archdiocese is one which I have very much at heart, and it is my particular desire that I should see the foundation stone laid before very long, and the work of a portion at least of the building commenced.

I would therefore earnestly and personally urge you to make a special effort to ensure that the collection to be taken up in your parish be made a great success.

I am, Reverend and Dear Father,,

Yours faithfully,

✠ FRANCIS REDWOOD, S.M.,
Archbishop of Wellington.

The Rev. Martin Walsh, Gateshead, has been appointed to Ferrybank, Waterford, in succession to the late Rev. W. Delany; and Rev. J. Nolan has been transferred to Callan from the diocese of Newcastle and Hexham.

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