

## DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 10.

Rev. Father O'Driscoll, of Sydney, passed through by the inward 'Frisco liner 'Sonoma' last Monday after a trip to Ireland.

A musical entertainment will be given by the pupils of the Sisters of Mercy's High School at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, to-morrow evening.

Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., will conduct the annual retreat of the diocesan clergy early next year.

Rev. Father Gately, S.J., of North Sydney, arrived from the South last Sunday. He had conducted a retreat at the Convent, Timaru, and proceeded home by the same boat.

The first distribution of prizes given at the Sacred Heart College will take place next Wednesday evening, December 16. His Lordship the Bishop is expected to preside.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Count Vay de Vaya arrived in Auckland last Friday morning and was met at Onehunga by the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., and Messrs. Patrick Darby and Edmund Mahony. The Monsignor was the guest of Father Patterson at St. Patrick's Presbytery. He left for Rotorua last Tuesday morning.

His Lordship the Bishop has gone on to Napier on his motor, whence he returns to Auckland overland. He is due at Huntly next Sunday, where he is to open a new church, which is to be dedicated to St. Anthony, afterwards returning home. Father O'Gallagher is doing excellent work in his Waikato parish, and this new addition to our diocesan churches is a monument to his credit and to that of his people. A number of Aucklanders go by special train to Huntly on Sunday morning, returning in the afternoon.

On Tuesday last, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 40 children received their First Communion at St. Patrick's. The girls, under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, were neatly attired in white dresses. The boys, under the Marist Brothers, wore a red sash each and held a lighted candle. Rev. Father Holbrook celebrated the First Communion Mass, and delivered a very telling and feeling address suited to the occasion. After Mass breakfast was provided for the children in St. Patrick's Hall by the Children of Mary. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held all day. The celebrations were in accordance with the desire of his Holiness Leo XIII., who wished that the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception should be worthily commemorated, and ordered that 'special services on the eighth day of every month, beginning December 8, 1903, are to be held in certain churches to be selected by the Ordinary of each diocese.'

## Waihi

(From our own correspondent.)

December 8.

At St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last the ceremony of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced. At the early Mass at 7.30 and 9, large numbers approached Holy Communion. The 11 o'clock Mass was sung by the Rev. Father Vandyk. After Mass a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place, in which the children of the convent school took part. After the procession the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for adoration during the day. Father Brodie preached at 11 o'clock, and explained the meaning and reason of the Forty Hours' Adoration ceremony. At the morning functions there were very large congregations. In the evening, in spite of the unfavorable weather, the spacious church was thronged to the door. The Very Rev. Dean Hackett preached a most eloquent and instructive discourse on the Blessed Eucharist. The sermon was a masterpiece of pulpit eloquence, and justly confirmed the high opinion in which Dean Hackett is held as a preacher. After the sermon there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, which was truly an imposing ceremony. The music throughout the day was excellently rendered by a full choir assisted by complete orchestral accompaniment. Mr Percy Brennan conducted. The rendering of the music, combined with the solemn functions of the day, made a great impression upon the large congregations present. The ceremony concluded at 9 o'clock Mass on Tuesday morning, when about 20 children received their first Communion. On Monday evening a sermon on the Blessed Eucharist was preached by the Rev. Father Vandyk. The altar of Exposition was beautifully decorated, a tasteful background of white showing to full advantage the floral decorations. The altar was prepared by the Sisters of Mercy, assisted by their pupils.

A residence for the parish priest is now in course of erection.

## Holly Cross College, Mosgiel

The annual break-up and distribution of prizes took place in the Provincial Seminary, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on last Monday. There were present his Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin, the Very Rev. J. O'Neill (Milton), Rev. P. Murphy, Adm. (Dunedin), Rev. J. Coffey (South Dunedin), Rev. D. Buckley (Dunedin), Rev. M. Howard (Port Chalmers), Rev. J. Liston (Dunedin), Rev. H. W. Cleary (Dunedin), and the members of the College staff—Rev. Fathers Delany, Ryan, and O'Neill.

