

**DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH**

(From our own correspondent.)

January 27.

The Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., preached at the Cathedral on Sunday evening, the subject of his discourse being Eternity.

During the recent clergy retreat the Rev. Father Morrell, M.S.H., officiated at St. Mary's, Manchester street, in the absence of the local priests.

The Marist Brothers of the South Island are at present engaged in their annual retreat, which is being conducted by the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R.

A meeting of the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee is convened for next Thursday evening to arrange for the annual national entertainment in aid of Nazareth House.

Among the successful candidates in the recent matriculation examination was Miss Mary Molloy, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's Convent, Colombo street.

In view of the re-opening of the Catholic schools, the Rev. Father O'Connell, at the Cathedral on Sunday, spoke forcibly on the subject, and on the duty of parents in the interests of their children. The general efficiency of the Catholic schools was plainly shown and proved, not on their own testimony alone, but on that of those most competent to form an opinion—the Inspectors of public schools.

At St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, on Sunday a summary of the fifteenth annual report of the local Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was given for the information of the congregation. The Conference records sincere thanks to the priests and people of St. Mary's for kind assistance, friendly advice, and the means to enable much good work to be accomplished. A contribution was thankfully received from the Hyman Marks Trust, and coal to the value of £10 from a prominent member of the congregation, which being distributed enabled fourteen poor families to pass through last winter in comparative comfort. The Conference was represented on the mayoral coal and blanket fund committee, and thus secured a fair proportion of these necessaries for deserving cases. A Ladies' Association in connection with the Conference was formed during the year. A boys' club, with promising results, was also formed, and the Conference itself was strengthened by the addition of several energetic active members. The receipts, including credit balance from last year, amounted to £36 16s, and the expenditure to £30 2s 6d, leaving a credit balance in hand of £5 13s 6d.

**DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND**

(From our own correspondent.)

January 24.

Four Sisters of St. Joseph arrived here from Sydney last Monday afternoon by the 'Manukā.'

Rev. Father Vandyk, of the Order of St. Joseph, preached last Sunday evening at St. Patrick's.

At the cemetery, Symonds street, a gang of men are now busily engaged in effecting improvements.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese commenced last Monday and terminated this morning. It was conducted by Rev. Father O'Connell, C.S.S.R.

A virulent form of illness is very prevalent in the city just now. The doctors pronounce it cholera. It entails very great suffering, and in many cases it has caused death.

In last week's correspondence it was stated that the two stained-glass windows behind the high altar in the Cathedral would soon be erected. They have since been placed in position, and look really magnificent, as their situation is one of the best.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran is expected to leave Sydney for Auckland on Wednesday, February 12, and should arrive the following Sunday. The visit is looked forward to here with the greatest interest, and the illustrious prince of the Church will be accorded a very cordial welcome.

Signor Borzoni is actively engaged in instructing the young ladies and children for the forthcoming gala in February. A large hall is absolutely necessary for the success of the bazaar and concert and other fine attractions, and negotiations are proceeding in order to secure one. At the time of writing it is not certain if the efforts of the committee will prove successful in this direction, but it is hoped that they may be.

Mr. Midgeley Taylor, the eminent engineer from England, at present in Auckland, has presented his re-

port upon the drainage of Auckland City and suburbs to the Corporation. The scheme is a comprehensive one, and will take half a million of money to carry it out. It commences away to the west of the city, and is laid in an easterly direction on towards Orakei, where the sewage will empty into the sea. Mr. Taylor says that, in order to do the work thoroughly, it is absolutely necessary the numerous small governing bodies around outside the city should amalgamate into a Greater Auckland. A conference with this object in view, and to discuss Mr. Taylor's report, will be held next Monday.

**Presentation to the Very Rev. Father Power, Hawera**

(From our own correspondent.)

The Catholics of Hawera were present in large numbers in the Convent schoolroom on Tuesday evening for the purpose of bidding good-bye to the Very Rev. Father Power, on the occasion of his departure for a well-earned holiday to Ireland. Amongst those present were the Very Rev. Dean Grogan, Very Rev. Dean McKenna, Rev. Fathers McManus, Tracy, Haire, Soullas, Barra, Gondringer, Duffy, and O'Dwyer.

Mr. B. McCarthy, who presided, in introducing the business of the evening, said—It is my honor and privilege this evening, on the occasion of your projected visit to your native land, to voice, on behalf of your parishioners, their feelings of admiration, esteem and affection, and to mark the occasion in some tangible way by asking your acceptance of an address and a purse of sovereigns. Although this movement of making a presentation was somewhat precipitated by a change in the time of your departure, it is pleasing to know that the efforts of the committee met with a prompt and ready response by the parishioners, which is striking testimony of their love and esteem for you as their pastor and friend. Indeed, there are evidences not wanting that you have warm friends amongst the clergy, as is borne out by the number of those present. We are indeed pleased to welcome here this evening, in addition to the provincial priests, two former rectors of our parish in the persons of the Very Rev. Dean Grogan and Very Rev. Dean McKenna. The nine years of your administration in this portion of the Lord's vineyard have been as fruitful in the spiritual welfare of the parish as they have been in the material progress of the district, and we recognise that it is in no small degree due to your tact, ability and tireless energy. The more notable works successfully carried to completion are the erection of a presbytery and school in Hawera, convent and school at Manaiā, and churches at Okaiawa and Auroa. The arduous labors that have fallen to your lot here, apart altogether from your previous eleven years of active service for the honor and glory of God, have entitled you to a well-earned rest, and it is our pleasure this evening to heartily wish you the fullest measure of enjoyment of your holiday. God speed a pleasant voyage, and a safe return, reinvigorated in health and strength to carry on the great and holy work which you have so successfully accomplished in our midst. Before calling upon Mr. Bunting to read the address on behalf of the parishioners, I have also much pleasure in extending the same good wishes to our esteemed rector's sister, Miss Power, who has very materially assisted the promotion and success of every Church work.

Mr. Bunting endorsed the remarks of the Chairman, and read the address (which was signed by 25 members on behalf of the parishioners) as follows:—

Very Reverend and Dear Father,—On the eve of your departure for Europe on an extended holiday tour, we, the parishioners of Hawera, cannot permit you to leave without some token of our admiration, esteem and affection. During the nine years of your administration here we have had constant occasion to admire your remarkable combination of qualities, intellectual and social, which you brought to the achievement of your task in the discharge of your sacerdotal duties. As pastor, preacher, and friend of the people you have established many claims to the gratitude, reverence, and affection of those amongst whom you have so assiduously labored for the honor and glory of God, in the schools, in the pulpit, and even in the pages of the secular press. It is especially gratifying to us to learn that your fame as a pulpit orator, and as one of the most accomplished scholars and writers in the Southern Hemisphere, has merited such high epiphrasms from some of the highest and most enlightened dignitaries of our Holy Church in Australasia, as witnessed by a few