

Mass will probably be celebrated at Sumner every Sunday during the summer season, and almost invariably at half-past eight o'clock.

Among the speakers at the valedictory picnic, tendered by the Lyttelton Harbor Board to the Antarctic explorers on the 'Nimrod' last week, was his Lordship Bishop Grimes, who, in the course of an appropriate address, said all would follow the Antarctic expedition in spirit, and heart, and with their prayers for the success of an undertaking prompted by a love of science and patriotism. The Harbor Board had given practical proof of its patriotism, and he trusted all present that day would be spared to welcome the expedition on its triumphant return to Lyttelton.

It is always a pleasant duty to notice the advancement of our young co-religionists. Miss Dulcie Deamer, who recently won the prize in the "Lone Hand" story competition, is the only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Deamer, of Featherston. Sixteen is an early age to carry off such a prize (says the "Dominion"), when one remembers that it was open to all competitors in the whole of Australasia, and the probabilities are that Miss Deamer will be heard of in the future as one of New Zealand's writers. It is said to be no tax upon her memory to recite word for word many of Shakespeare's plays, and she and her mother have written and acted, as many of their Featherston friends will remember, several little plays. Dr. and Mrs. Deamer were long resident in this city.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 3.

The annual retreat of the diocesan clergy is to begin on the 20th inst.

St. Benedict's Choir held a picnic yesterday at St. Helier's Bay, where a most enjoyable time was spent.

At the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, on Christmas Day, Rev. Father Tormey celebrated a Missa Cantata at 10 o'clock. There was a very large congregation.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran is due to arrive on Sunday, February 16. He opens the bazaar on the following Monday evening, goes to Rotorua on Tuesday, returns on Friday or Saturday, consecrates the Cathedral on Sunday, and leaves for Sydney on February 24.

On Sunday evening last the Choir rendered the 'Miserere' and afterwards the 'Te Deum,' commemorative of the expiration of the old year, and the dawning of the new. The Bishop delivered a very fine discourse, in which he dwelt upon the lax manner of many Catholics in their devotion, and want of love and sympathy for the Church and its great work. His Lordship advised all to be honest and upright in their dealings in the world, thereby earning the respect and esteem of those around them. To employers and employees alike he addressed words of sound and wholesome advice, in which he pointed out their respective obligations, one to the other and to the community altogether.

At the early Masses on Christmas Day very large numbers approached the Holy Table. From six until ten o'clock there were Masses continually at the Cathedral. At the six and seven o'clock Masses the choir of the Children of Mary and Guard of Honor Confraternities respectively sang a number of appropriate hymns. At the 11 o'clock Mass his Lordship the Bishop was present in the Sanctuary. Rev. Father Holbrook was celebrant, Rev. Father Farthing, deacon, Rev. Father Doyle, sub-deacon, and Rev. Father Murphy, master of ceremonies. After the first gospel the Bishop addressed the large congregation on the great festival they were that day commemorating, and reminded those present what our Divine Redeemer had suffered. We should always keep this before our minds and it would make of us better Catholics and Christians. We should practice those virtues which He taught us while on earth, particularly those of humility and charity. We should never forget the suffering poor who at all times, but particularly during this holy season, appealed to our generosity. Let us not turn a deaf ear to their appeal. The Bishop thanked his priests of the Cathedral, the Confraternities, the Choir, the Collectors, and all those who had assisted in the decorations of the Altars, and keeping in order their fine Church. He invoked God's blessing on all during Christmas and throughout the coming year. At Vespers the Church was filled, the Bishop again attended. The Rev. Father O'Donnell, C.S.S.R., preached on the Nativity. Pontifical Benediction followed. The Choir, under Mr. P. F. Hiscocks, both in the morning and evening, merited the highest encomiums. A word

of praise is also due to the Sisters of Mercy, Miss Gough and Mr. T. F. Holbrook, for their efforts in decorating the altar, which indeed looked beautiful.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

December 31.

A sad trap accident occurred on Durie Hill on Sunday evening, by which Mrs. Arthur Coe lost her life. Much sympathy has been felt for her husband in his sudden bereavement.

The Mayor of Wanganui, Mr. C. E. Mackay, and his wife have gone to Auckland for the Christmas holidays. It is announced that Mr. Mackay will be a candidate for a seat in Parliament at the next election.

During the Christmas holidays the weather was very oppressive. There was the usual exodus of holiday-makers on Boxing Day; many went to Castlecliff to get a breath of fresh air, whilst others betook themselves to various places along the railway line.

St. Mary's Catholic Club is still without a president. The club, however, possesses an energetic secretary in the person of Mr. F. D. Gaffaney, and he, together with other members of the executive, will carry on the management until the presidential chair can be filled.

Some time ago the ratepayers voted a loan of £45,000 for the construction of an electric tramway service in Wanganui. The contract has been let to Messrs. Wolff and Co., and they have already commenced to land material in Wanganui for the work. The first shipment of ironbark sleepers, on which the rails are to be laid, has come to hand and is now being discharged from the ship. It is hoped that by this time twelve months the tramways will be an accomplished fact. It is doubtful, however, whether they will pay for the first two or three years.

On Saturday last a match was fired at the Putiki rifle range between teams of 14 men representing the Wellington Navals and the Wanganui Irish Rifles. The match ended in a victory for the local team, the scores being Irish Rifles, 1006; Wellington Navals, 947; the Irish Rifles thus winning by 59 points. On Friday evening, prior to the match, the visitors were entertained by the Irish Rifles at a smoke concert in Hodson's rooms, about 50 being present. On Sunday the visitors were taken up the river in a launch, a trip that was very much appreciated by them. They left for Wellington by the first train yesterday, having spent a thoroughly enjoyable holiday.

The 'Wanganui Herald' of yesterday says: "The Catholics of Aramoho are to be congratulated upon having such a pretty church as St. Joseph's, which is an ornament to the rising suburb. On Christmas Day and yesterday numbers of worshippers attended the church and were delighted with the beautiful music rendered by the choir at the evening services. The Vespers were sung, as also the Benediction service. The beautiful Christmas carol, 'Bright Angels,' and the ancient but ever fresh 'Adeste Fideles,' were very devotionally rendered, and reminded one that the holy season of the Nativity had come again. The 'Alma,' at the end of the Vespers, well interpreted as it was, formed also an attractive item in the service. We have to compliment Mrs. Luxford, choir-mistress, Miss Cooper, organist, and the members of St. Joseph's choir upon the success which has attended their efforts."

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

December 29.

The collection taken up for the local hospital in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, December 15, realised the respectable sum of nearly £19.

The Rev. Father McCarthy preached an eloquent sermon on the Mother of God at Vespers on Sunday, December 29.

The Masses in St. Patrick's Church on Christmas Day were at 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and a Missa Cantata at 11 o'clock, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father McCarthy, of St. Patrick's College, Wellington.

The weather was almost unbearable the week preceding Christmas. Light showers to heavy rain rather upset the shoppers on Christmas Eve, and continued till late in the afternoon of Christmas Day. Business on the whole was very nearly equal to that of last year. Great numbers left the town for seaside and other resorts, but their places were more than filled by a large influx of visitors.

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