

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

October 12.

The concert given in the Empire Hall by the members of both branches of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in aid of their stall fund on Wednesday evening, was one of the most successful functions held in the parish for some considerable time. The hall was more than well filled, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The function reflected great credit on the society, who left nothing undone to make it a success. At the close of the concert portion of the programme, opportunity was taken of the occasion to present Rev. Father Doolaghty with a purse of sovereigns on behalf of the parishioners.

Mr. H. J. Oakley, president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in making the presentation, spoke in high praise of the valuable services rendered by Father Doolaghty, and referred to the general regret felt on all sides at his departure, and congratulated him on his appointment as administrator of the parish of Marton. Mr. McGrath, a past-president of the H.A.C.B. Society, thanked Father Doolaghty for his many kind actions, and for his zeal for the welfare of the society as chaplain.

Father McManus also made reference to their guest's sterling qualities. He had known him when a boy in the Home Land, and it was a great pleasure to see him again on the speaker's arrival in New Zealand. Sincerity was a strong point with Father Doolaghty, and he wished him every success in his new parish.

The popularity of Father Doolaghty was evidenced by the hearty applause which greeted him on rising to

respond. He thanked those present and the members of the Catholic societies for their generous presentation and kindly expressions. He assured them that when it was intimated to him that he was to come to Palmerston, it gave him great pleasure. He spoke feelingly of having to follow in the footsteps of the late Father Costello, who had endeared himself to all. He wished to particularly place on record his indebtedness to the matrons of the local hospitals, and particularly to the matron and staff of the public hospital. It had been his lot from time to time to be called to this institution, and he had always received a cordial welcome. During his sojourn in Palmerston he had met many friends whom he hoped he would meet again. It was with great regret that he was taking his departure, and not only to his own, but to members of other Churches, he extended his heartfelt thanks for their co-operation and many kindnesses bestowed upon him. He hoped that at no great distant date his many friends would be able to accept his invitation to spend a day with him in Marton.

The following contributed to the concert: Mrs. Broad, Mrs. T. J. Rodgers, Misses Brown and Garner, Messrs. J. Hanley, W. Tabor, and Cooper, the accompaniments being played by Mrs. T. J. Rodgers and Miss Garner. The ladies of the parish supplied the refreshments.

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