

## Death of Very Rev. Father O Farrell, C.S.S.R.

As briefly stated in our last issue, a cable message from Limerick was received on October 29 at the Redemptorist Monastery, Wellington, conveying the sad news of the death of Very Rev. Father Thomas O'Farrell, C.S.S.R. On Thursday, October 31, a Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased was celebrated in the Redemptorist Church, Wellington. The celebrant was the Rev. C. A. McDermott, C.S.S.R.; deacon, Rev. Father Tuohy, C.S.S.R.; subdeacon, Rev. James Murray, C.S.S.R.; master of ceremonies, Very Rev. Thos. Roche, C.S.S.R. (Rector). The choir was conducted by the Rev. P. J. Lynch, C.S.S.R. There was a large congregation, and many received Holy Communion before and after the Mass.

The late Very Rev. Father O'Farrell was born on December 29, 1845, at Longford, Ireland. Having made his junior studies at the diocesan seminary, he entered Maynooth, where, after a distinguished course, he was ordained priest on March 14, 1869. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne and his Lordship Bishop Gallagher, of Goulburn, were in the college at that time. Having spent ten years on the secular mission, during which time he erected many churches and schools, and was much sought after as an occasional preacher owing to his great gift of oratory, he left all and entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in 1879, and after a year's novitiate was professed on April 23, 1880. After his profession he was sent to Limerick, where he was appointed sub-director of the Holy Family Confraternity.

The Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of Maitland, having obtained from the Father-General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer a foundation in his diocese, Father O'Farrell was amongst those chosen for that distant mission. On February 9, 1882, the first band of Redemptorists set sail from London for Australia. They were Very Rev. Father Vaughan, Rev. Father Halson, Rev. Father Hegherty, and Rev. Father Thomas O'Farrell, with Brothers Laurence and Daniel. On arriving in Australia, Father O'Farrell went to Singleton (N.S.W.), where he remained for five years. On the opening of the monastery at Waratah (N.S.W.) he with the community left Singleton. In December, 1888, Father O'Farrell was sent to make the foundation at Ballarat. He was accompanied by Brothers Laurence and Joachim. There he erected a magnificent monastery and church by Lake Wendouree. He was appointed Vice-Provincial of Australasia in 1898. In that office he was most successful in furthering the interests of his congregation, foundations in West Australia and New Zealand quickly following his appointment. He was beloved by his confreres, and at the same time was the trusted friend and counsellor of the late Cardinal and many of the Bishops of Australasia.

In 1910, Father O'Farrell, while giving a mission with Father McDermott in St. Francis' Church, Sydney, was stricken down by paralysis of the tongue. He was saying the Rosary for the people when the stroke came. This was his last public act. He was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital, where, under the gentle, skilful care of the good Sisters of Charity, he made a temporary improvement in health. The first to visit him at St. Vincent's was his Eminence the late Cardinal Moran and Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran. Having left St. Vincent's, he went to the Monastery at Waratah. Not making the improvement that his physician, Dr. McCarthy, expected, a change of climate was suggested, and as his heart yearned towards the Emerald Isle, the Father-General cabled that he was to start for Ireland with Rev. Father McDermott as his companion. On leaving Australia he was the guest of the late Cardinal, who went to Sydney to see him off. His Lordship Bishop Cleary of Auckland, who was a dear friend of his, being in Sydney, spent some time with him and was on the wharf as he left. Before the departure of the steamer, a number of young priests from Manly College presented a beautiful address to the one who had opened their college. At Melbourne he was met by the carriage of his Grace

the Archbishop, and at Perth by his Lordship Bishop Clune. On arriving in London, the Father-General received him with great affection, and whilst there he received many messages from Bishops and priests in Ireland urging an early return to his loved native land.—R.I.P.

## Auckland Young Irish Party and Home Rule

At a meeting of the Young Ireland Society, which was held the other evening (says the *Auckland Star*), the following resolutions were carried on the motion of Mr. J. J. Sullivan (president of the society), seconded by Mr. H. W. Whitty: (1) That the New Zealand Parliament present a petition to his Majesty the King, that a consultation, as outlined in the Irish Home Rule Bill now before the Imperial Parliament, be granted to Ireland; that New Zealand asks it through her representatives, and never has a request more clear, more consistent, and more continuous been made by any nation; as subjects of his Majesty we are interested in the peace and contentment of all parts of the Empire, and consequently desire to see this long-standing grievance at the heart of the Empire removed. (2) That we ask the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Mr. W. F. Massey) to submit this to the House of Representatives before the session closes, and to ask the leaders and members of all parties to support it. (3) That as practically all the members of the New Zealand House of Representatives have already expressed their approval individually, no objection to the motion being put through before the House rises can reasonably be raised.

Mr. Sullivan, in support of his motion, said that every self-governing Dominion in the Empire, through its Parliament, had passed a similar resolution. Practically all New Zealand's Parliamentary representatives had individually expressed themselves in favor of the principle of Irish national self-government. It might be said that New Zealand had no right to meddle in matters of Imperial concern, but he recalled the comment of Mr. Lyttelton, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, when the New Zealand Parliament passed a resolution relating to the introduction of Chinese into South Africa. Mr. Lyttelton had then said: 'I fully recognise the right of all the self-governing colonies to explain their opinion on so important a question, and especially of those who, like New Zealand, had rendered memorable service in the South African war.'

A resolution was also passed congratulating his Lordship Bishop Cleary on the able and patriotic manner in which he had exposed the attempts of the National Board of Education to kill the spirit of patriotism in Ireland.

[On Friday afternoon in the House of Representatives Mr. Myers stated that he had received a communication from the Young Ireland Party in Auckland asking that the New Zealand Parliament should pass a resolution in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. The Prime Minister replied that he could not see his way to ask Parliament to interfere in the question.]

## Ponsonby

An impressive ceremony took place last Saturday at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, on the occasion of the profession of two young ladies in the Order of Mercy. Mass was celebrated at an early hour by his Lordship Bishop Cleary. During the celebration of the Mass, the two novices made their vows. Their names are—Sister M. Bernardine Perkins (Murrurundi) and Sister M. Majella O'Donoghue (Blenheim). The music of the Mass and hymns incidental to the ceremony were rendered by the convent choir. After Mass, the guests were entertained at breakfast by the Rev. Mother and Sisters. His Lordship Bishop Cleary spoke a few words of congratulation to the young Sisters, and wished them many years of happiness in the religious life. Among the visitors were Rev. Fathers Murphy (Cambridge), O'Doherty, and Ford, also the Misses O'Donoghue (Blenheim), Lynch, Casey, and Jones. Rev. Father Tigar, O.P., gave the eight days' retreat preparatory to the profession.