

churches in Taranaki; then he must have a tower; and last, a fine bell to summon the congregation to worship. Mr. Leydon also paid a high tribute to Father O'Dwyer, who, he said, had nobly filled the vacancy during Father Treacy's absence.

After several musical items had been rendered, the Rev. Father Treacy rose to reply amidst deafening applause. He thanked them for their hearty greeting, and then went on to describe his trip Home. He mentioned a great storm that had been met with across the Tasman; an audience with his Holiness the Pope, at which he obtained a blessing personally for his congregation; a run across to France, and then on to London, where he saw the lying-in-state of the late King Edward; finally his visit to Old Ireland, where he found everything in a more prosperous condition than it had ever been before. He renewed acquaintance with old haunts, and interrogated the people, and his spirits ran high at the signs of comfort and content that met his gaze everywhere. He told several little anecdotes of people he had met. One person wanted him to find a lost brother who had been in Victoria for fifty years. It was astonishing how many people believed that New Zealand was a little island just out of Melbourne, and that the inhabitants for the most part were savages and cannibals. A few more musical items were given, and then Mr. D. Malone read the following illuminated address to Father O'Dwyer:—

'Very Reverend and Dear Father,—On the eve of your departure from amongst us, we gather round you to bid you farewell, and from our hearts we wish that the spiritual and temporal consolations which you brought to us may be ever with you in your new field of labors. We beg your kind acceptance of the accompanying gift, feeling fully conscious that its value only faintly expresses our deep sense of gratitude to you for your faithful services. We shall unitedly pray for you that you may crown a noble career in God's most fruitful years.—D. Malone, for the parishioners of Stratford.'

Mr. Malone supplemented the address with words of high praise of Father O'Dwyer's genuine work since he had been in Stratford, expressing a hope that the recipient would ere long obtain a parish of his own, and that it would not be far distant from Stratford. Mr. Malone here handed Father O'Dwyer a purse of sovereigns with the address.

Father O'Dwyer briefly responded, and among other things said he would ever remember the kindness met with at the hands of the people he had administered to during the last nine months. 'Good-bye, and God bless you!' he exclaimed.

The proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

It might be mentioned that both the addresses, which were most artistically and beautifully executed, were the work of the Sisters of the convent.

Masterton

(From our own correspondent.)

December 10.

A branch of the Hibernian Society is about to be formed in Eketahuna, due mainly to the efforts of Mr. Scanlon.

The church committee of St. Patrick's parish, Masterton, are at present busy canvassing for £100 to wipe out the debt on the church and presbytery. The Very Rev. Dean McKenna hopes to have it free of debt by Christmas.

The usual meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held last Tuesday evening, Bro. B. Chapman in the chair. It was reported that arrangements were well in hand for the Friendly Societies' picnic to be held on Boxing Day. Bro. H. O'Leary has donated a gold medal for the Friendly Societies' Handicap.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commenced in St. Patrick's Church last Friday, and concluded after the 10.30 o'clock Mass on Sunday. The ceremony opened and closed with a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the school children and Children of Mary took part. Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., preached both on Friday and Saturday evenings, and on Sunday morning. A very large number approached the Holy Table at the 6.30 o'clock Mass on Sunday. On Sunday evening the unveiling of two statues in the church took place. One is of the Sacred Heart, and the other of St. Patrick. They were presented by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna and Mrs. J. P. Kavanagh, of Auckland (a former parishioner of this town). The Rev. Father Eccleton, of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, preached a sermon suitable to the occasion.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 12.

The Rev. Fathers Leen and Drohan, M.S.H., assisted the Rev. Father Cooney at the concluding solemnities in connection with the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration at Lyttelton on last Tuesday morning.

The foundation-stone of the fine new chapel, now in course of erection at Mount Magdala, was laid on last Thursday afternoon (feast of the Immaculate Conception)

by his Lordship the Bishop, attended by the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M., V.G., the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., Rev. Father Bell, S.M. (chaplain), Rev. Fathers Daull, S.M.A., Hoare, S.M., Dignan, S.M., and McDonnell. At the conclusion of the ceremony the officiating prelate and visiting clergy were entertained by the community.

