

to have the school building completed. It would have been done ere this but for some unforeseen legal difficulties. When completed it will mark the crowning effort of the Catholics of this district on the noble pillar of true religious teaching in schools. Your Lordship will doubtless have heard with deep satisfaction the good results achieved by the children in our schools when measured by the Standard of Education Board Examinations. It is with the most profound admiration that we view your Lordship's zeal in journeying so far South as Jackson's Bay, so that the faithful Catholics in that isolated portion of your diocese may have the inestimable privilege of conferring with their Bishop and obtaining his spiritual advice and blessing. We were greatly pleased to read in your pastoral letter of the appreciative remarks you have graciously bestowed upon the Catholics of the Coast of the help they have been able to give your Lordship in the desire to erect a cathedral worthy of your large diocese. We have read with feelings of unmixed satisfaction of the success that has attended the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the sacred edifice. We beg to assure your Lordship that we shall always strive to the utmost of our humble abilities to assist you in your noble work. And, finally, in again emphasising our gladness in having you once more amongst us, we desire that your Lordship may always include us in your prayers as you are constantly in ours, and that an abundance of spiritual graces may be so showered upon you that as the years roll on the Church in your diocese may, through your wise counsels and relentless devotion, increase in number and in good works.

His Lordship thanked the congregation for the kindly interest shown in his welfare and that of his devoted priests who accompanied him on his perilous journey. He thanked God that he was enabled to visit his flock in such an out-of-the-way district as South Westland, and prayed that his visit might bring the blessings of God in its train. He dwelt for a short time on the object of their mission to Westland, namely, that all might be enabled to participate in the great blessings of the Jubilee now being held in this diocese.

On Monday evening a very large congregation assembled in the school grounds and marched in procession to the church, reciting aloud the Rosary.

His Lordship, taking for his text 'I give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven,' preached an eloquent sermon dealing with the benefits and graces to be derived from the Jubilee, and showing that the Church had the power and authority to grant a Jubilee and the indulgences attendant thereon.

## ROSS.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 29.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes arrived here from his visitation to South Westland on Tuesday last. He was met at the Mikonui river and escorted into town by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, Rev. Father King, of Ahaura, and a number of the prominent Catholics in the town. Before the evening service Dr. McIlroy read and presented the following address to his Lordship, which was signed on behalf of the congregation by Dr. A. J. McIlroy, and Messrs. J. Crowley, P. Healy, T. Houlihan, and T. Minehan:—'May it please your Lordship,—We, the members of the Catholic community of Ross, desire to tender you a hearty welcome on the occasion of this, your episcopal visit to this parish. We beg also to express to you our great feelings at the success accomplished, by continued perseverance on your part, in the great work of inaugurating the building of what will prove a magnificent building in your episcopal see. This great work of yours presents itself to New Zealand, and more especially to your pastoral district, as an expression of our faith, and stands as an emblem thereof. We, your Lordship, are proud of both the faith and the emblem. That such is the case will be evident to you by the improvements which have been effected in our local church, school, and buildings pertaining thereto, since your last visit. Such results have been the outcome of the zeal and energy of our worthy pastor, the Rev. Father Bogue. That Catholic education has been well carried out in our midst by the devoted Sisters you will observe by examination results, which are equal to any in Westland. As a tangible proof of our adherence to the faith we extend to you our heartiest co-operation for the continuation and completion of your great work. We are filled with admiration for your apostolic zeal in visiting the extreme portion of your diocese, for we know the great difficulties and privations that were to be endured in such a journey from rain, flood, and storm. We can assure your Lordship that since commencing your tour you have always been present in our prayers, and now we offer you our heartiest congratulations on the successful issue of your mission, and beg to assure you that such will always be appreciated in and south of Ross. Accept the sentiments of our filial love, and from our hearts we say, "Cead Mile Failte."'

In replying his Lordship thanked the congregation most heartily for their kind thoughtfulness, and gave a brief account of his southern trip, which, as you are probably aware, was anything but pleasant. In fact the Bishop took the opportunity of warning the Rev. Father Bogue to be very careful when visiting these parts of the diocese.

On Wednesday and Thursday there were large congregations at all the services, and on the latter day some 16 boys and girls were confirmed, and in the evening his Lordship preached an eloquent sermon, after which there was a renewal of baptismal vows.

I understand that a sum of nearly £100 has been received by his Lordship from the Catholics of this district in aid of the Cathedral Building Fund.

His Lordship made special reference to the work of the choir, the altar boys, and those ladies who looked after the decoration of the church. The Sisters also came in for a well-deserved meed of praise.

## TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

A very pleasant reunion was held in the Catholic Girls' School a few evenings ago when the members of the Altar, Hibernian, Children of Mary, and the Catholic Young Men's Societies met Rev. Father Tubman, and fittingly celebrated the feast of St John, the Rev. Father's patron saint. The room was very tastefully arranged as a drawing room, and games of different kinds, interspersed with a musical programme, passed a pleasant evening. The ladies of the congregation were as usual to the fore, and succeeded in their efforts to make all present enjoy themselves.

The Rev. Father Tubman knew nothing of the meeting until he was invited to it, and consequently was taken by surprise when he entered the room and was immediately presented with an address from the four societies mentioned. The address, which was as follows, was read by Mr M. Mahoney:

'It is with feelings of intense pleasure that we, the members of the Children of Mary and Altar Societies, and of the Catholic Young Men's Club, sincerely hail your presence this evening, and we offer you our hearty congratulations on the occasion of your festal day. We are naturally reminded of the auspicious day when you sacrificed the world and its pleasurable attractions to the nobler and more sublime calling of the priesthood. Members of the different societies desire to cordially thank you for the prominent part you have always taken in furthering their interests, and rejoicing in the cherished heritage of unbending loyalty and devotion to the priesthood. You will be pleased to hear that the Young Men's Club numbers about 50, all active and enthusiastic members. We all hope and trust that Providence will spare you to us for many years to come, and that you may continue to exercise those onerous, though to you pleasing duties, which have endeared you to the hearts of all your flock; that at no distant date the cherished object of your hopes and ambition—the erection of a new church—will be an accomplished fact; and that the edifice will be sufficiently commodious to meet the requirements of your large and increasing congregation; and that it will be fittingly pretentious to be in harmony with the rest of the parish property.

A very handsome dinner service was then presented to Father Tubman, and immediately after a boy belonging to the boys' school came forward and presented him with a neat little purse.

Father Tubman, who was received with applause, expressed his sincere thanks to those who had done him such great honor that evening. Words failed him to express the gratitude he felt. He had not expected to meet with such a pleasant surprise that evening. He knew it was out of the kindness of their hearts that they had given him the presents, and he could assure them that he was deeply grateful for the kindly feeling which they had shown him. He had always taken a very great interest in their societies, as was mentioned in the address which they had given him, and he took a great deal of pride in them. There was no work done in the world by any one individual, but in union there was strength, and the societies in bringing the young people together were doing a good work. What they wanted in the church was united effort, and so long as they had that they must continue to flourish. It was a source of great satisfaction to him that they were able to maintain in a flourishing condition two such schools as they had. This could not have been done had the people not been united as one. They paid as much as other members of the community towards the support of public schools, and in addition they maintained their own, and that in a very satisfactory way. He had asked the inspector if he had anything to recommend, and the inspector had replied that he was pleased with things as they were. That was very satisfactory. He had not yet heard the result of the examinations, but had no doubt but that the results would be satisfactory. The Altar Society, he must say, had done and was doing a good work, and when its records came to be handed down a grand report would be written of it. The young ladies were always to the fore in every good work. He was very pleased also to see the flourishing state of the Catholic Young Men's Club, for it was to their young men that they must look for support in the future, and he would be failing in his duty if he were not anxious for the success of this club. If the elder ones would forgive him for saying so, he must own that he was proud of the present given him that night by the school boys. He considered it very kind and thoughtful of them to remember him as they had done. Once more he thanked them one and all for their beautiful presents, for which he was deeply grateful.

During the evening the following contributed to an entertaining programme:—Miss Essie Fitzgerald, overture; Miss Blandford and Miss M. Venning, duet; Mr D. McDonald, song; Miss McKenna, song; Mr J. O'Connor, song; Mr Dennehy, recitation; Miss McGuinness, song. Miss McGuinness also played the accompaniments very tastefully.

Bishop Julius of Christchurch preached a sermon at Christchurch on Sunday which has been considered by the agent of the Press association of sufficient importance to be telegraphed all over the Colony. The Timaru Herald, in a leading article has very smartly brought his Lordship to task, and has shown that it is not the first time that he has clearly demonstrated the absence of a 'level head.' It does seem *infra dig.* for a dignitary of the Anglican Church to so far forget himself as to become a champion of a society whose very existence depends on religious intolerance and bigotry.

The Catholic Young Men's Club is progressing very satisfactorily and by the large attendances at its meetings furnishes evidence that the amalgamation of the different clubs into one strong sodality was a step in the right direction. The officers elected for