

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 13.

The Rev. Father J. A. Eccleton, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, left by the Maunganui last Friday on a short holiday visit to Australia.

Miss Effie A. Knowsley, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, Sussex square, was successful in the primary theory examinations of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London, held last month.

Miss Gertrude O'Flaherty, the popular president of the ladies' branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, was received as a postulant into the Order of Our Lady of Mercy at St. Mary's Convent last Monday morning.

The funeral of the late Mrs. R. A. Marshall, one of Wellington's oldest identities, took place on Monday last. A Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father D. Hurley, S.M., at St. Joseph's, from which place the cortege left for Karori.—R.I.P.

The annual retreat for ladies at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Island Bay, Wellington, will begin on the evening of January 2, and will be preached by the Rev. Father Healy, S.J. Ladies desirous of attending are requested to communicate with the Rev. Mother Superior.

Mr. Paul Verschaffelt, F.I.A.N.Z., who was selected from the Lands Department for duty in the Public Service Commissioner's Office last January, has been promoted another step, having received an appointment as sub-inspector on the Public Service Commissioners' staff.

St. Anne's and St. Joseph's High Schools, Newtown, and the Sussex square Convent, Te Aro, were very successful in the examinations conducted by the Education Board's Inspectors. The examinations, for convenience sake, took place at Newtown, and all the pupils presented secured proficiency certificates, a result which reflects the greatest credit on the good Sisters of Mercy.

The Boxing Day picnic committee met again last Thursday evening under the presidency of the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., Adm. Reports from the various sub-committees were received, and many details arranged. An excellent sports programme, both for adults and children, has been arranged. The Duchess will leave the Ferry Wharf at 9.30 a.m., and return at 5 p.m. Other steamers will leave at intervals.

The following clipping from the *Dominion's* special Napier correspondent, having reference to Mr. J. W. Callaghan, formerly of Wellington, will be read with interest. Mr. J. Cassin has been appointed chief engineer at the tramway power-house, vice Mr. T. P. Hewitt, resigned. The traffic manager, Mr. J. W. Callaghan, has also had the duties of business manager of the lighting and power-station placed on his shoulders, and £40 added to his salary, which is now £300 a year.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commenced at St. Mary of the Angels' Church on Sunday with Solemn High Mass at 11 o'clock. In the evening the Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., M.A., preached an eloquent and impressive sermon to a crowded congregation. On Monday evening the Rev. Father Schaefer, S.M., preached an instructive discourse on 'The Mass.' On Tuesday the devotion concluded with Solemn High Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Geaney, S.M., Rev. Fathers Bartley and J. Tymons being deacon and subdeacon respectively. After the Mass there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Advantage was taken of the occasion by a large number of the congregation to gain the Jubilee indulgence. A feature of the function was the beautiful decoration of the altar, which was resplendent with flowers and richly embroidered tapestries, the effect lending con-

siderably to the impressiveness of the various ceremonies. A strong choir, under the conductorship of Mr. E. J. Healey, rendered the music.

### Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

December 11.

A very fine banner has just arrived from Messrs. Pellegrini and Co., of Sydney, for the St. Mary's branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It was used for the first time on last Sunday evening, the president of the Aramoho conference carrying it in the procession.

The fortnightly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on the 2nd inst., when a fair number of members was present. It was decided to hold the quarterly meeting on the 16th inst. The branch intends holding its half-yearly smoke concert in Muller's Tea Rooms on January 13. As a gold medal is to be presented at that meeting, all members are expected to be present.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 15.

His Lordship is to impart the Papal blessing in the Cathedral after Vespers on next Sunday evening.

The annual meeting of the Cathedral Altar Society was held on last Sunday afternoon, his Lordship the Bishop presiding. At the conclusion of the business there was Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The address of welcome presented to his Lordship the Bishop on the occasion of his public reception in the King's Theatre was neatly printed in old English type on white satin and framed in gilt and oak. The illuminating, the work of the Sisters of the Missions, was remarkably chaste and artistic, and admittedly quite the finest specimen of the many beautiful designs executed at the convent.

The Rev. Father Maurice Cronin, the latest addition to the diocesan clergy, who arrived with Bishop Grimes last week, celebrated Mass in the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Sumner, on Sunday, and gave an instructive discourse from the day's Gospel, treating of the mission of St. John the Baptist and its significance in relation to the Nativity of our Divine Lord.

### Christchurch North

December 16.

The Rev. Father Taylor, S.M., is to conduct the retreat of the Sisters of Mercy this week.

As a result of the meeting held at Papanui yesterday after the 10 o'clock Mass, in connection with the building of the new church, a committee has been formed, and by their efforts it is expected to considerably augment the building fund.

The Sodality of the Children of Mary, which is in a flourishing condition, received a further increase to its ranks on Sunday evening, when five new members were received and six candidates admitted as aspirants. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M. (spiritual director). Next Sunday being the third Sunday of the month, the members of the sodality will approach the Holy Table in a body.

The inclement state of the weather on Wednesday evening did not prevent an exceptionally large attendance at the meeting held in Ozanam Lodge in connection with the combined Catholic-schools' picnic. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., presided. Judging by the enthusiasm shown by the secretary (Mr. P. A. Young) and the various sub-committees, whose reports were very satisfactory, the picnic should be a decided success, provided the weather was favorable.

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