

being Catholic pigmies. Well 500 retreatants were at the reunion, just the number for whom Christ worked the miracle of the loaves and fishes. In this case though He works the miracle not for them, but with them. And they go on with the miracle working. They are the making of old Puritan Boston.

Well once more he insists I've got my chance—the chance of a Retreat. And straight! I'm going to take it. On the 15th of January we both meet at St. Patrick's College, Wellington—that's agreed on. Father McCarthy will be there. I heard him once in the King Country. Ever since I've had an Oliver Twist feeling about me. Father McDonnell is the quartermaster. His office hasn't hardened him. He does things grand and he just suggests ever so gently that on leaving the men slip him a sealed envelope just to cover the bare expenses. I asked my friend "What's the damage?" He told me to go to the—. He meant that the real damage of a Retreat can best be assessed by Satan. For the expense it is estimated individually by two things—the worth of the hospitality received and one's own financial strength. There are always a few generous souls who put in the bit over to make things average out all right. Smoking is not prohibited, and the silence is not dead silence—there's a fine friendly break after the midday meal.

Wanganui has its Retreat on the 21st—Preacher, Father McCarthy; internal affairs, Father Mahony—it's said he's Father McDonnell over again. He's fortunate though for he has with him in his unrivalled "Vincies" the first semblance of a New Zealand Retreat Guild. But we are going to start one at St. Pat's—my friend and I. Mosgiel's date is the 29th—Fathers Hanigan and Morkane in charge. Auckland's fixture yet to be announced—Father McGrath and Brother Borgia. For these last four "Controllers" I'm instructed to ditto the compliments in the preceding paragraph. In May Fathers Geaney and Outtrim will take their passengers aboard "St. Bode's," the new "Queen of the South." Let all Catholic men book up early with the respective Rectors.

## Diocesan News

Archdiocese of Wellington

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 11.

The presentation to Mr. P. D. Hoskins from the Catholic community takes place in St. Francis's Hall on the evening of Thursday, December 17. One need not state that a large attendance is both desired and anticipated. Mr. Hoskins has served people who have never seen him. He has been the friend of the whole church in this country.

The friends of Mr. R. A. Patterson, of the Thorndon parish, will be delighted to hear of his promotion to the position of assistant to the Government architect. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are well-known members of the Basilica congregation, and have received many congratulations on the appointment.

A very successful jumble sale was held by the Buckle Street ladies in aid of a Christmas

gift to the Marist Brothers, Tasman Street. They certainly have the art of jumble sales, and jumble sales are not the easiest things.

Very Rev. Dean Connolly held a successful garden party recently. And on Sunday last Kilbirnie parish had its Forty Hours. The sermons were preached to large congregations by Rev. Fathers Heffernan, S.M., of the missions staff, and Kaveney. Rev. Father Gregory gave his blessing in the evening to the people. Father Gregory has only recently been ordained.

Everyone enjoyed greatly the play presented by the boys at St. Patrick's College break-up last evening. Sheridan's play "The Rivals" is a difficult thing to present, and the acting was exceedingly good. It bespoke great things for the work behind the scenes when mere lads could play so well the parts of Mrs. Malaprop, Sir Anthony Absolute, Lucy, Bob Acres (a most difficult part), and Sir Lucius O'Trigger. The whole cast was excellent. The principal roles were capably sustained by E. Locke, McCarthy, Doherty, Power, Hughes, and Malfroy. The assembly hall was packed for the occasion and it rang with mirth. One sees less finished acting on the real boards.

The Sisters of the Missions who went Home to attend the Chapter of their Order returned home this week.

Rev. Fathers Walshe and Hanigan, C.S.S.R., both well known here at St. Gerard's on the Hill, have come over for the period of Retreats. Retreats always bridge the Tasman and give old friends a chance of re-meeting.

## Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

November 30.

On Sunday last the young communicants from the Catholic schools of Napier received their First Holy Communion at eight o'clock Mass. Prior to receiving, Father Seymour preached an inspiring little sermon to the children, emphasising the responsibilities that they were about to be laden with, and expressed his assurance that they, as the younger foundation of the church, would always look upon this their First Communion day, as the happiest day of their lives. Father Seymour presided over the sumptuous Communion breakfast that followed the ceremony.

We have with us again our esteemed friend, Mr. Frank O'Shannassy, who is looking exceedingly fit after his trip across the water, and is already hard at it with our choir getting them in good voice for the Christmas festival.

After many seasons of waiting, the youthful tennis aspirants of the parish have come into their own. The movement for the formation of a Catholic tennis club for this parish has been commenced, and, what is more, is on the verge of completion. It only leaves a week or two for the tennis "fans" to break themselves in for the opening of this club; and it is to be hoped that after the labor spent on this scheme that it will meet with the appropriate number of requisitions for membership. I am pleased to see Mr. Kevin O'Halloran's name figuring on the committee for this club, for he is an "old hand" at the

racquet game, and his able tuition to a large number of the younger enthusiasts will lend great impetus to the standard of play that this club hopes to set.

## Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

December 11.

Have you ever noticed how the postman's whistle, talks? At the present time it is chirping merrily: "Christmas is coming; it will soon be here." As these notes will be the last from Palmerston North before that holy time arrives, I take this opportunity to wish all *Tablet* people a very happy Christmas and New Year.

This is a bit of "held over" news: At our small sale of work, which was held early in November, we made £1000 profit—amazing! We set out to have a monster bazaar (familiar sound about that word, eh?), but it was postponed at the last minute, and the sale of work was held instead. No one knows exactly from whence that £1000 came; but come it did; welcome it was; and go it will. How to make money is a big problem; but how to keep money is a bigger one still.

The war memorial has been erected, and one of these days we'll have an unveiling ceremony and much speech-making. When the site was being prepared, one of the workmen unearthed the peg that had been placed there to mark the geometrical centre of the town when it was first surveyed. Quite a fuss was made about that peg—a long paragraph in the newspaper. Said a wag: "How wonderful! a peg was driven into the ground, and, after many years had passed away, a man came along and dug it up. Now we are going to erect a monument to mark the place where a peg that was never lost, was found!"

During the Forty Hours' Adoration, a beautiful new cloth-of-gold cope—the gift of the Children of Mary—was used for the first time. For some months the parish has boasted a cloth-of-gold canopy; and on Exposition days a veil of the same material hangs at the back of the monstrance. The gold of the cope, and the green carpet of the sanctuary make a very pretty picture. Then there's another new possession—thanks to a generous parishioner!—linoleum for the altar boys' and sacristans' sacristy. The priests' sacristy has had a lino. right from the start, but the other one did not fare so well. Recently one of our people took pity on its nakedness and covered it with a costly lino.

## Diocese of Auckland

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 9.

Next Sunday, at the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, will be a day of special importance in the lives of the little ones belonging to the parish. It will be a day when the children of the district will receive their first Holy Communion, and it will be the first time in the history of this beautiful little edifice that such an event has been celebrated. Great preparations are being made by the good Sisters and parents of the children to make the day the happiest in the lives of the first communicants.

J. E. Fitzgerald

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