

Special reference to the great Irish national festival was made in all the churches on Sunday, and in honor of the feast of the Apostle of Ireland the members of St. Patrick's branch H.A.C.B. Society approached the Holy Table in a body, wearing their regalia, at the seven o'clock Mass in the Cathedral, celebrated by the branch chaplain, the Rev. Father Long. After Mass, all assembled in the Hibernian Hall for the annual Communion breakfast. At the Cathedral in the evening an eloquent panegyric on St. Patrick was delivered by the Rev. Father Murphy, B.A., in the presence of a large congregation. The discourse was in some respects along original lines, the various points being beautifully thought out, and expressed with rare effectiveness. On Tuesday, the feast day itself, a special Mass is to be celebrated at 9 o'clock in the Cathedral, and a holiday is to be observed by all the Catholic schools. The banks, municipal offices, and as usual some of the State departments, will be closed for the day. Throughout the province various sports fixtures are arranged, and excursion trains will be run on the Main and several branch lines. A Christchurch municipal excursion will run to Timaru for the inter-civic visit, an event which has become quite a feature of municipal life in recent years. The Marist Brothers' School go on an excursion to Ashburton, where a picnic is to be enjoyed in the local domain. The chief social event in the evening will be the national entertainment in the Theatre Royal, the proceeds of which will be given to assist the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary to establish their hospital in this city.

Christchurch North

March 16.

The Very Rev. Dean Binsfield, S.M., left for Wellington on Tuesday evening last.

Last Sunday being the third Sunday of the month, the Children of Mary in large numbers approached the Holy Table.

The members of St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society also approached the Holy Table in a body in honor of the feast of St. Patrick.

On Sunday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place after last Mass until evening devotions. The usual procession was followed by Benediction, at which the Vicar-General, the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., officiated.

Very large congregations continue to attend the devotions in St. Mary's on Sunday evenings, to hear the course of sermons which are given by the Marist Fathers during the Lenten season, dealing with the Passion of our Lord. On Sunday evening the Rev. Father Dignan, S.M., preached a beautiful sermon on the 'Agony in the Garden.'

The fortnightly meeting of St. Mary's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in Ozanam Lodge on Monday evening, the 9th inst. Bro. President H. J. Johnston occupied the chair. There was a good attendance. An unusually large amount of correspondence was dealt with. The appointment of the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., as chaplain to the branch, was received with enthusiasm. The initiation of candidates, and the proposals of several for membership at the next meeting, shows the steady growth of the branch.

The following candidates from the Convents of Mercy, Colombo street and Darfield, were successful at recent examinations:—Teachers' Class C—Miss Margaret, Dee; Part of C—Miss Mary E. Gardner. Trinity College London.—Art of Teaching—Miss Hannah Ryan, A.T.C.L. Senior division (theoretical)—Lilia Young. Intermediate—Thomas Johnston, Annie Shipley. Junior—Flora Duncan (honors), Rubina Long (honors), Lizzie Welsh (honors). Preparatory—Mary Dunne (honors), Una Clinton (honors), Wallace Chapman (honors), Ralph Lattimore (honors).

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DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

March 16.

Mr. Girling-Butcher, organiser of the Catholic Federation, is at present in Auckland diocese, on the East coast.

Rev. Father Paul Kehoe, of Wexford, a friend of Bishop Cleary, arrived in Auckland yesterday, and is at present the guest of his Lordship.

Mr. Power, the American athlete, accompanied by Rev. Father O'Doherty, visited the Sacred Heart College last Friday evening, and addressed the Marist Brothers and their pupils. He said that when he left Boston, he promised his parish priest, Father Hayes, that whenever he visited city, town, or village, the first friend he would make would be a priest. He had done this, and his trip had in consequence been most beneficial to him. God had been with him, and without Him life was nothing. He urged the students always to bear this in mind. Mr. Power then gave them instructions how to train, with practical and theoretical illustrations. Above all, they should remain amateurs. Mr. Power was heartily applauded, and afterwards answered many questions from Brother Clement and the students. He left for America the next day.

Before the meeting of the St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee concluded last Wednesday evening, Mr. D. Flynn, chairman, said it was, he felt sure, the ardent wish of all, that before celebrating next St. Patrick's Day, the Irish Parliament would be opened and legislating for the welfare, as we all knew it would, of Ireland as a whole. The Bill had been, or was proposed to be, altered, and concessions made to those who sought not to mend it, but to end it. This had gone far enough, and he hoped there would be no more in the same direction. These remarks were received with loud approval by the representative gathering present from the city and suburbs, which included Right Rev. Mgr. Brodie, V.G., and Rev. Fathers Cahill, O'Doherty, and Forde. Mr. Nerheny followed, and spoke with force, saying it was to be regretted that the Government had given way to bullying and threats, and to those who styled themselves loyalists, but who were in reality disloyalists. He moved the following resolution—'This meeting, thoroughly representative of the Irish residents of Auckland, protests against the mutilation of the Home Rule Bill, and the concessions offered to the forces of anarchy and disorder, tending to the dismemberment of Ireland, and perpetuating dissensions between Catholics and Protestants.' Mr. Nerheny moved also that a copy of the foregoing resolution be immediately cabled to the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Prime Minister of England. Mr. Hurley seconded the motion, which, when put to the meeting, was unanimously and enthusiastically carried. Mr. Nerheny very generously offered to defray the cost of the cable, which was sent to Mr. Asquith on the following morning.

The Hibernian Society, including the district officers, received Holy Communion in the Cathedral on Sunday morning, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. His Lordship Bishop Cleary celebrated Mass at 7 o'clock, assisted by Rev. Father O'Doherty. There was a good muster of members. At the conclusion of the Mass his Lordship addressed the congregation, referring to the advent of the great national festival, and eulogising the Hibernians, with whose work he had been in close touch for many years. The Bishop then reminded his hearers of the arid, parched areas of Queensland, where astute scientists and engineers had recently introduced irrigation, and where hitherto barrenness had obtained, a complete change has been effected, and there are green pastures, abundant crops, luxuriant orchards of fruit, and smiling homesteads. Confraternities in the Church were performing in the spiritual, temporal, and social sphere, a similar service. The Hibernian Society in particular, whose motto, 'Faith and Fatherland,' was so commendable, fostered a love for Holy Church, and for the land of their fathers, as well as for the land

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