

principle, but the former, after discussing it at a special meeting called for the purpose, put the matter on to the shoulders of the ratepayers to decide it by the ballot box.

At St. Benedict's last Sunday a special collection was made at the Masses and at Vespers towards the cost of the new fence, now nearing completion, round the church. The result was very satisfactory. In the evening the Rev. Father Gillan continued his excellent discourses on the Holy Rosary, which are so appropriate this month.

A mortuary service is to be held in the Catholic cemetery, Symond street, on the afternoon of Sunday, November 4. His Lordship the Bishop will take part in it. Mr. Hiscocks, conductor of St. Patrick's Choir, has promised to have a choir there for the occasion. At each of the three gates a voluntary collection will be made, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the renovation of the cemetery.

The quarterly balance sheet of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society shows a sum of £2089 18s 2d to the credit of the sick and funeral fund. For medical attendance and sick pay there was expended during the quarter the sum of £90 11s 8d. The management fund shows a credit of £543 8s 4d, and the benevolent fund £20 18s 3d. Three new members were proposed at last meeting. Bro. P. J. Nerheny was nominated for the office of vice-president of the branch to fill the vacancy caused through Bro. Callaghan, V.P., who resigned to go to Wellington.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly returned last Saturday from Sydney. At St. Patrick's last Sunday evening he referred to the great gathering which took place recently in the capital of the mother colony. The sight at St. Mary's Cathedral on the Sunday preceding the Congress, he said, was one to be remembered and never forgotten. Thirteen archbishops and bishops, 200 priests, and over 60 students took part in the solemn religious function. St. Mary's, Sydney, is a magnificent edifice. There have been already spent upon it £200,000, and it is not yet completed. He understood that £200,000 had also been spent upon St. Patrick's, Melbourne. There were few churches in any part of the world to excel St. Mary's, Sydney. The Congress opened next day with an inaugural address by his Eminence Cardinal Moran. It was worthy of the great occasion. Twenty minutes were allowed to each of the subsequent speakers, at the end of which time the bell sounded and many a splendid peroration was left unfinished. The papers read were of a very high order of merit. With those from the laity he was particularly interested. The papers as a whole covered a wide range, and the criticisms upon them were admirable. He fully believed that great and lasting good would result from the Congress. One thing which struck him was the general advancement in and around Sydney of Catholicism, evidenced in the number and splendor of the churches, schools, and convents. In this respect they were much in advance of us in New Zealand, but this was accounted for by the larger number of Catholics over there. In some of the sister colonies our co-religionists numbered one third of the population, while we here formed but one-seventh. Catholic education in Sydney was making great strides. He was pleased to tell them of the very high esteem in which Bishop Lenihan was held by the prelates, priests, and a large number of the laity in Australia, and amongst them general regret was expressed at his absence from them. He (Mgr. O'Reilly) desired to thank his Eminence Cardinal Moran for his very kind treatment of him while in Sydney.

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent).

October 22.

The Very Rev. Vicar-General spent the greater part of last week at Timaru, engaged in preaching a Retreat for the children who were preparing for their First Communion.

The Rev. Brother Angelo, for a considerable time engaged on the teaching staff of the Marist Brothers' Boys' School of this city, left during the week for Sydney, and the Rev. Brother Xavier arrived to fill the vacancy.

Constable Cullen, for many years in charge of the Phillipstown police station, has been promoted to sergeant and transferred to Wellington. Besides being a good practical Catholic Sergeant Cullen has proved himself an exemplary and trustworthy officer, and is to be congratulated on his well-deserved advancement in the service.

On last Monday, the feast day of the Rev. Mother Provincial of the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions, a picnic and outing to Sumner was given the children attending the convent schools, Barbadoes street. Being favored with fine weather a very enjoyable time was spent. The very young children were given an 'afternoon tea party' in the convent grounds. On the following day the Halswell school children, and on Wednesday those attending the Addington school, were given their annual outing, Sumner being again selected for their picnic.

Mr. Patrick Murphy, an old and highly-respected and exemplary Catholic, died suddenly last week whilst in the midst of his labors. The deceased, like many old colonists, passed through the stirring times of the Native troubles, and was engaged on active duty. The late Mr. Murphy brought up a family alike a credit to himself and an ornament to the Church. One son is at the present time at the front in South Africa. The Rev. Father Marnane officiated at the obsequies at St. Mary's Church, and subsequently at the grave. The Hibernian Society, of which the deceased had long been a member, took part in the funeral procession.—R.I.P.

