

Touching references (writes a Hastings correspondent) were made to the death of the Queen at all the services in the Catholic church. The sanctuary was draped in black for the sad occasion, and the Dead March was played both morning and evening.

On Sunday, January 27, at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Gore, the Rev. Father P. Donnell made special reference to the death of the Queen. He said that although her late Majesty had been blessed with a life longer than the allotted span she too was mortal and had to see death. Her reign had been a long one and remarkable for peace and prosperity all over the Empire. She had been particularly distinguished for the good influence her life had upon her people, and when she herself was forgotten her noble example would still remain. At the conclusion of the Mass the Dead March from 'Saul' was played by the organist, Mrs. Neave.

At St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence, on the Sunday after the Queen's death, the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary said that the sad event had plunged into grief the people of the British nation. It was a great calamity, and its effect on the people was all the greater because being unexpected. It had been announced a few days before her death that an improvement in her condition had taken place, and the news of her death was therefore unexpected. Consequently, as soon as the wires flashed the sad news, all were shocked and grieved, and the whole country is mourning; and not only the whole country, but the whole civilised world, and with good reason, because the late Queen was really a good woman, and there was nothing so lovable, so worthy of respect and of esteem, as a good woman. If he were speaking for an hour, he could say nothing more in the way of eulogy of the late Queen than that she was a good woman, and that she showed herself to be a good woman from the beginning of her reign. No sovereign of the Empire reigned longer than she, and very few sovereigns in the whole course of history so long; and during the whole of her long reign she bore herself, not only as a wise and prudent sovereign, but as a kindly, good woman. From all accounts, the Court in England before the accession of Queen Victoria was pretty lax; but as soon as her Majesty was called to the throne (at the age of 18), she banished from her presence, no matter how high or exalted in rank, anyone whose character was open to reproach, and since then she had kept her Court pure, and kept scandal away. Hence, every pure woman, every young lady, and every pure, good matron, every widow, and every man should revere her memory because of the example she set her people. People in the higher ranks of life look up to the conduct of kings and queens because of their exalted rank and station just as people of a lower social grade are influenced by those occupying higher positions. And thus it was that the example of reigning kings or queens influences the conduct of all classes of the people, down to the lowest ranks, either for good or evil. Queen Victoria was always a pure, good woman, and kept her Court and her *entourage* pure, and set an example to her family in accordance with her own high sense of duty.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland, the Right Rev. Monsignor O'Reilly said that Catholics, in union with their fellow-subjects of other denominations, were ready to pay their tribute to her worth, and to sorrow for the loss suffered by that extensive Empire over which she ruled so well and so long. Since she assumed the great responsibility that fell upon her what changes had taken place, especially in the Catholic Church, which had greatly progressed in New Zealand, Australia, and in England as well. They must acknowledge that in the British dominions the Church had perfect liberty, and well she had availed herself of that liberty. Although according to the British Constitution the power of the Sovereign was limited still the influence of a good ruler, of a good woman sitting upon the throne, must be felt. The Queen's relations with the Holy See had all through her reign been all that they should have been. Yes, the Queen was certainly one who was worthy of respect and reverence. Let them consider what the Court of England was before she ascended the throne, and what it was at the present time. There was one thing that Catholics could not fail to remark in connection with the Queen, and that was that she abhorred divorce, and would not receive a divorced person at her Court. Of course, according to the rules of their Church, they could not offer up a public *Requiem* Mass for the repose of the Queen's soul, because she was not one of them; but still there was nothing to prevent the faithful throughout her dominions offering up prayers privately on her behalf.

At the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby (Auckland) very Rev. Dr. Egan, in the course of an instructive sermon on prayers for the dead spoke in high terms of the personal qualities of the Queen. Continuing, he said that as Catholics they had reason to bless her reign for the religious liberty they had enjoyed. Although they had had to suffer at times from the religious bigotry of sects and of individuals, yet, so persuaded were Catholics of the benevolence of their Queen that many fondly cherished the incredible opinion that she was secretly a Catholic. Her periodical visits to the South of France, the report that her mother had died a Catholic, and her warm and intimate friendship for the devout Empress Eugenie, gave color to an opinion which, though unfounded, was a manifest indication of the reverence in which she was held by her Catholic subjects, and it might now serve as a proof of the sincerity of their regret at her decease. During her reign, especially during the last 50 years, the Catholic Church had been free to pursue her mission of religion and beneficence, and members of the Catholic Church were practically, except for a few senseless restrictions, placed upon an equality with other British subjects in their aspirations for the honors of the State. In England and Wales alone the Catholic population had increased during the century from 70,000 to 2,000,000, and to-day there were more than 300,000 Catholic children in England and Wales attending Catholic schools, which were not only duly recognised, but even subsidised by the British Government. This was in a great measure due to the beneficent reign of her late Majesty during the past 50 years.

