

him the gift of faith, we cannot determine. All we know is that God only requires the observance of such primary precepts, and only for such a time as it is morally possible for the infidel to observe. The time of probation may vary much according to the circumstances in which the individual is placed, and the temptations he has to encounter. One thing is certain, that God will not allow any one to be tempted above his strength, but will make also with temptation issue so that he will be able to bear it. (1 Cor. x. 13).

If, then, the infidel observes the Natural Law for the time required, and thereby does what is in his power, God will infallibly lead him, in some of the ways already indicated, to such faith as is necessary for salvation. If, on the contrary, he should violate the Natural Law, God may leave him in his infidelity, and his salvation is rendered impossible while he continues in that state. 'But without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and is a rewarder to them that seek Him.' (Heb. xi. 6).

In such a case the infidel is justly punished, not on account of his infidelity nor on account of his being outside the true Church, for his infidelity and consequent separation from the Church are supposed to be inculpable, but on account of

#### THE VIOLATION OF THE NATURAL LAW,

which is voluntary and culpable.

There now remains only one case connected with negative infidels which might create some difficulty. We may suppose the case of an infidel dying before the term of his probation had expired, and also before he had violated any grave precept of the Natural Law. It is true that the greater number of theologians deny the possibility of such a case actually occurring. They believe that God will not allow any adult infidel who has not violated the Natural Law to die till he receives the grace of faith. They quote in proof of this assertion the axiom already cited, and another of similar import which declares that God deserts no man till He is first deserted by him. Nevertheless, we may consider what the result would be, as some theologians consider the case possible, and as it will serve to illustrate on the one hand the absolute necessity of faith for salvation, and on the other hand the absolute freedom of God in requiring any conditions he pleases, without the fulfilment of which the free and gracious gift of the Beatific Vision cannot be enjoyed. If, then, such a case should arise, the condition and prospects of such an infidel would be the same as if he had died before coming to the use of reason—in other words, the condition and prospects of all infants who die before receiving Baptism. This brings us to the last stage of our enquiry, namely, the fate of children who die unbaptized before they come to the use of reason.

Even in this case we shall see that the justice of God is tempered by His mercy. He has not abandoned these little ones to suffer pain for sins they did not commit, nor has He left the afflicted parents of such children without solid ground of hope and comfort. To them the Catholic Church speaks in the language of the Apostle: 'We would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep, that you be not sorrowful as others who have no hope.'

Our final paper, then, will deal with the case of unbaptized infants.

## Diocesan News.

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 15.

The amount cleared at the farewell social given to the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy was £45. This is to be devoted to the schools.

I regret to learn that Mrs. Garvey, wife of the governor of Mount Cook prison, is very seriously ill.

Rev. Father Goggan's medical attendant found it necessary to perform a slight operation on him last Saturday. I am pleased to hear that the patient is now progressing satisfactorily.

Prominent at his Excellency the Governor's banquet to veterans were several local pillars of the Church, notably the Hon. Dr. Grace, Inspector Peuder, Messrs. Casben, Reardon, and Sheridan.

The Very Rev. Dr. Peetre had so far recovered as to be able to preach in one of the churches in Sydney before leaving for Europe.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. Rev. Father Hills was the celebrant, Rev. Father Mahoney deacon, and Rev. Father Bowden subdeacon. The music of the Mass was Farmer's in B. Vespers were sung by Rev. Father Clancy and the sermon was preached by Rev. Father Moloney, the text being, 'And the Virgin's name was Mary.'

The weekly meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Literary and Debating Society was held last evening, when Mr. J. Kays occupied the chair. The following original papers were read by members: 'Temperance,' Mr. C. Gamble; 'Should liquor be allowed into King Country,' Mr. D. Gibbs; 'The advantages of a Literary and Debating Society,' Mr. H. McKeown; 'Importance of physical exercise in the education of the young,' Mr. E. Fitzgibbon; and 'What books we should read,' Mr. P. McGovern. An interesting discussion followed the reading of each paper. The next meeting will be devoted to 'Readings from Authors.'

Exceptionally disagreeable weather prevailed on Wednesday evening, when the social, organised by the members of St. Joseph's choir in aid of the organ fund, was held in the Skating Rink. Despite a regular downpour there were about 200 persons present.

The committee, consisting of Misses Rigg, McDonald, and Sullivan, and Messrs Rowe, Butcher, and Kelly, had made elaborate preparations for the reception of guests, and were naturally not on the best of terms with the clerk of the weather. The first part of the programme took the form of a concert, which was far and away the best given here for some years. The proceedings opened with a piano duet by Miss Henderson and Mr. Linnis; Mrs. Taylor sang 'The last summer,' Miss Deane 'When the flowing tide comes in'; Mr. G. Butcher, 'The rolling tide,' Mr. Rowe, 'Plymouth Sound.' Mr. Rowe was also associated with Miss Sullivan in a duet. A sumptuous supper was provided by the members of the choir and their friends.

