

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

A meeting of sympathisers with the Home Rule cause will be held in St. Joseph's Hall this evening for the purpose of sending messages of congratulation to Messrs. Redmond and Asquith on the consummation of their efforts in connection with Home Rule.

A retreat for the St. Joseph's branch of the Children of Mary will commence on Monday, September 28, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Dominic's Priory Chapel. All members of the sodality, aspirants, and other young ladies desirous of becoming aspirants are invited to attend.

His Lordship the Bishop held ordination services at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on the 19th and 21st inst. The Rev. John Riordan, of Charing Cross, Canterbury, received the Diaconate, and Mr. James Falconer, of Oamaru, the Subdiaconate and the Diaconate. Both will be ordained priests towards the end of the year, the former by his Lordship Bishop Grimes, the latter by his Lordship Bishop Verdon.

For some years past the Redemptorist Fathers have been giving annual retreats to the Children of Mary, South Dunedin. One of the most successful, preached by Rev. W. O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., was brought to a close on Sunday evening in St. Patrick's Basilica, when sixteen young ladies were consecrated, seven aspirants were received, and the entrance badge given to nine new members. The exercises of the retreat were conducted in the chapel of the Sisters of Mercy. During the week the sodalists received Holy Communion each morning at the 6 o'clock Mass, and on Sunday at the 9 o'clock Mass in the Basilica. All who made the retreat approached the Holy Table in a body and in regalia. The rev. conductor's instructions were solid and practical, and his words were followed with the closest attention. He impressed upon the members what was expected from Children of Mary: the example they were bound to give in their own homes and to those with whom they came in contact. In his closing sermon Father O'Sullivan expressed the hope that the good spirit which now animated the members would continue. The rev. preacher paid a tribute of praise to the deep and kindly interest shown by the devoted Sisters of Mercy in the work of the sodality, and also to the priests of the parish for their never failing interest in its progress. The Papal Blessing of our new Holy Father, Benedict XV., the first which the sodalists had the opportunity of receiving, was imparted by Rev. Father O'Sullivan, and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament closed a memorable week for the Children of Mary.

Christchurch North

September 21.

The Rev. Father Moloney, S.M. (Wanganui) and the Rev. Father Bowden, S.M. (Leeston) were visitors at St. Mary's Presbytery during the week.

On Sunday, at the 7 o'clock Mass, the members of the Children of Mary, Ladies of Charity, and St. Vincent de Paul Society received Holy Communion, which was offered up for the repose of the soul of our late Holy Father Pius X. After the 11 o'clock Mass there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and in the evening the usual procession took place, when torches, as now prescribed, were carried for the first time. The Rev. Father James Tynons, S.M., preached a most impressive sermon on the 'Existence of God.' to a very large congregation.

Another of the many parish improvements effected by the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., is the installation of the electric light both in the church and presbytery, which was switched on for the first time last night, and was generally appreciated. Apart from the advantage of a better light, the cost of lighting will be reduced to one quarter of the former price by gas.

Bluff

At the annual spring show held last week, the convent school children gained prizes in each section in

which they entered exhibits, as follow:—Freehand drawing, Mona Lister, 1st. Handwriting—Standards III. and IV.: May Conway, 1; Mary King, 3. Standards V. and VI.: Dolly Smith, 2; May Conway, 3. Buttonhole bouquets—Mona Lister, 1. Ladies' dress sprays—Dolly Smith, 1; Mona Lister, 2; Mary Kelly, 3. As this is the first year the children have entered into competition with other schools, the results are considered very creditable.

Remuera

(From our own correspondent.)

September 21.

Last Sunday, the Feast of our Lady of Sorrows, was a day of special devotion in the parish. Large congregations attended the three Masses, and at the first Mass there were some hundreds of communicants, including a number of small children, who approached the altar rails for the first time. The children had been prepared by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and they presented a beautiful spectacle as they walked two by two up the aisles towards the altar. Beautiful and appropriate music and hymns were rendered by the children during Mass. The First Communicants were later entertained at breakfast at the convent. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed at the 11 o'clock Mass and remained exposed until evening devotions, the parishioners, Children of Mary, and school children, taking their turns as guards of honor to the Blessed Sacrament all the afternoon. In the evening a sermon on the text, 'I am the Bread of Life,' was preached by Rev. Father Doyle, who dwelt on the different phases of the Blessed Sacrament, and pointed out how Christ by His Sacramental Presence asserts openly and vividly His royal sovereignty in this world. Father Doyle spoke also of the amazing manner in which Christ in this Sacrament places Himself on our own level of matter and sense, and how He offers those who approach His Holy Table His friendship. In conclusion, he suggested that we should learn something of Christ's own humility before the Sacrament, which is Himself. We should humble ourselves in the very dust before Him Who, not only in Jerusalem two thousand years ago, but to-day, and in these cities in which we live, comes to seek and save our souls.

Hamilton

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Very Rev. Dean Darby gave a very interesting lecture on Belgium to the members of St. Mary's Club at the clubrooms on Friday evening last. The lecture, by comparisons, easily made the audience understand the size, physical features, and population of this very interesting country. Its history for the past 100 years was briefly reviewed, and showed how Belgium had fared under French rule, Dutch rule, and self-government. In many ways, the speaker said, Belgium was very democratic, and most progressive; and one could easily trace an analogy in progressive legislation between Belgium and New Zealand. A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer concluded a most interesting address.

The following cable (telegraphs our Auckland correspondent) has been forwarded to London:—'John Redmond. New Zealand Hibernians rejoice at the consummation of Ireland's national aspirations.—Daniel Flynn, president.'

The following pupils of Miss Cartwright, L.T.C.L., L.A.B., were successful at the theory examinations held in June last:—Intermediate grade.—Florrie Matches, 87 (honors); Effie Andrews, 80 (honors). Junior grade.—Thelma Mitchell, 100 (honors); Ivan Hjorring, 95 (honors); Nellie Crisp, 95 (honors); Mary Oliver, 91 (honors); Rita Farquharson, 80 (honors). Preparatory.—Mavis Walker, 96; Lolah Swindley, 86; Edith Hewat, 80. The following presented by Miss Hannah Cartwright, L.T.C.L., L.A.B., were also successful:—Junior grade.—Lottie Sampson, 90 (honors). Preparatory.—Cora Wildsmith, 95; Mattie Burt, 86.