

he made his way alone in the darkness of the night to the hospital of Vadelaincourt, where he was received by the chaplains and doctors with the greatest kindness. The following day, Sunday, the Bishop celebrated Mass in a stable—a real Bethlehem—converted into a chapel, and preached to the assembled nurses, doctors, soldiers, and flying refugees. In the afternoon of that day he was able to get a seat on a motor-charabanc that was conveying the nuns and patients from a hospital of Verdun; thus he was able to reach Bar-le-Duc despoiled of all he had in the world. He was kindly received by the Archpriest Langlois.

#### DESTITUTE BELGIANS.

The English-speaking world has certainly been moved by the terrible trials the Belgians have endured and are enduring. America and the British colonies have a very large share in the merit of saving the three million Belgians in Belgium from starvation. Up to March 4 (says the *Catholic Times*) the National Committee for Relief in Belgium had received from British sources subscriptions amounting to £1,500,000. Of this sum over £1,000,000 was subscribed by Australia and New Zealand. The appeal made by the Lord Mayor of London, his Eminence Cardinal Bourne, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Norfolk, Mr. John Redmond, and other religious and political leaders met with a good response, but much more financial help is required to meet the needs of the situation. A steady income of at least £250,000 a month is necessary for transfer by the National Committee to Mr. Hoover's neutral Commission for Relief. The Belgians who have remained in their own country are in a pitiable condition. The invader refuses to feed them, and they are able to do little for themselves. Unless the aid which they receive is well kept up destitution amongst them will become acute. But we do not entertain much fear on that score. Their heroism has made friends for them throughout the world, and these will see to it that they are not in want of food.

#### SERGEANT KENNY, V.C.

There was a crowded attendance recently at the Palace Theatre, Wingate, Co. Durham, when Lance-Sergeant Thomas Kenny, of the 13th Durham Light Infantry, was made the recipient of a testimonial in recognition of his having been awarded the Victoria Cross. Sergeant Kenny lives at South Wingate, and before the war he worked as a miner at Wingate Colliery. He was awarded the V.C. for bringing in a wounded officer under heavy fire and in exceptionally difficult circumstances at Hulluch last December.

Mr. C. H. Leeds, manager of Wingate Colliery, presided, and the testimonial was handed over by Mr. John Magee, of Castle Eden, who said he had known Sergeant Kenny from his boyhood, and had always found him to be an upright, brave, and chivalrous man, and he was glad Kenny had secured one of the highest honors of the British Army.

The gift consisted of Government bonds for £50, subscribed by the people of Wingate, and the directors of the Wingate Palace added £10, the proceeds of the evening's entertainment, less expenses.

On the following day Sergeant Kenny was presented by the Rev. Father James O'Dowd with a marble clock and bronzes, a set of silver sconces, and a pipe and tobacco from the children of St. Mary's School, Wingate, the school he attended when a boy. The Sergeant, who was accompanied by his wife and seven children—most of the latter pupils at the school, which is in the parish of SS. Peter and Paul, Hutton House, Castle Eden—was also presented with an address.

#### ZEPPELINS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS.

A special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* deals exhaustively with the various weather theories advanced in connection with the Zeppelin raids on England. Amongst these have been—(1) The moonlight theory; that Zeppelins do not come during the second and third quarters of the moon. (2) The temperature

theory; that at low temperatures on the surface the high temperatures are too cold for them. (3) The wind theory; that a breeze that sets the dust flying and makes an umbrella difficult to manage is too strong for them. (4) The wind direction theory; that certain winds hindered their passage across the North Sea. (5) The cloud theory; that in skies heavy with clouds they would be unable to see the land below and steer a course. (6) The fog theory; a stronger version of this last theory. (7) The rain theory. (8) The snow theory. (9) The barometer theory; that Zeppelins need be expected only when the aneroid points to 'Set fair.' Generally the assumption has been that Zeppelins are fair weather craft, and dare venture forth only in light airs and on dark nights; that the moon is their most persistent enemy, putting them out of action for nearly a fortnight every month of the year; that even moderate winds were dangerous to them; and that snow would be fatal.

All these theories (says the correspondent) have been disapproved by fact. There have been 25 Zeppelin raids up to date (March 8). The Zeppelins have come in virtually every phase of the moon, from new to full. In their successive visits they had had the wind from every quarter of the compass. The wind has ranged from 'light airs' to 'strong breezes.' The thermometer has ranged from frost to sweltering summer heat. Skies have been blue and overcast with clouds. There has been on several occasions mist; rain has been falling still more often; and during the raid of March 5 there was winter weather of an extreme kind: heavy snowfalls and squalls of wind. Bombs were dropped upon a northern town during snow squalls so bitter that the local correspondents spoke of a 'blizzard.' With all these varieties of weather there has, of course, been every sort of variation of the barometer. Evidently the date of each raid has depended solely on the instructions issued to the raiders.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 13.

The London correspondent of the *Evening Post* announces that Mr. T. H. S. Retling, an old boy of St. Patrick's College, is a prisoner of war at Ruhleben, Germany.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, S.M., left on Friday morning for Auckland, where he will be engaged for some time in administering the Sacrament of Confirmation.

On last Friday evening in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, a beautiful life-size statue of the Blessed Peter Chanel, S.M., the first martyr of Oceania, was unveiled and blessed. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Smyth, S.M., Provincial of the Society of Mary, of which the martyr was such an illustrious member. At the close of the devotions, the Very Rev. Dean spoke of the great pleasure it gave him to be present at, and preside over, such a ceremony. He congratulated the congregation on the beautiful addition to the church, and felt sure that the life and example of the Blessed Martyr would increase in their hearts a deeper and stronger devotion to the Mother of God.

A large number of the parishioners of St. Joseph's, Te Aro, assembled last Sunday after devotions to bid farewell to the Rev. Father Barra, S.M., who has been stationed in the parish for the past five years.

The Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., presided, and apologised for the absence of his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, who was absent from Wellington. Father Hurley, in announcing the object of the meeting, made eulogistic references to Father Barra both as a devoted priest and as a congenial companion. No one would miss him so much as he would. He regretted very