The following pupils of St. Mary's Convent have been successful at the recent Trinity College examinations in music:—Senior Honors—Rose Bennett, 83; Daisy Reilly, 61. Senior Pass—Catherine Segrief, 85; Rose Bennett, 74; Mary Walls, 73. Intermediate Honors—Muriel Waldegrave, 86; Constance E. Reilly, 85; Hilda von Dadelzen, 84; Winifred Richardson, 80. Florence Harris, 65. Intermediate Pass—Lily White, 96; Rena Butt, 90. Evelyn Penny, 84; Annie Jenkins, 84; Kate Connell, 82; Mabel Murray, 81; Annie Dugnan, 80; Florence Harris, 77; Norah Dwyer, 74; Maggie Segrief, 70; Winifred Clayden, 68; Constance Macloskey, 68; Lita Truman, 68; Teresa O'Connor, 68. Junior Honors—Olive Blake, 93; Emily Whitaker, 90; Matilda Evans, 86; Evelyn Collins, 85; Marion Goulter, 81; HESSIE WHITAKER, 80; Gladys Philp, 76; Elsie Watson, 76; Brenda von Dadelzen, 76; Ethel Falconer, 72; Florence Brogan, 71; Eileen Truman, 67. Junior Pass—Winifred Connell, 96; Elizabeth Coles, 95; Katherine Palmer, 94; Agatha Knight, 92; Adelaide Harcourt, 92; Lily Tointon, 91; Norah Harnett, 89; Ida Moore, 87; Rebecca Curtain, 86; Kathleen Ward, 79; Mary Hugh, 77; Bella Coleman, 65; Eanie Martin, 60.

The Irishmen of Napier are, through the instrumentality of Mr. M. Davitt, the proud possessors of a magnificent Irish banner, which, according to the Dublin *Freeman's Journal*, is the best yet made for outside of Ireland. It was displayed at Government House on the occasion of the veterans' banquet, and elicited the highest commendation from all who saw it. Through the kindness of Mr. P. S. Garvey, in whose temporary charge the flag now is, I am able to give a short description of what is undoubtedly one of the finest specimens of needlework seen in this Colony. The body of the flag, which is 12ft long by 18ft broad, is an emerald green Irish poplin. In the four corners, worked in appropriate colors, are the arms of the four provinces of Ireland, while in the centre there is a beautifully designed harp worked in gold satin and Japanese gold with couching stitch of black satin. Encircling the harp is an artistic wreath of shamrocks, also worked in Japanese gold. The banner, which is valued at £150, was made to the order of Mr. John Higgins, of Napier, at the Dalkey School of Embroidery, Dublin. Should the weather prove favorable the banner will be displayed in front of St. Patrick's College to-morrow afternoon.

### WANGANUI.

Below we (Wanganui Herald) publish the names of and the marks obtained by the candidates from the Wanganui Convent who entered for the Trinity College musical knowledge examination, held here some months ago. The Sisters are to be congratulated on the high percentage obtained by their pupils, all of whom were successful in passing. It will be noted that in the Junior Pass two candidates obtained within three of the possible, while another obtained 96 out of 100 in the Intermediate Pass. The results were as follow.—Senior Honors—Minnie Barrie, 90 marks. Senior Pass—Minnie Barrie, 89 marks; Adelia Doherty, 72; Mary O'Connell, 68; Maud Steedman, 65. Intermediate Honors—Elke Moroney, 87; Otelia Links, 78. Intermediate Pass—Julia Flynn, 96; Kathleen Galpin, 91; Maggie McCulloch, 88; Mary Tymons, 78. Junior Honors—Lily Dalziel, 88; Mary Crowley, 83; Maggie McCulloch, 63. Junior Pass—Bridget O'Connell, 97; Emily Gibbons, 97; Ellen Crowley, 84; Anny Hyde, 77; Kate Oldham, 75.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 13.

In the annual report presented to Parliament this session on the Hospital and Charitable Institutions, the following appears:—'Coromandel Hospital was visited on February 27. There were four male patients, and four women. Sister Mary Agnes, a nurse trained in St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, is in charge with two attendant Sisters, a wardman, and a cook-laundress. The hospital is bright, clean, and excellently managed. Dr. Bell is well satisfied with the nursing skill of the Sisters, and patients speak gratefully of their general attention.'

Special services were held last Sunday at St. Benedict's Church. A number of children received their First Communion at the early Mass. After High Mass there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, which was continued all day. In the afternoon the children renewed their baptismal vows. In the evening his Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 150 children. The large church was packed to the doors, the whole of the centre portion being occupied by the children. His Lordship after the ceremony addressed the children, and reminded them that they were now enrolled as soldiers of the Cross, and he hoped they would ever prove staunch and true. They would read in these war times of the bravery of the soldiers, let them all emulate their bravery and rally round the standard of the Cross, and they would ever prove good Catholics and citizens. The children were prepared for their First Communion and Confirmation by Rev. Fathers Gillan, Darby, and O'Hara, and the Sisters of St. Joseph.