

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

February 19.

Through the munificent generosity of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Gibbes, of Portland Crescent, the sanctuary of the Sacred Heart Basilica is being embellished with a handsome mosaic floor and dado. The mosaic pattern has been designed by one of the Marist Fathers in Wellington who does not wish to have his identity disclosed. The estimated cost is £1000, so that the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbes is no ordinary one. The mosaic was made by the Henry Richard Tile Co., and laid down by Mr. Forbes, late of E. W. Mills and Co. The general pattern is a cream stone-colored, fan-shaped background, relieved by fleurs-de-lys at regular intervals. The central figure is Christ under the symbol of the Paschal Lamb lying on the seven-sealed book, with the legend *Ecce Agnus Dei* (Behold the Lamb of God). This central figure is framed in a cross-shaped floral design of white lilies and foliage. On each side are diamond-shaped panels with monograms of Christ and Mary respectively, also framed in floral design. Along the walls and the Communion rails runs a broad band combining all the colors of the scheme in parallel strips with central red and green scroll ornament. The color scheme is designed to match, in slightly deeper shades, the present coloring of the wall and ceiling. The steps of the altars, of the Communion rails, as well as the rails themselves, are to be covered with Carrara marble. The predella has a mat of mosaic embodying the fleur-de-lys and general ornamentation of the floor pattern. Besides the floor, the walls and pillars of the sanctuary and side-altars are to be covered with mosaic to a height of three feet, the pattern being an alternating design of monograms and cross-shaped ornaments. At the base of the pillars supporting the sanctuary arch will be placed the coats of arms of his Grace Archbishop Redwood and of the Society of Mary, with their respective mottoes.

Great improvements are being effected at the Marist Brothers' residence and school grounds, Thorndon. The house has been renovated at a cost of £150, and made much more comfortable. A handball alley and additional grounds have all been added to the school at a cost of several hundreds of pounds. Great credit is due to the Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., Adm., for his efforts on behalf of the Brothers and their pupils.

The well-known figure of Kevin Sarsfield Dillon, the popular national elocutionist, will no longer be seen at our St. Patrick's Night concerts, as God in His own inscrutable ways has called him to Himself. A sudden attack of illness which was not regarded as serious ended the career of this popular artist. Death occurred last Monday in the Public Hospital, where he was conveyed on Sunday last for an operation. The interment took place on Wednesday morning, Requiem Mass being celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna at St. Anne's. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy was in the sanctuary, and Rev. Fathers Gondringer, S.M., M.A., McDonnell, S.M., M. Devoy, S.M., and Sweeney were also present, also Rev. Brother Lewis with the classmates of Mr. Dillon's son, the

Sisters of Compassion, Sisters of Mercy, and the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent and St. Anne's School. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna, assisted by Rev. Father M. Devoy, S.M. The deceased gentleman, who was born in Australia, leaves a widow and four children. Rev. Mother Dillon, of the Sacred Heart Convent, Island Bay, is a sister.—R.I.P.

I regret to record the death of one of the oldest and most respected members of the Hibernian Society (St. Patrick's branch) in the person of Mr. Matthew Hanrahan, of Newtown. The deceased was born in Co. Clare, Ireland, and came to this country when a young man. He was married in Wellington to Miss Johanna O'Meara, of Limerick, and is survived by his widow and two grown-up children—Mr. Hanrahan and Miss Hanrahan,—the latter a well-known worker in the Children of Mary and St. Anne's Altar Society. The deceased gentleman was attended in his last illness by Rev. Father Sweeney, the interment taking place this morning after the Requiem Mass.—R.I.P.

A bazaar for the purpose of raising funds to provide additional accommodation for St. Joseph's Convent, Newtown, will be held during the last week in September at St. Anne's Hall. An energetic committee of ladies have formed themselves into a band of workers and helpers to the Rev. Sister Aloysius and the good Sisters of Newtown to aid them in providing greater facilities for Catholic education in Wellington South.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

February 16.

The half-yearly meeting of St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society was held on January 12, and was largely attended. Bro. S. J. Barry presided, and the following officers were elected for the year:—President, Bro. A. E. Ahearn; vice-president, Bro. J. L. Hartley; treasurer, Bro. W. McFubbs; assistant secretary, Sister K. Broome; wardens, Bros. E. Taunton and H. McDona; guardian, Bro. W. Louisson; delegate to Friendly Societies' Dispensary Board of Management, Bro. President A. E. Ahearn; auditors, Bros. J. F. Stratford and H. McDonald; medical attendants, Drs. Robertson, Douglas Wilson, and J. H. Reid. No delegates were elected for the forthcoming meeting at Christchurch owing to non-receipt of official papers from Auckland. Funnal arrangements were made for the annual picnic. Since the above was written, the weather is dead against us, but, nothing daunted, we are going to hold the picnic at Matarawa on Saturday, March 12. All members of this branch now pay their subscriptions in advance. Clearances were granted to Bros. C. Lloyd and P. F. Dalton, to Gisborne. The annual Communion breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 13, at Aramoho. Arrangements are well in hand for St. Patrick's Night concert. It is hoped to be able to start a juvenile branch of the Hibernian Society in this town soon.

The monthly meeting of the parish Federation committee took place on Thursday, February 10. There was a good attendance of members, and Mr. Luxford gave a very interesting report of the Wellington conference. Other business also was transacted, and among items to be discussed was the advisability of the distribution on a large

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