

assistance in arriving at my final determination were Father Ryder's reply to *Plain Reasons Against Joining the Church of Rome*, also Dom Chapman's reply to Bishop Gore's *Roman Catholic Claims*. So, you see, I practically read myself out of Anglicanism into Catholicism.

'From my reading of Church history I have long felt that I would be rather on the side of such men as the Blessed John Fisher, Sir Thomas More, Richard Whiting, and their successors to-day than on the side of the so-called Reformers, such as Henry VIII. and his tools, Thomas Cromwell and Cranmer.

'I Had to Follow my Own Conscience.'

'It was not the music or the ritual of the Catholic Church or the influence of any Catholic friend, priest, or layman, but my own deliberate choice that has led to the change of my religion. I, of course, realised the pain it would cause my relatives and many old friends, but, while feeling sorry that it should do so, I felt that I had to follow my own conscience, and that it was no use pretending any longer to believe what I did not believe.

'The change, as you see, is due to no sudden whim. It has been gradual, and has not come about through any personal difference with any individual Anglican, or through any dispute as to vestments, ritual, or anything else. My conscience has been my dictator, and, as I wrote in my communication to the parishioners of the churches with which I had been associated in Woollahra, when I came to hold views not in keeping with the Book of Common Prayer and the Reformation, the only honest course was to resign from the Anglican ministry.

'The change I have made has been quite a venture of faith. I have no plans for the future, but I trust that Providence will open some door of opportunity.'

During our chat Mr. Geer mentioned that during the whole time he was an Anglican clergyman in Sydney he had only been within St. Mary's Cathedral twice. His first visit was in March last, when perhaps the greatest and most memorable mission ever held in this city was conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers. He was passing, and, noticing the immense crowds pouring into the edifice from all sides, he followed them, and heard what he describes as 'the finest temperance sermon' he ever listened to. That night the Very Rev. P. M. Lynch, now Superior of the Redemptorist mission in the Philippines, was the preacher. The second visit was when, with thousands of others, he filed hurriedly past the remains of the late Cardinal Moran. At various times, however, he has attended missions in Catholic churches in country towns of his native State of Victoria, and he has a vivid recollection of a scholarly sermon delivered many years ago in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, by the Very Rev. James T. Colgan, of the Society of Jesus, who is now local Superior of the Jesuit mission at St. Mary's, Ridge street, North Sydney.

Mr. Geer is a native of Carisbrook, Victoria, and is the eldest son of an Anglican clergyman. His early education was received in the Victorian public schools. For three years he was a resident student at Trinity College, Melbourne, where he graduated in the Arts course, taking his B.A., and subsequently his M.A. degrees.

#### ANOTHER CONVERSION.

The Rev. A. H. Murphy, acting-rector of St. Barnabas' Anglican Church, Bathurst South, has also been received into the Catholic Church. It may be remembered (says the *Catholic Press*) that he created a stir in Anglican circles some months ago by defending the *Ne Temere* Decree against attacks made upon it by the Anglican Bishop and others.

## Portraits Are Our Forte

Sittings a pleasure, not an ordeal at the "Tesla" Studios, opposite Post Office, Wanganui, so the hackneyed phrase no longer required—sooner have a tooth out.

Enlargements made from any photo. in black and white, sepia, or water colours.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

January 20.

The Marist Brothers' School at Thorndon will be blessed on Sunday, June 28.

Rev. Brother Paul, Provincial of the Marist Brothers' Order, is now in Wellington. Rev. Brother Fidelis, of Wellington, has been transferred to Napier.

On Wednesday at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, Mr. James McNee was married to Miss S. A. Dowling. Rev. Father Venning celebrated the Nuptial Mass.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Anne's Church, last Sunday. The Rev. Father Cullen, S.M., who was recently ordained, preached in the evening.

Master William B. Buckley, of St. Patrick's College, was successful in securing a senior national scholarship in the N.Z. University December examinations.

The Catholic Dramatic Club are now busily rehearsing 'The Barrister,' a drama which they intend staging at the Town Hall on Wednesday, February 7. The proceeds will be devoted to the new hall building fund.

Mr. J. E. Ferguson, District President of the H.A.C.B. Society in Victoria, arrived from Foxton to-day. Whilst at Foxton he addressed a meeting of men who are anxious to start a branch of the society in that town.

The clergy of the archdiocese will commence their annual retreat at St. Patrick's College on February 5. The retreat will be conducted by Rev. Father Bannon, C.S.S.R. Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), who is attending the retreat of the clergy at Christchurch, will also attend the retreat here.

Rev. Father C. J. Venning, S.M., who is chaplain to the Terrace Gaol, received a pleasant surprise the other day in the form of a little address with water-color illuminations, very neatly got up, and conveying to him the sincerest wishes of the Catholic prisoners for the New Year. Father Venning is very pleased with the souvenir, which is the work of the donors themselves, whilst the painting reflects great credit on the artist.

I am pleased to record the success of the Catholic Club's cricket teams this season. Last year a team was entered for the third grade competitions, and concluded the season by winning the championship. This year the same team entered for the junior competitions, and has been unbeaten so far, and has five games to its credit. The club have also entered another team for the third grade, which has also done remarkably well.

At the Sacred Heart Church, Hill street, on January 17, the wedding took place of Miss Ruby E. Burns, daughter of Mrs. M. Burns, of Featherston Terrace, to Mr. Alfred Fagg, of Hythe, Kent, England. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. G. Burns, wore a grey tailor-made costume and hat to match. Miss Eva Lloyd, of Hokitika, attended as bridesmaid. The Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., officiated, and Mr. F. Burns acted as best man.

In connection with the fancy fair to be opened in the Marist Brothers' new schoolroom at Thorndon on February 1, a good concert programme has been arranged for each evening. And an energetic committee of ladies have arranged to stock the various tables with many useful and artistic articles, whilst the sweet and flower stalls and bran tubs will receive special attention. A tea kiosk has also been arranged for. All these attractions should help to draw a large attendance. The proceeds of the fair will be devoted towards furnishing the new school.

Mr. Miller, who has been for several years station-master at Featherston and is a prominent Catholic, was,