

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 24.

The Rev. Father Ainsworth is preaching a mission at Westport.

The proceeds from the opera recently given in aid of the schools realised the sum of £35.

The annual social in aid of the Sisters of Compassion takes place on the 11th June. It has been decided to hold it this year in the Drillshed. An energetic committee have been appointed to make all necessary arrangements. The tickets are commanding a ready sale, which speaks well for a successful social.

The first meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Literary and Debating Society took place at St. Patrick's Hall on Monday last. A large number of members were present. The latest issue of the Society's magazine was fully discussed. The syllabus was left to a sub-committee consisting of the Rev. Father Herbert, Messrs. McGovern, McKeown and Gamble.

The golden wedding of Mr and Mrs C. Stuart, of Judgeford, Pahautanui, was celebrated at their residence on Thursday last. A large gathering of residents from the district assembled to convey their congratulations which showed the respect in which the couple are held. Congratulatory telegrams from friends in different parts of the Colony were also received. During the evening the Pahautanui Brass Band played selections on the lawn. Mr and Mrs Stuart have resided in the district close on 50 years.

The children of St. Joseph's Orphanage were entertained by Professor and Mrs. McKenzie at their beautiful home at Karori on Saturday, May 10. In the well laid out grounds adjoining the children roamed and enjoyed the many attractions provided for them. An ample repast was done full justice to by the young folk. Before returning home the children gave three hearty cheers for their kind entertainers.

The Feast of Pentecost was celebrated in a special manner at the different churches on Sunday last. At the Church of the Sacred Heart, Rev. Father Holley celebrated the 10.30 Mass. The choir rendered in an excellent manner Gounod's Mass, with full orchestral accompaniment. At Vespers the church was crowded, when a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place. Rev. Father Holley preached on the day's festival. At St. Mary of the Angels' Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Mahoney, with the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy as deacon, and Rev. Father Herbert sub-deacon. At St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, Rev. Father Hills celebrated the last Mass. Gounod's Mass was sung by the choir. At Vespers his Grace the Archbishop preached an able discourse on the festival of Pentecost.

WESTPORT.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

May 20.

A very successful mission was opened at St. Canice's Church, Westport, on Sunday, May 4, by the Rev. Father Ainsworth, S.M., and having been continued during the week closed on the following Sunday, 11th inst. The Masses during the week mornings were attended by large numbers, and at the services in the evenings the church was crowded. Fortunately during the week the weather proved most favorable. When it is considered that a mission was preached by Father Ainsworth in the same church just before last Christmas, it is no small tribute to his eloquence and the attractive power of his preaching that he was able to draw such great congregations so soon again. It showed clearly how much the zealous missionary is appreciated in Westport. The congregation manifested a spirit of faith and devotion by their constant attendance at the services that was highly creditable to them. Moreover, they responded readily to the appeal of the missionary to prepare and fulfil their Easter duty by going in such great numbers to Holy Communion. On the last Sunday especially a grand sight was presented in the large body of men who approached the Holy Table. Certainly not many of the congregations missed the opportunity of complying with the Paschal precept during the mission. What happy fruits are produced in a parish by a good mission? How grateful all are for the blessings vouchsafed to them by means of a mission. Father Ainsworth is at present engaged in giving short missions in different parts of this extensive district, and intends spending about a month altogether in the parish.

WAVERLEY.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A very pleasing little function took place in the presbytery of the Catholic Church here a few evenings ago, when the Rev. Father Johnston, on the eve of his departure to take charge of the Waipawa parish, to which he has been appointed by his Grace the Archbishop, was presented with a purse of sovereigns by the members of the congregation. Mr Leo, in making the presentation, spoke in high terms of the respect and esteem in which Father Johnston had been held by his Waverley parishioners. His remarks were further expressive of Father Johnston's popularity as a priest with those who had the pleasure of knowing him, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, not only as an able and eloquent preacher, but also as a man of unflinching energy and zeal for the spiritual welfare

of all under his immediate care, especially the children. These sentiments were fully endorsed by a large number of friends present. Father Johnston, in the course of a feeling reply, returned his most sincere thanks to his Waverley friends for their great kindness to him on all occasions during his stay in the parish. He had nothing but what was good to say of the people of Waverley, and he would always look back with feelings of pleasure on his short residence in the district. In conclusion, he extended a hearty invitation to his friends in Waverley to call on him should they at any time visit Waipawa during his stay there.

