

the parents of the contracting parties are well-known residents of Wellington. Father Holley performed the ceremony. The bride was attired in a cream costume, and wore a wreath and veil. She was attended by her two sisters, the Misses Nellie and Rita Leydon, who wore white muslin dresses with hats to match. The bridesmaids received gifts of gold bangles from the bridegroom. Mr. E. A. Butler acted as groomsmen. The guests were entertained at the residence of the bride's parents after the ceremony. The honeymoon is being spent in the Wanganni district.

The half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society was held in St. Patrick's Hall on Thursday evening. There was a large attendance of members. Bro. E. Carrigan, J.P., presided. The Rev. Father Goggan, chaplain, bade good-bye to the members. The president, in a fine speech, testified to the immense amount of good work done by Father Goggan since his advent to the parish, and hoped that his absence would only be temporary. It was resolved to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by holding sports in the Basin Reserve and a National concert in the evening. The following officers were elected for the ensuing half year:—President, J. W. Calligan; vice-president, O. Krohn; treasurer, M. Bohan; secretary, P. Kelleher; warden, P. Shannon; guardian, W. J. Gosling; medical attendants, Drs. Cahill and Mackin; sick visitors, James Stratford and P. O'Callaghan; auditors, M. McGlinchey and J. Stratford. One new member was elected and two candidates proposed. The takings during the evening amounted to £60.

### PALMERSTON NORTH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 29.

The opening and blessing of the new church at Ashurst took place on Sunday, the 22nd inst. His Grace Archbishop Redwood, assisted by the Rev. Father Tymons, of St. Patrick's, Palmerston, performed the ceremony, and dedicated the church to St. Columba. Being a perfect summer day large crowds assembled from all round the district, the Palmerston Catholic public being particularly numerous. St. Patrick's choir journeyed out in full force, and rendered 'Farmer's Mass in B' in their best style, the soprano and alto solos being taken by Misses L. Brophy and Scanlon respectively, and the tenor and bass by Messrs V. A. Dallow and D. Roach, the organ being faultlessly played by Mr Percy Tombs. At the close of the Mass his Grace Archbishop Redwood, after a few introductory remarks as to his surprise at finding so beautiful a church so perfect in acoustic properties and ventilation in every way, and congratulating the architect and congregation in erecting such a perfect tabernacle for the honor and glory of God, then proceeded with an eloquent discourse on the duty of prayer and praise we owe to the Almighty. His Grace dwelt particularly on the duties of parents in seeing that their children were sent to Catholic schools. A collection was then taken up, when the handsome sum of £50 was received.

In the evening his Grace preached at St. Patrick's, Palmerston North, to a crowded congregation.

At St. Patrick's Church the festival of Christmas was ushered in by the celebration of Midnight Mass, which was said by the Rev. Father Tymons, when there was a very large congregation. The choir rendered Mozart's Eleventh Mass. Prior to the Mass Ross's 'Tantum Ergo' was sung by Messrs V. A. Dallow (tenor) and D. Roach (bass) in their best style. Mr T. Rodgers also sang the 'Star of Bethlehem' very effectively. At the end of the Mass the Rev. Father Tymons very kindly entertained the choir at the presbytery, where the season's greetings were exchanged.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 6.

Masses were celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral on New Year's Day (Feast of the Circumcision) at 6, 7.30 and 10 a.m., with the customary services in the evening.

To-day (Monday), Feast of the Epiphany, Masses were celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral at 6, 6.30, 7, 7.30 and 9 a.m., with the usual devotions in the evening.

After the sermon in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday evening Mr C. McNamara gave a very fine rendering of the sacred solo 'Nazareth.'

The choir of St. Mary's, Manchester street, repeated Mozart's 'Twelfth Mass' on the Sunday following Christmas, Masses being celebrated and the usual devotions held on the intervening festival days.

The Rev. Father Melu, S.M., of the Otaki Maori Mission, arrived in Christchurch on last Thursday week, and is now engaged visiting the various native settlements as far south as Invercargill.

The Rev. Father Alexander McDonnell, a young priest destined for the diocese, arrived at the end of last week from Europe, and at the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday at Vespers preached an impressive discourse on the Holy Eucharist.

The Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., Rector of St. Patrick's College, arrived in Christchurch from Wellington on last Friday week. He celebrated the 9.30 o'clock Mass in the Pro-Cathedral on the following Sunday, and during the week left for the South.

At the invitation of his Lordship the Bishop a large number of ladies are to meet at the presbytery on Thursday afternoon to form committees in connection with the St. Patrick's Day celebration and the establishment of, as the circular states, a 'Home for the deserving poor and infirm, destitute children, incurables, etc., irrespective of race and religion.'