At St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, on last Thursday morning (feast of the Immaculate Conception) there was First Communion of the children at an early Mass. The children were afterwards entertained at breakfast by the Sisters of Mercy and ladies of the congregation. At a later hour in the morning his Lordship the Bishop, attended by the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M., V.G., the local clergy, and Rev. Father Daull, S.M.A., administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to upwards of seventy children, and between twenty and thirty adults, mostly converts to the Church. There was a renewal of Baptismal vows, and an impressive discourse appropriate to the occasion was given by his Lordship the Bishop.

The committee of the annual Catholic picnic and excursion met on last Sunday afternoon, the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., presiding. A number of ladies attended, and were formed into a separate committee to attend to the children on the grounds. Donations of a number of prizes were acknowledged, and it was decided to expend £10 in providing others especially for the children. Various trade rights on the occasion were reported as having been disposed of, and it was decided to accept an offer from the Stanmore Band to provide music. Free passes were extended to the children of the Catholic schools of St. Mary's parish, Christchurch North. The sports sub-committee subsequently met to adopt a sports programme of thirty events.

On last Thursday evening, in honor of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Convent of the Sacred Heart was brilliantly illuminated, lighted candles being placed in every window, with the result that the massive building presented a striking appearance. The convent chapel looked particularly beautiful with an illuminated scroll bearing the salutation 'Ave Maria' displayed upon its façade, whilst the decorated grottoes, especially that of Our Lady, were prettily adorned, and the grounds adjacent lit up with Chinese lanterns. The evening was beautifully calm, thus aiding in the success and effectiveness of the scene, whilst the procession of the Sisters and a large number of girls, singing appropriate hymns, gave an added charm, and imparted a purely Catholic atmosphere to the celebration.

The Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., presided at the annual prize distribution in connection with the Cathedral Christian Doctrine Association on last Sunday afternoon. The Rev. Dr. Kennedy, spiritual director, was also present. At the conclusion of the distribution the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., cordially thanked the zealous Sisters, Brothers, and lay teachers on the result of the year's devoted labors, and congratulated those who by diligence and perseverance had merited reward. Many had done well, but as it inevitably happens others had done better, and he felt sure all would benefit in after life by the lessons now learnt, and by their conduct and the imparting of knowledge to others prove worthy of the training they were now receiving. He trusted that at the beginning of another year another class would be added to the existing ones, in the nature of a continuation class for those leaving school, and others who in their daily avocations would have their religion assailed, and who would thus be in a position to repel ignorance and acquire that knowledge to enable them to give an account of the faith that is in them, which was a common duty incumbent upon all of us. This senior class would be instructed on all subjects where difficulties arose, and although not generally established here, was so in the Old Country, where it was doing incalculable good. The following report was read by the secretary (Mr. Reddington):—At the commencement of the year it was found necessary to effect a complete classification of the children, bringing them as near as possible with their respective classes in day school, and this alteration has had the desired effect, and a marked improvement has been shown. The average attendance for the year were—Girls, 104.2; boys, 96; divided into twelve classes, giving an average of per class—Girls, 8.8; boys, 8. One of the most important features of the year's work was the invaluable knowledge imparted into the minds of the children and teachers, also by the instruction given by our spiritual director (the Rev. Dr. Kennedy), during the Sunday school. His earnest appeal to the laity to take up the work of the association was not in vain. A number of young men and women have taken up the work most zealously, and are to be commended; but let me say in conclusion that the thanks of all concerned is due to our devoted Brothers and Sisters, who have given their best attention to this important work of our holy religion.'

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

December 12.

The annual report issued by the Sacred Heart College, in which the Brothers exhort the pupils not to aim too much at securing Government appointments on the ground that they afford insufficient means for developing their talents, has attracted much attention here, and is being freely discussed.

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