I understand that the Patea friends of the Rev. Father also presented him with a valuable souvenir. As an eloquent and forcible preacher the Rev. Father Johnston has few equals, and his loss will be keenly felt by the Catholics of this district.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 26.

The Rev. Father Galerne found it necessary to break his journey at Napier, where he remained for a well earned rest.

The special devotions appropriate to the Feast of Corpus Christi which occurs on Thursday next are to be observed on the Sunday following in an especially impressive manner at the Pro-Cathedral, it being the patronal feast of that church.

Great success has attended the Coronation Carnival at the Colosseum during the week. The building has been thronged nightly, and the managing committee will apparently have abundant cause to congratulate themselves on the financial result. There has been a change of programme each evening. Any notice of the carnival would be incomplete without reference to the energetic secretary, Mr. W. H. Corrigan, whose keen perception, business tact and organising ability have gone far to make the event the unequalled success it certainly is.

By the Warrimoo, which arrived last week from Melbourne, Sisters Mary and Clare, members of the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth, came to Christchurch on business connected with the establishment of a Nazareth House here. During their stay in this city the visitors were guests of Mrs. A. J. White at Opawa, and returned to Melbourne by the Talune on Friday. One of the Sisters is Mother Superior of the home which has been established by the Order in Ballarat, Victoria. They are, I understand, very pleased with the possibilities and prospects of establishing a branch home in this city, and have met his Lordship the Bishop in conference. They will, it is stated, report favorably to the Central Council on the matter. In the course of an interview a *Lyttelton Times* reporter elicited the following interesting facts from the visitors as to the aims and objects of the Order:—The Sisters of Nazareth are an entirely unsectarian body, and have their headquarters in Hammersmith, in London, where they have a large house. The object is to receive and provide for the aged and indigent of both sexes, as well as for the young who may have been left on the world without proper provision for their maintenance. The children are educated, and as soon as they are fit to go out into the world are helped to get suitable employment. The girls are mostly placed in domestic service, while the boys are generally sent into the country the ages of 13 and 15, after which they are in most cases apprenticed to any trade for which they show aptitude. Persons are received into the homes without any questions as to their denomination, and the whole of the work is done by the Sisters including the nursing of the sick and the education of the children. The Order has homes in various parts of England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as in South Africa and Australia. The home at Ballarat has now been established about 14 years, and has about 300 inmates at the present time and has in addition a hospital for incurables. Here are to be found the two extremes, youth and old age, for the youngest inmate is under 12 months, whilst the oldest is a man who is over 100 years of age. The medical men take a considerable interest in the institution, and the doctors, oculists and dentists who attend to the patients are all honorary. The institutions are all supported by voluntary contributions, and the only assistance rendered by the Victorian Government is the supplying of free passes on the railways to the extent of £50 per annum, which enables the Sisters to visit the various portions of the diocese. Should any of the children who have been brought up in the institution afterwards be out of employment, they are encouraged to return, and always look upon it as a temporary home. The Order has homes and hospitals at Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Durban and Kimberley, and when the South African war broke out, permission was given to the Sisters to leave the country, but they all elected to remain, and they gave great assistance in nursing the sick and wounded. Mr Cecil Rhodes was a considerable benefactor to the Order, and was very good to the Sisters during the siege at Kimberley. Both he and Lord Roberts spoke highly of the work done by them.

Southland News Notes.

(From our own correspondent.)

A Catholic club has been formed at Gore, and it promises to be a success in every way. The club held the first of its socials in the Town Hall on Thursday evening, and its efforts were crowned with success.

The Catholics of Orepuki contemplate holding a bazaar at no distant date in aid of the Church funds, and your readers who know the Catholics of the district are well aware that they are just the people to make anything a success that they take in hand.

The annual meeting of St. Mary's Literary Society, Invercargill, was held last Tuesday and was largely attended. The Very Rev.