The various convents in the diocese are making a brave show for the forthcoming bazaar, and already numerous valuable, useful, and most artistic articles are coming to hand. The Sisters of St. Joseph at Waimate have sent a complete drawing-room suite in old gold, velvet, and plush, with raised flowers beautifully worked

in arasene and upholstered by Messrs. Lister and Barrie, Timaru. From the Sisters of Mercy, Greymouth, there have come a very fine carved table, a large painting of Lake Taupo, Limerick lace work, lovely cushions, and some very nice painted panels. The Children of Mary from the same town send a most artistically worked hall chair. The Lyttelton Convent of Mercy contributes some very creditable paintings. These of course are only the more prominent specimens of the generous gifts of the convents mentioned. Mount Magdala, the Convent of Mercy, Colombo street, and the Convent of Our Lady of Missions have also splendid displays ready for the equipment of stalls. A magnificently embroidered cope is amongst the gifts of Mount Magdala. Our friends in the other colonies, too, are not unmindful of us, his Lordship the Bishop having recently received a costly table cover in crimson velvet, most elaborately worked in gold and silver, the gift of the Convent of the Faithful Companions, Richmond, Victoria. This, with the articles mentioned above and others previously noticed, will make a display rarely if ever equalled in the Colony.

W A I A U.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

In the unavoidable absence of the Bishop (the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, S.M.), the new church at Waiau was solemnly opened on Sunday the 14th inst. by the rector of the parish, the Rev. Father Price. By the hour appointed for the ceremony to commence, the church grounds contained a numerous gathering, including many non-Catholics, who also assisted at the *Missa Cantata*, which followed the blessing of the church. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Father Price, who also preached basing his discourse on the Third Book of Kings, chap. viii., v. 27. He reminded his hearers that for many years past they had been without a church in Waiau. Through the kindness of the authorities the State school had been placed at the disposal of the priest whenever Mass could be celebrated in the district; but the inconvenience, both to priest and people, of having Mass in a school room only emphasized the need they had of a suitable church. Now he (the preacher) had to congratulate them on having, through their own generous efforts a fitting place in which to worship Almighty God. He thanked them all, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, for having in the goodness of their hearts co-operated so cordially with the church committee in the good work which they saw that day accomplished. He knew full well that the church had not been built from out of their munificence, but in the midst of their narrow means, yet notwithstanding their many sacrifices there was still a debt hanging over them. He felt quite sure that the same generous Catholic spirit that had prompted them to build a church to the honor of God, would not allow them to rest until the whole cost was defrayed. The church, which is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, is a handsome building, with seating accommodation for 100 people, and situated in one of the finest township sections. The ceremony on Sunday was enhanced by the addition of a splendid choir, Farmer's Mass being beautifully rendered by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Mrs. Mead (alto), Miss Annie Bryant (contralto) Miss Pertie Duncan (soprano), and Mr. Robert Hayward (bass).

Wednesday, the 26th ult., was a happy event in the annals of the Hawarden mission, when the rector, the Rev. Father Price, opened his new presbytery, a handsome building which does credit to the little township of Hawarden. The house is domestic Gothic in style of architecture, and comprises entrance hall (12 x 7), drawing room (14 x 11), dining room (16 x 14), study (16 x 14), bedroom (14 x 12-3), spare bedroom (12-6 x 10), bathroom (12 x 10), passage (36 x 5), and the usual offices with all the latest modern improvements. The arrangement of the house is perfect in every way, and does the architects (Messrs. Collins and Harman, of Christchurch) very great credit. The house has been built by Mr. William Waters, of Geraldine, at the cost of £696, exclusive of extras. The grounds adjoining the presbytery have been artistically laid out by Mr. John Joyce, of Papanui. Amongst those who assisted at the opening were the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G.; Rev. Father Marnane, S.M. (St. Mary's), Very Rev. Dean Foley (Pro-Cathedral), Rev. W. Hyland (Bangiora), Mr. J. J. Collins, etc. After inspecting the new presbytery Rev. Father Price entertained his guests at lunch. When the good things supplied had been discussed the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais proposed the health of their host. In the course of his speech he thanked the Rev. Father Price in the name of all present for his kind invitation to be present on such a happy occasion, and congratulated him most heartily on his successful work in the parish since his arrival. In a suitable reply the Rev. Father Price thanked them for responding to his invitation, and expressed the hope that they would often revisit Hawarden. He disclaimed all praise for the erection of his new presbytery, stating that although the work had cost him a certain amount of anxiety, it could never have been accomplished but for the generosity with which the people of the parish had responded to his appeals.

The church at Hawarden, now undergoing extensive alterations, will be solemnly re-opened on Sunday, November 25, by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, S.M. The event is looked forward to with much satisfaction and interest.

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