

Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

June 14.

The renewal mission was opened in St. Canice's Church yesterday by Rev. Fathers Hunt and Whelan, the congregation at both Masses and evening devotion being large.

Preliminary arrangements are being made for the holding of a bazaar and art union in aid of the convent and church funds during the Christmas holidays.

St. Canice's Men's Club held a highly successful social in the club rooms on Wednesday evening last, the new piano recently purchased by the members being used for the first time.

St. Canice's Club held their first debate in the club room on Friday evening, about twenty-five members being present. The question for debate was, "Would the local Borough Council be justified in borrowing money for the erection of a new Town Hall and Opera House combined?" The ven. Archpriest Walshe, who occupied the chair, briefly introduced the subject for discussion. Mr. F. O'Gorman led for the affirmative, and was supported by Messrs. F. Calnon, J. McGee, J. McCarthy, and J. Radford. Mr. J. Carmine led for the negative side, and was supported by Messrs. P. Hughes, R. Hansby, J. Hughes, and J. Leydon. At the conclusion of the speeches a vote was taken, the verdict being in favor of the negative by a narrow majority.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 21.

At a recent meeting of the committee of the Christchurch Musical Union Miss Rima Young, who received her musical training at the Sacred Heart Convent as a student of the Sisters of the Missions, was appointed to fill the position of accompanist to the Union, rendered vacant by the resignation of her sister, Miss Katie Young, who is leaving the Dominion.

The solemnities in connection with the feast of St. John the Baptist, patron of the diocese, as also of his Lordship the Bishop, which occurs on Thursday, will be observed in the Cathedral on Sunday next in accordance with the special privileges granted by the Holy See. Pontifical High Mass will be celebrated at eleven o'clock, and at Vespers the panegyric of the saint will be preached by the Rev. Father Moloney, S.M., of St. Mary's, Christchurch North.

The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., passed through Christchurch from Westland to Wellington on Thursday last. On his return in a few days he will be joined by Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M., after his completion of the mission in the Ahaura parish, and together they will conduct missions throughout the Darfield and Lincoln districts, which constitute the other two parishes of the diocese at present in charge of the Fathers of the Order of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The parish of Darfield includes the Midland Railway constructions at Broken River and beyond. The workers thereon will thus be given an opportunity of profiting by the ministrations of the missionaries.

The president of the Particular Council of the Christchurch Society of St. Vincent de Paul recently received a communication from Count De Torre Diaz, chairman of the committee of the Catholic Seamen's Home and Institute, 16 Welclose Square, London, and senior vice-president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in England. The committee of the Seamen's Home (he states) is desirous of getting in touch with similar Homes, or with institutes or clubs, or any organisation there may be in ports in all parts of the world, with the object of directing men using their Home where, in other ports, such can be found, or at least that they may know where they can get advice as to finding decent and honest lodgings and also to make known the Home in London to seamen of all nationalities in all parts of the world. This is a work (he adds) suitable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. After requesting particulars as to the prevailing conditions and facilities offered to Catholic seamen in New Zealand in this connection, he further states that when the London committee has obtained sufficient information on these points (as submitted) it proposes to print the same in different languages, say, English, French, Spanish, and German, for distribution among men using their Home and Institute in London, and to send some to such Homes, institutes, clubs, or other organisations, and to Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul, in all parts of the world, who occupy themselves in helping seamen. Great good may thus be done among seamen who are so generally victimised by

those into whose hands they fall when ashore. The president replied, giving general information regarding the work among Catholic seamen at Wellington and Auckland, and the means of getting into direct communication with those centres, whilst the officers of St. Joseph's Conference Mission to Catholic seamen at Lyttelton replied on their own behalf.

The solemnities of Corpus Christi within the Octave were observed at St. Mary's Church, Christchurch North, on Sunday last. The usual evening devotions commenced at half-past 2 instead of at the later hour, and included an imposing out-door procession around the adjoining grounds. The Blessed Sacrament was carried by his Lordship the Bishop, who also preached the occasional sermon. A large contingent of the H.A.C.B. Society took part in the procession in regalia.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

June 21.

On Sunday Rev. Father Le Petit, of Fairlie, celebrated the 11 o'clock Mass in our parish church. Rev. Father Smith took the services at Fairlie for the day.

It is the intention of the Children of Mary to hold a social towards the middle of next month. The hospitality which these young ladies so often show to the young men of the parish deserves some better recognition than votes of thanks at the conclusion of the function.

The Catholic Young Men's Club is having a most successful season. The number attending is steadily increasing, and under the watchful care of Rev. Father Kerley the literary and general programme evenings are passed profitably and pleasantly. On Tuesday evening last an interesting debate took place on the question, "Which is the best form of sport for the full development of the brain and muscle?" The chief speakers were Dr. Loughnan, Brother Joachim, and Messrs. Kane, J. Wade, G. Virtue, and T. Doyle. Tennis was voted the best of sports, Mr. Kane's choice (golf) being a close second.

The annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament was held in the convent grounds on Sunday, 13th inst. On the kind invitation of the Rev. Mother, the parishioners were present to the number of about a thousand. The devotion manifested on all sides made the occasion a visible manifestation of faith that could not fail to impress all who took part in it. The route followed by the procession was decorated with more than usual magnificence, and the two temporary altars—one on the verandah of the girls' school and the other on the portico at the main entrance to the convent—were neatly and tastefully erected. A band made up of the Catholic bandmen of the town did good service during the procession, and the singing of the children, strengthened by the Sisters, was most devotional.

Greymouth

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 18.

Last Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's Church from the 10 o'clock Mass until after the evening devotions, when the usual procession was held, in which the parish societies took part. Rev. Father Taylor preached eloquent sermons both morning and evening.

The usual weekly meeting of the St. Columba Catholic Club was held in the club rooms last Monday evening, when 38 members were present. The president (Mr. R. C. Heffernan) occupied the chair. After the ordinary business was disposed of, the programme of the evening, 'A Mock Trial by Jury,' was proceeded with. A jury of twelve was empannelled. A very amusing and instructive evening was spent.

Last Friday evening the members of the St. Columba Club and the Grey Battalion Band met in the St. Columba Club room to take part in a friendly euchre tournament. At the conclusion of the game the St. Columba Club team led by 100 points, the scores being: Club, 542; Band, 442. Refreshments were handed around. Songs and recitations were given by several gentlemen, the singing of 'Auld lang syne' concluding a most enjoyable evening.

The annual inter-club debate with Trinity Club is arranged to take place on July 12. The subject is to be chosen this week. The following are the club representatives: Messrs. E. Casey, W. Duffy, T. M. Heffernan, and A. F. O'Donoghue; emergency, Mr. P. J. Heaphy.

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