

OBITUARY

REV. MOTHER BRIGID, PAHIATUA.

(From our Masterton correspondent.)

Rev. Mother Brigid Desmond, of the Brigidine Convent, Pahiataua, passed away on Thursday, after a long illness, at the age of 53 years. The deceased religious was born at Bandon, County Cork, and entered the Brigidine Convent at Mountrath at the age of 21 years. In 1896 she came to Australia, and spent two years in Cooma (N.S.W.), before coming to New Zealand, where she was associated with the foundation of the Order by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna, V.G., in Masterton in 1898. The late Rev. Mother spent seven years in Masterton, and went to Pahiataua with the establishment of the convent there in 1906, and was Superior for seven years. Three years ago the late Rev. Mother celebrated her silver jubilee. On that occasion she was the recipient of several handsome tokens of esteem from the congregation, and the pupils of the convent. She was beloved by all who knew her, and throughout her long illness bore her sufferings with Christian fortitude. The funeral took place at the Mangatainoka Cemetery on Friday afternoon, when the following clergy were present: Very Rev. Dean McKenna, V.G., and Rev. Father Guinane (Masterton), Rev. Father T. McKenna (Pahiataua), Rev. Father McManus (Palmerston North), Rev. Father Dore (Foxton), Rev. Father Barclay (Wellington), Rev. Father Harnett (Opunake), Rev. Father Kinkead (Carterton), and Rev. Father Kennedy (Port Augusta). R.I.P.

Christchurch North

May 18.

Rev. Father Burger, S.M., arrived from Waimate on Saturday, and preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday evening.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from after last Mass until the evening devotions, when the usual procession took place.

On May 7 the beautiful marble altar in the convent chapel of the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street, Christchurch, was consecrated by the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G.

During evening devotions on Sunday a reception of the Children of Mary took place, when fifteen new members were received. The Rev. Father Hoare, S.M. (spiritual director), performed the ceremony.

Miss Irene Wrathall passed an examination in Gregg's shorthand (80 speed), and Miss Violet Haigh and Kathleen O'Donohue gained certificates for Pitman's theory. All are pupils of the Sisters of Mercy.

At the recent Competitions held in Christchurch, the following pupils from the Convent, Colombo street, gained distinction: Children's chorus (34 pupils). 1st prize: pianoforte duet (under 16 years), Lorna Timbrell and Christabel Robinson, 1st: pianoforte duet (under 13 years), Vera Dwyer and Nita Baty, 2nd: pianoforte duet (under 10 years), Doris Middleton and Roy O'Malley, 1st: Irma Quane and Cyril Edmond, 2nd: pianoforte solo (under 18 years), Eileen Carter, 3rd: pianoforte solo (under 13 years), Norma Middleton, 3rd: pianoforte solo (under 10 years), Doris Middleton, 1st, and Irma Quane, 2nd: sight reading, pianoforte (under 16 years), Christobel Robinson, 3rd.

Rev. Father Dignan, S.M., who left for Waimate on Friday, was the recipient of many tokens of esteem. On Tuesday evening the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society presented him with a travelling rug. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G. (spiritual director), made the presentation. The Rev. Father Dignan, in a few remarks, thanked the members for their kindness. On Thursday evening a number of parishioners assembled in Ozanam Lodge, and presented Rev. Father Dignan with an address (executed by the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street), and a motor coat. Mr. W. Hayward made the presentation. The Very Rev. Dean

Hills, S.M., V.G., and the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., spoke in eulogistic terms. The Rev. Father Dignan, S.M., suitably replied.

The feast of his Lordship the Bishop was celebrated at St. Mary's Convent on Thursday within the Octavo of the Patronage of St. Joseph. His Lordship and the clergy were entertained at lunch at the convent, and in the afternoon a concert was given by the pupils in St. Mary's Hall. The following was the programme:—Chorus, 'Festive greetings,' pupils; address, Miss C. Barrett; pianoforte duet, 'Boating song,' Misses D. Middleton and I. Quane, Masters C. Edmonds and R. O'Malley; vocal solo, 'Who is Sylvia,' Master H. Moody; violin solo, 'Gavotte,' Miss M. Young; pianoforte solo, 'Valse' (Chopin), Miss E. Carter; recitation, 'Maoriland,' Miss C. Barrett; pianoforte duet, 'Impromptu,' Misses L. Timbrell and C. Robinson; vocal solo, 'Come unto Him,' Miss A. Hill; pianoforte solo, 'Romance of the ball,' Master H. Moody; dialogue, 'Festive bouquet,' pupils; pianoforte solo, 'Rustle of spring,' Misses V. Wilson and L. Timbrell; chorus, 'Out with the tide,' pupils.

Rangiora

(From an occasional correspondent.)

May 18.

The mission, which was conducted by the Rev. T. McCarthy, S.M., at the Catholic Church, Rangiora, was brought to a very successful close on Sunday evening. Despite the inclemency of the weather, especially during the latter part of the week, the attendance each evening continued to grow, so much so that the seating and standing accommodation of the church was taxed to its utmost, many coming from Cust, Kaiapoi, and Loburn. On Sunday evening, at the closing ceremonies, which consisted of the Rosary, a sermon on 'Faith' and its necessity, the solemn renewal of Baptismal vows and the imparting of the Papal Benediction, many had to be accommodated in the sanctuary and choir gallery. During the week fully 600 received Holy Communion. On next Wednesday evening Father McCarthy will proceed to Loburn, where a five days' mission will be given. On next Sunday evening Father McCarthy hopes to be able to return to Rangiora, when he will preach a sermon on 'the Sacrament of Matrimony,' and assist at the reception of a number of young aspirants into the various parochial sodalities.

Feilding

(From our own correspondent.)

May 15.

The most successful social held in Feilding for many years took place in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening, May 13, when about 250 people were present. The hall was prettily decorated, and a splendid supper was provided by the ladies of the parish. The committee responsible for the arrangements were Messrs. Campbell, Macedo, Kelly, Quirk, Bell, McMenamin, Mesdames Collins, Fidler, Durran, and Mulloy, Misses Gapper, Bowler, G. Meehan, J. Stitt, M. Meehan, McCarthy, M. Burnett, and Ross. Mr. P. Keogh acted as secretary. Financially the efforts of the committee were crowned with success, and it is anticipated that £25 will be handed over to the Rev. Father O'Dwyer for parish purposes. The ladies deserve special mention for the enthusiastic way in which they worked to make the social a success. Every member of the parish committee of the Federation was a prominent worker.

The Rev. Father Tigar, O.P., who had been engaged in missionary work in Auckland for some time, leaves for England on the 25th inst. He hopes to be at Lourdes in time for the Eucharistic Congress. He will proceed by the Maloja, and will have as fellow-passengers his Grace Archbishop Redwood and the delegates to the General Chapter of the Marist Order in Belgium. Father Tigar's departure is greatly regretted.