

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own Reporter.) March 30.

I regret exceedingly to learn that the Very Rev. Father Marnane, S.M., pastor of St. Mary's, Manchester Street, is again very seriously ill.

The recent Papal decree on Catholic marriages was read at the 11 o'clock Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday. In the evening his Lordship the Bishop continued his series of discourses on the decree.

A course of Lenten sermons is being preached by the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., at St. Mary's, Manchester street, on each Sunday evening after Vespers.

There has been a great demand for copies of the 'Tablet' at St. Mary's, Manchester street, for the last few weeks, the supply being quite inadequate. A good number has also decided to subscribe regularly.

As an example of consistent generosity towards the Cathedral, well worthy of imitation, his Lordship the Bishop reports that the late Miss Catherine Glazer, a convert to the Church in early life, and for forty years a faithful servant in the household of Mrs. A. J. White, bequeathed the sum of £300, representing her savings, to the reduction of the capital on the liabilities of the Cathedral. During the recent years of her life, which only lately terminated, the same devoted parishoner contributed generously towards the same fund.

The manifest claims of that excellent journal, the 'N.Z. Tablet,' to the wide support of our Catholic people, whose religious, social and moral interests it so affectionately advocates and defends, was again forcibly emphasised in the Cathedral on Sunday by his Lordship the Bishop and officiating clergy at the various Masses and at Vespers. A representative of the 'Tablet,' it was pointed out, was present at the door of the Cathedral, thus affording a good opportunity for a display of practical support and appreciation. The result is, I am pleased to learn, a substantial addition to the list of subscribers.

With regard to the side chapels in the Cathedral and the various contributors to their equipment, and referred to in his recent pastoral, his Lordship the Bishop desires to correct an error which inadvertently crept in. 'The Children of Mary offered to furnish the Lady Chapel, etc,' it was stated, whereas it should read, 'to donate the altar of the Lady Chapel.' They have already redeemed part of their spontaneous promise, but the complete furnishing of the chapel, which has been so effectively done, is due to the generosity of Miss Kearney, a devoted member of the Altar Society, who for twenty-one years has with assiduity attended to the duties of this excellent organisation.

The quarterly meeting of St. Patrick's Branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Monday evening. Bro. R. P. O'Shaughnessy (president) was in the chair. The attendance of members was large. The Rev. Father O'Hare, who has been appointed chaplain, was welcomed by the president and P.P. Bros. J. McCormick and W. Rodgers. Mr. M. Nolan was elected a life honorary member, and initiated by the president. Three candidates were proposed for membership. It was resolved that it be a recommendation to the management committee to have a circular issued setting forth the aims and objects of the Society, and the benefits derived from membership, copies to be distributed among the young men of the Cathedral, St. Mary's and other parishes. Dr. Arthur O'Brien was elected medical attendant. The president and secretary (Bro. F. J. Doolan) spoke in appreciative terms of Bros. O. McGough and T. Ruddy, who shortly leave on a holiday visit to Ireland, and wished them a safe and enjoyable trip.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

March 26.

The nominations for the Hibernian sports closed last Thursday, when a record number of nominations was received from all parts of the Dominion. Judging by the enthusiasm shown the meeting to be held on Easter Saturday promises to be the most successful athletic gathering ever held on the West Coast.

Mr. J. Hannan, LL.B., son of Mr. Michael Hannan, of this town, made his first appearance as counsel at the local S.M. Court yesterday morning, when he was successful in all cases in which he was retained. Mr. Hannan, who is one of our most enthusiastic club

members, is to be heartily congratulated on his success.

The St. Columba Catholic Club held its usual weekly meeting last Monday evening. The president (Mr. E. Casey) was in the chair, and there was a large attendance of members. Five new members were elected, and two proposed for membership. The item on the syllabus for the evening was a debate, 'Is the present socialistic tendency of New Zealand beneficial?' The affirmative side was led by Mr. E. Casey, supported by Messrs. P. C. Heaphy, T. Heffernan, and J. Egan, whilst Rev. Father Taylor, assisted by Messrs. J. W. Hannan, A. Fraser, and T. J. Barry supported the negative side. A very interesting and instructive debate followed. On a vote being taken the chairman (Mr. R. C. Heffernan) declared that it resulted in a tie, fifteen being for and fifteen against.

A very pleasing ceremony took place at the establishment of C. Smith, Ltd., last Saturday evening, when the staff assembled to bid farewell to Mr. Thos. Kiely, who is severing his connection with the firm after 'five years' service. Mr. E. J. Smith, in making the presentation, referred in eulogistic terms to Mr. Kiely's capabilities as a salesman, and whilst expressing regret at his departure, wished him every success in the future. On behalf of the staff he presented Mr. Kiely with a handsome gold sovereign case. Mr. Kiely suitably returned thanks, and said he regretted leaving the firm and would always look back with pleasure on the many happy days he spent amongst them.

The St. Mary's ladies' cricket team played their final match of the season last Saturday, when they journeyed to Paroa and met and defeated the Hinemoa team by the handsome margin of 96 runs. For St. Mary's the most successful batsmen were Miss Annie Heffernan 30 (not out) and Miss Florie Shanahan 24, whilst Miss Julia Greaney was the most successful bowler. For the Hinemoa team Misses M. Spencer and N. Power were highest scorers with eight runs each, whilst Misses J. Tunnell and N. Power divided honors as bowlers. After the match the visitors were the guests of the Hinemoa team at dinner. The St. Mary's team have had a most successful season, only having one defeat against them.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

March 27.

Rev. Father Wright, who is to work in the diocese, arrived here last Monday from Sydney.

The 'Marama,' by which his Lordship Dr. Lenihan goes as far as Vancouver, left Suva last Tuesday morning.

Rev. Father Briody, of the Archdiocese of Sydney, who came across with his Eminence the Cardinal and party, left for Sydney on Monday.

Mr. John Patterson, well known throughout the Dominion in Hibernian circles, is a candidate for the vacant seat in the City Council.

Evidence of the general election is already apparent in city and suburbs. Both sides are putting on their armor.

Rev. Father Farthing went south last Tuesday en route to Sydney. He will be absent about six weeks.

Rev. Father Zanna, of the Order of St. Joseph, preached at the Cathedral last Sunday evening.

The Vicar-General is at present considering the advisability of erecting two cottages upon the Church land in Avondale. The revenue derived will return interest upon the capital already invested in the land and upon the cost of the proposed buildings.

The great ferro-concrete bridge over the cemetery valley was the scene last Wednesday of an important event when his Excellency the Governor laid the foundation stone in the presence of the Mayor and a large gathering of citizens. The cost will be £40,000. All the piers are now well up. The first three have been completed, and the decking will be completed in a few days. The first three piers are 35 feet apart. Then the distance is extended to 75 feet, and next to 81 feet, while the main arch has a clear span of 320 feet. The main arch will not rely on the main piers for support. The foundation, or anchorage, is altogether independent and rests on solid rock at both ends, and it is on these that the enormous weight will fall. The piers will not be required to support the actual weight, the arch being so constructed that the brunt will fall upon the solid anchorage. The bridge will have a total length of 950 feet. The greatest height of the bridge above the gully will be 140 feet. In the