## Diocesan News.

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 2.

The Rev. Father Costello for some years stationed in Thorndon and subsequently at Westport leaves for Home next month.

Throughout the archdiocese memorial services were held by direction of the Archbishop on Sunday last, and special reference was in each church made to the loss which the British nation had sustained by the death of the Queen.

The re-opening of St. Patrick's College has been postponed to the 7th February. It is expected that the Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., M.A., the new rector, will have arrived by that date, and that the roll of students will be considerably larger than during the past few years.

The retreat of the priests of the archdiocese concluded this morning. There were 40 present at the exercises and with those who have come from other districts for the opening of the Sacred Heart Church the clergy of New Zealand are strongly represented in the Empire City just now.

Great preparations are being made by the Hibernian Society for this year's celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The use of the Basin Reserve has been granted for the occasion by the City Council, and it is intended that the celebration to take place on the eve of the feast of Ireland's Patron Saint will eclipse any hitherto attempted here. A national concert is also being arranged for the evening of the same day.

With the exception of St. Mary's Convent, which resumes next week, the schools of the city were re-opened last Monday. In deference however to the desire that the accession day of the King should be one of rejoicing a special holiday was immediately granted the children, and on Tuesday teachers and pupils began in earnest their year's labor. It is pleasing to record that the attendance during the first week has been highly satisfactory.

The Very Rev. Father Lane, who leaves for his trip to the Old Country and Europe to-day, was on Wednesday evening entertained at the Oddfellows' Hall by his Lower Hutt parishioners. Mr. E. P. Bunny, who occupied the chair, presented the guest with a purse of sovereigns as a token of the parishioners' appreciation of his untiring zeal on their behalf during his many years at the Hutt. Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.H.B. also presented, on behalf of the same donors, a travelling rug and cap, and in a felicitous speech wished Father Lane a pleasant holiday and a safe return to his legion of friends in the district.

When the movement for a united local religious demonstration on the day of the Queen's funeral was begun, his Grace Archbishop Redwood accepted an invitation to offer a prayer at the memorial service to be held in the grounds surrounding the Parliamentary Buildings this afternoon. Subsequently, however, he addressed to his Excellency the Governor the following letter:—"I have reconsidered the matter of the memorial service on the occasion of the Queen's funeral, and, after consultation with my clergy, assembled in their annual retreat and synod, I find that it will be more consistent with the course usually adopted by the Catholic Church, and with what is being done by Cardinal Vaughan and other dignitaries in England, to have a memorial service of our own on Saturday, at the same hour, attended by over 40 of my clergy in synod assembled." In accordance with this intimation, a 'solemn memorial service' will be held in St. Joseph's Church this afternoon.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 4.

The Rev. Father Henry, M.S.H., is at present conducting retreats for the Sisters of Mercy at Greymouth and Hokitika.

The Jubilee Industrial Exhibition, after a successful run of three months, was closed on Thursday evening last with a profit of something over £3000.

The Rev. Father Kerley, S.M., returned to Christchurch on Friday last after a visit to his parents at Geelong, Victoria.

The Sisters of the Mission, Barbadoes street, have received intimation that Miss Agnes Ryan, one of their High School pupils and the only candidate they sent up, passed in the recent Matriculation examination.

At the annual retreat of the Sisters of the Mission here, members of the community from Ashburton, Rangiora, Leeston, and Kai-koura were present. At the close of the retreat Sisters were sent to strengthen the communities at New Plymouth, Napier, and Nelson.

The Christchurch diocese was represented at the opening ceremony of the Sacred Heart Basilica on Sunday last by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Very Rev. Dean Foley, and Rev. Father Tubman (Timaru). They were accompanied to Wellington by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, of Oamaru.

The tender of Messrs. J. and W. Jamieson for £40,300 has been accepted for the building of the new cathedral, and one of the firm, it is stated, will immediately proceed to England to arrange for the necessary appliances for the work. Work has already been commenced on the site preparatory to the foundation stone being laid, which ceremony is fixed for Sunday next, at 3 o'clock.

On Monday last, at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Barbadoes street, nine postulants made their profession, the ceremony being