Mr H. H. Loughnan, choirmaster of the Pro-Cathedral choir, is worthy of sincere congratulation on the very marked improvement manifested in the rendition of the Church music. Although the task is eminently a congenial one, yet the high state of efficiency attained is alike creditable to the talented conductor, who devotes a great deal of time to the duties, and satisfactory to all concerned.

Haydn's No. 2 Mass was sung in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday at High Mass, the solos being taken by Miss Bowler (soprano), Mrs. A. Mead (alto), Mr. McKay (tenor), and Messrs. C. McNamara and R. Beveridge (bass). The music was the same as on Christmas Day, and was exceedingly well rendered. Mr. H. H. Loughnan conducted, and Miss Funston presided at the organ. After the Mass there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed after Vespers with the usual monthly procession. There was a crowded congregation.

The bazaar at Lyttelton, which extended over the New Year holidays, was brought to a close on Saturday night with a sale of work. On New Year's Day the bazaar was thronged, and on the following Thursday was honored by a visit from his Lordship the Bishop and Very Rev. Dean Foley. Although the net results are not yet known, still the event has proved an unequalled success, upon which the popular pastor, the Rev. Father Cooney, his energetic committee, and especially the ladies who took such a willing and hard-working part, are to be sincerely congratulated.

On Boxing Day a picnic, organised by St. Mary's Catholic Ladies' Club, took place at Stewart's Gully, a pretty spot on the Waimakariri, near Kaiapoi, which proved a most enjoyable outing to the members and friends who attended. The party, numbering about thirty, left the residence of Mrs J. R. Hunt (president) at nine o'clock in vehicles provided by Mr Finnerty, and on arrival at the pleasure grounds boating, croquet, and other suitable games were indulged in. The return home was made at nightfall, the city being reached at ten o'clock, all having passed a thoroughly enjoyable day.

### TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Rev. Father Claffey, S.J., of Melbourne, who is to conduct the annual retreat for the nuns of the Sacred Heart has arrived in Timaru and preached at Vespers on Sunday last.

A sale of work, in aid of the new church fund, was held on December 23 in the girls' schoolroom. The proceedings were enlivened by musical and other contributions by Messrs. D. McDonald (song), M. Eiby (song), and the children of the parish schools (chorus and dumb-bell exercise). The proceeds were satisfactory.

There is some talk of a parish demonstration on St. Patrick's Day, but whether it is to take place, or whether an amalgamation with the St. Patrick's Sports' Association will be the result will not be decided until the next meeting of the association. Whatever will be the result it is intended that March 17 will be celebrated in Timaru in a manner worthy of the district.

The 11 o'clock Mass on Christmas Day, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, was celebrated by the Rev. Father Tubman, who also preached the occasional discourse. The choir, augmented by some friends from Temuka, rendered Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle,' the soloists being Mrs. Lynch, Miss McGuinness, and Miss O'Meeghan (soprano), Miss McKennah (alto), Messrs Jefferson, Eiby, Donsett, and Jeffries (tenor), Messrs. D. McDonald, and J. McKennah (bass). The 'Adeste Fideles' was rendered very nicely by the choir. Mr. Kearsley conducted and Miss McGuinness presided at the organ. The church was tastefully decorated with evergreens, etc., and appropriate mottoes occupied prominent places in the aisles.

[This letter arrived too late for insertion in our last issue.]

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 1.

Rev. Father Gillan visits Gisborne shortly.

A retreat for the Sisters of Mercy, conducted by Rev. Father Benedict, commenced at St. Mary's Convent last Monday.

Rev. Father Kehoe is still away on his tour in quest of health, which his numerous friends earnestly hope that he may secure.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration committee met last Sunday afternoon. An art union is to be worked in connection with the fête this year, and promises, so far, to prove eminently successful.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien, M.P., has replied by letter from Toowoomba to the Auckland branch of the Irish National Federation regretting his inability to visit this Colony, but he 'hopes in the near future to make the acquaintance of his warm hearted countrymen in New Zealand about whom he has heard such favorable accounts.'

Our morning paper in an editorial article last Saturday, in which the writer labored to discuss Irish affairs, got rid of the following: 'Was it the occult presence of O'Brien in Australia which caused Mr. Barton to hesitate about sending another Australian contingent to South Africa?'

On Friday morning last at St. Mary's Convent Chapel, Ponsonby, High Mass was sung by Rev. Father Purton, O.S.B., Father O'Hara being deacon, Father McGuinness subdeacon. His Lordship the Bishop was present in the sanctuary, as was also Very Rev. Father Benedict, O.P. Father Gillan was master of ceremonies. Father Russell, Dr. Egan, and Father Hills assisted the convent choir. The Bishop delivered a short and instructive sermon on the Blessed Sacrament. At the conclusion of the Mass, a procession was formed in which the Bishop, clergy, Sisters of Mercy, the Children of Mary from the various parishes, and the laity present, took part. The sight was most edifying.