

The Fathers of St. Joseph have been in Auckland attending the annual retreat held there during the past week.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran intends paying Rotorua a visit on or about February 1, and will be accorded a welcome worthy of his exalted position.

The geysers at Whakarewarewa still continue to give splendid displays daily, and are a great attraction. Waikite, Kereru, Prince of Wales' Feathers, Papakura, and Waikerohiki play at short intervals throughout the day. Wairoa—after a few months' rest—was asked to respond to a soaping last week to over 2000 people, but refused.

The work of painting and renovating the church property has just been completed. The work has been carried out by Father Wientjes, and reflects the greatest credit on him. The parishioners of St. Michael's have a great deal to be grateful for to these zealous missionaries, who, with a little monetary assistance, have achieved great things in this parish, and these will always stand out as monuments to them who are doing so much for the honor and glory of God, and the advancement of our holy religion among the Natives.

Arrangements in connection with the forthcoming carnival are proceeding apace, and great interest is being evinced in the success of the venture by residents and visitors alike. Funds for carrying out the affair were raised by public subscription, the Government rendering practically no monetary assistance. There are still a large number of visitors in town. The evening train always brings a full complement, but a great number of these are over-sea travellers. The accommodation is expected to be taxed at carnival time. The Railway Department will run two excursion trains a week throughout the month.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, who have been in retreat in Auckland, returned to Rotorua last week. The Mother-Superior here also returned, after visiting Sydney. She brought back with her a Sister for the Rotorua Convent, making the number here now four. This step was considered necessary owing to the increase in the number of children attending our school, which it is anticipated will be quite a hundred when school re-opens. For the four or five years that the convent school has been established the increase on the roll has been 150 per cent., which proves the excellent results achieved by the good Sisters. This fact has compelled Very Rev. Dean Lightheart to consider the advisability of enlarging the school, and this work will be gone on with as soon as possible.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Cecily Rowlands, a pupil of the Dominican Convent, Oamaru, passed the Junior Civil Service examination with credit.

His Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 32 candidates at Mosgiel on Thursday last, and at 101 Oamaru on Sunday.

The Provincial Seminary, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, opens on next Saturday. The students are to be in the College on that day.

The Marist Brothers, Invercargill, prepared and passed a boy, John Hickey, for the recent Junior Civil Service Examination. As he was under age at that time, he could not be a candidate for any Government employment.

The following pupils of the Christian Brothers' School have been successful at the recent Junior Civil Service examinations:—Passed with credit—George W. Albertson, Eric Fabian Spain, Christopher D. Marlow, Humphrey E. Moynihan, Patrick John Collins; pass—John Marston Le Fevre.

The Rev. Fathers Creagh and McDermott, C.S.S.R., are giving missions in the Milton parochial district this week, and the Rev. Fathers Hunt and Campbell, C.S.S.R., are conducting missions in the parochial district of Lawrence. The missions in both places will be continued during the next fortnight.

The Rev. Father Delany is doing duty in the Ranfurly parish during the absence of the Rev. Father MacMullan, who is now on his way to Europe. The Rev. D. O'Neill has been transferred from Gore to South Dunedin, and the Rev. T. Kavanagh from South Dunedin to Gore. The Rev. Cecil Morkane is on temporary duty in Invercargill, pending the arrival of the Very Rev. Dean Burke, who was to have sailed from England on January 18, and expects to reach Invercargill early in March.

The annual picnic of the pupils of the Catholic schools in Dunedin and suburbs was held at Waitati on Wednesday week, when nearly 1600 children and

adults availed themselves of the opportunity of an outing. The weather was all that could be desired. The committee had made very complete arrangements for the comfort of all. The various athletic events were keenly contested, the adoption of a schools' championship proving a great success. An abundance of toys were provided and distributed to the younger children. Among those who contributed to the success of the gathering and worked on the grounds were the Rev. Fathers Coffey and Howard, Rev. Brother Brady, Messrs. J. Hill and T. Sontag, and the secretaries (Messrs. Salmon and Rogan). The thanks of the committee are due to Mrs. Colehan for the use of the grounds, to the donors of prizes, and to a number of gentlemen for assistance at the railway station prior to the departure of the train for Waitati. From a financial point of view the outing was also a success, and it is expected that a fair balance will remain over towards next year's picnic.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

February 6.

A meeting of the Hibernian Sports Committee was held on the 4th inst., Mr. A. Dieren being in the chair. The programme submitted by the committee was approved. The programme is a first-class one, and given fine weather Easter Monday should show a record sports meeting. Every effort is being made to have the best musical talent engaged for the concert in the evening.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

February 6.

The Secretary of the Invercargill Catholic Club has just received the diploma, which was awarded to Mr. J. Sims, the winner of the recent oratorical competition, held by the Federated Catholic Clubs.

The Rev. Father Morkane has been appointed to assist in the parochial work until the arrival of the Very Rev. Dean Burke, who left London on January 18, and is expected to arrive here early in March.

At a meeting of the Hibernian Society last Wednesday evening, it was decided to place on record the Society's high appreciation of the services rendered by the Rev. Father Delany, in fostering, and actively co-operating with the various societies connected with the congregation.

On Wednesday afternoon there was a large assemblage of young people at St. Mary's Tennis Court, which has of late become a popular rendezvous for the younger section of the congregation. The weather was splendid, and all enjoyed the keenly contested games. Afternoon tea was provided by the gentlemen of the Club.

Messrs. A. and T. Burt, Ltd., (Stuart street, Dunedin, do all kinds of electroplating and gilding work in a very superior style. By their process crucets, spoons, and forks are replated as to be equal to new. They also re-bronze gas pendants and brackets, piano sconces, etc., in a manner which cannot fail to give entire satisfaction.

Farmers and others requiring groceries, saddlery, hardware, etc., are invited to patronise Messrs. Wright, Stevenson, and Co., Ltd., who in addition to their Dunedin establishment have branches at Invercargill, Gore, Kelso, Balfour, Edendale, etc. They supply the best goods at lowest current rates. Price lists on application.

Messrs. J. B. Mansfield and Sons, Monumental Masons, Manchester street, Christchurch, notify the public that owing to the retirement of one of the principals, for the next three months special reductions will be made in all kinds of monuments, etc. The firm has a very large and varied stock to select from.

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS

DUNEDIN AUTUMN RACES

19th, 20th, AND 22nd FEBRUARY.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS TO DUNEDIN will be issued from any Station on the Hurunui-Bluff Section (including Queenstown) from 17th to 21st February, inclusive; also from Oamaru, Clinton, and intermediate Stations, including branches, by trains arriving at Dunedin before 2.0 p.m. on 22nd February, available for return till MONDAY, 2nd March. The return fares will be—First Class, 2d per mile; second class, 1d per mile; the minimum being 4s and 2s respectively.

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