A short but very excellent programme was gone through, consisting of the following items: Overture (violins, mandoline, piano), College orchestra; song, 'Man of Sorrows,' Mr. H. Woods; glee, 'Men of England,' students; piano duet, 'Qui vive,' Messrs. M. Scanlan and J. Tobin; dialogue, 'Brutus and Cassius,' Messrs. C. Collins and H. Woods; chorus, 'Per Signum Crucis,' students.

The distribution of prizes was then made by his Lordship the Bishop as follows:—

Logic Class: Prize, Cornelius Collins and John Griffin (equal merit); next in merit, Henry Woods.

First Latin Class: Prize, Cornelius Collins; next in merit, John Griffin and Henry Woods.

Second Latin Class: Prize, Michael Scanlan; next in merit, Thomas Connolly.

Third Latin and Greek Class: Prize, Daniel O'Connell and James Hanrahan (equal merit); next in merit, James McMinamin and James Keough.

Fourth Latin Class: Prize, Patrick Molloy and Augustine McColl.

Greek Class: Prize, Michael Scanlan, Thomas Connolly, Cornelius Collins, and J. Griffin (equal merit); next in merit, Henry Woods.

First English Class: Prize, Cornelius Collins and Michael Scanlan (equal merit); next in merit, Patrick Fennessy and James Tobin.

Second English Class: Prize, James McMinamin.

Mathematics (First Class): Prize, Cornelius Collins; next in merit, Henry Woods and John Griffin.

Mathematics (Second Class): Prize, Thomas Connolly and Michael Scanlan (equal merit); next in merit, Patrick Fennessy.

Mathematics (Third Class): Prize, Daniel O'Connell, James Carron, and James McMinamin (equal merit); next in merit, James Hanrahan.

Christian Doctrine (First Class): Prize, Henry Woods; next in merit, Cornelius Collins and James Tobin.

Christian Doctrine (Second Class): Prize, Cyril Molloy.

French and Italian: Prize, Cornelius Collins; next in merit, Henry Woods and John Griffin.

At the close of the distribution Bishop Verdon complimented the students and professors on their year's work. He recalled the time, three and a half years ago when a modest beginning was made with the seminary, which had now progressed so satisfactorily, both on the material side, in its buildings, etc., and in the number of its students, which had risen in that short period to the respectable number of 20. He looked to the coming year for an even greater measure of success, and exhorted the students to lay the foundation of good traditions in the place and wished them a happy vacation. Fathers O'Neill and Murphy also spoke in congratulatory terms of the students and the staff and the manner in which the Seminary had progressed from the small beginning of the year 1900, and wished the students a pleasant holiday. On Tuesday morning the students left for their homes.

The Government is still issuing posters notifying that 4,129,666 acres of Crown lands are now available for settlement on application. Of this total, 1,245,002 acres are rural land, 145,006 acres are for lease as small grazing runs, 2,688,938 acres for lease as pastoral runs, and 1622 acres are township land. Under the Land for Settlements Act there are 20,973 acres for open lease in perpetuity, and 27,965 acres for lease as small grazing runs. In the Otago land district the area open for selection is (says the 'Otago Daily Times') 99,900 acres, of which 40,959 acres are rural land in 648 sections, 55,187 acres in nine runs are pastoral lands, and 3479 acres in 22 sections are open under the Land for Settlements Act. There is also open one small grazing run of 275 acres. In the Southland district there are open for selection 64,045 acres in 568 sections of rural land, 1,120,791 acres in 29 runs of pastoral lands, 8092 acres in 13 sections under the Land for Settlements Act, one small grazing run of 1658 acres, and 846 acres of township lands in 722 sections.

In cases of attacks of Colic, Cramp, or Spasms, Evans's WITCH'S OIL will be found invaluable.—\*\*\*