

Cathedral Parish Sunday School

The Christian doctrine classes, organised some months ago by the members of St. Joseph's Cathedral Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for Catholic children of the parish who lack the opportunity of otherwise acquiring the knowledge so essential to the practice of their holy religion, have proved both successful and encouraging. To mark the first Christmas since the classes' formation, the other Sunday was set apart for a joyous celebration, and St. Joseph's Schoolroom bore quite a festive appearance. The central feature was a generously laden Christmas tree from which were plucked the treasures so dear to the hearts of the little ones—and awards were there for all. The devoted teachers, and helpers generally in the good work, were there in their numbers, and, as was very apparent, shared in the joys of the occasion. Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., in reviewing the work accomplished in such a brief time, warmly complimented the promoters of the Sunday school which was serving such a useful purpose. He expressed sincere appreciation of the services of the teachers and spoke in encouraging terms regarding the classes, concluding by wishing all present every blessing and happiness of Christmas and for the New Year.

Combined Catholic Picnic

An exceedingly well attended and representative meeting was held at St. Joseph's Hall, after devotions on last Sunday evening, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presiding, for the purpose of arranging a picnic for the children of the Catholic schools and those of St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's Orphanages. Those present (including Rev. Father Delany) were unanimous in deciding for a combined picnic on Boxing Day (Monday, the 26th inst.). The following committee, with Messrs. Jas. Dunn and Paul Vallis as joint secretaries, was appointed to arrange details and carry out the arrangements to be decided upon for the day itself:— Mesdames Baker, Sandys, Comer, Donnelly, and Hally; Misses Heley, Tarleton, and Metcalfe, Messrs. Airey, Hannighan, T. J. Hussey, J. Dunne, T. Drumm, M. Coughlan, F. Sligo, F. Kennedy, J. O'Neill, and Carter. As the result of subsequent arrangements the Forbury Park Race-course and appointments have, by the courtesy of the club members, been placed at the disposal of the committee for the purposes of the picnic. The Forbury Park authorities having recently expended a very large sum in improvements, visitors are asked to exercise every care so that the lawns and flower plots may not be damaged. A special tram service has been arranged for, and the cars will commence running from the Fountain to the picnic grounds at about 10 a.m. Those attending the picnic may go out by either the St. Clair or St. Kilda cars. Admission to the grounds will be free to children, and the charge for adults will be sixpence. Hot water will be provided on the grounds during the day. A children's sports programme has been arranged, and, given favorable weather, an ideal outing may be anticipated.

Marist Brothers, Invercargill: Entertained by M.B.O.B. Association

A very pleasant little function took place in the Floral Tea Rooms on the evening of Tuesday, the 13th inst., when the Invercargill Marist Old Boys' Association entertained the local Brothers at a social evening. Mr. Peter Gilfedder presided, and amongst the large number present were the Very Rev. J. O'Neill, Rev. C. Ardagh, and the Marist Brothers. After the assemblage did ample justice to a dainty supper, the chairman called on all present to honor the toast of "Our Holy Father." Then Father O'Neill, in his usual interesting and convincing style, proposed the toast of "Peace"—recalling briefly Ireland's past history and long struggle, and expressing the hope that now we would see the Sun of Ireland's Freedom, which had already appeared on the horizon, break in all its glory on the land of our forefathers. On rising to the toast the assemblage sang "A Nation Once Again" and "God Save Ireland." Next came the toast of the evening, viz., "Our Guests," which was proposed by Mr. M. Stanton, who in well-chosen words dwelt on all that we owed to our Brothers, and congratulated them on their great successes during the year in the different spheres of their activity, both secular and religious. He then asked them each to accept two presents—the first from the association as an appreciation of their noble work, with the hope that it would enable them to enjoy a special holiday on this the occasion of the jubilee of their foundation in Southland; the second from the executive to mark the Brothers' good feeling towards them and their kindly help and interest in all the work of the executive. Rev. Brother Anselm, in reply, thanked the members for their generosity and good wishes, and for their loyalty to their old teachers and their Church. He went on to congratulate them on their activity, shown in their founding a bursary and in many other ways. After recounting the school's record for the year, he concluded by wishing them all the season's best wishes. The next toast was "The Hibernian Band," to whose generous offer of a promenade concert was due most of the success of the present evening. Father Ardagh, in proposing the toast, recounted briefly the history of the band, with its marvellous record; and, in wishing them every success, referred to the generosity and good spirit of the band in every way.

Mr. H. Grave (president) and Mr. R. Wills (bandmaster) responded by thanking the members of the association for their kind feelings and by expressing the band's pleasure in being able to help and their readiness to help this or any other of our organisations. Mr. F. Downey having proposed the toast of "Our Chairman," the evening concluded with thanks to all who had assisted towards its success and by the again singing of "A Nation Once Again" and "God Save Ireland." The musical side of the evening was supplied by those present singing at different intervals some of the well-known choruses, besides special items being given by Messrs. P. Prendergast, Peter Kelly, and W. Wills. Mr. Wilson kindly assisted at the piano.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.
Right Rev. Mgr. Brophy, D.D., of Dubbo, New South Wales, is visiting Greymouth. Another guest at St. Patrick's Presbytery is Rev. Father Campbell, C.S.S.R., who is conducting the annual spiritual Retreat of the Sisters of Mercy. Father Campbell will occupy the pulpit at St. Patrick's Church at midnight Mass on Christmas Day.

The church at Dunollie is being dismantled and shifted to Runanga. This is owing to the population drifting away from Dunollie. Rev. Father Long, Adm., is hopeful that the Runanga Catholics will be able to hear Mass in their own church at Christmas.

During the week the altar boys and the Altar Society held their annual picnic at Ahaura, where they spent an enjoyable day.

The Bevilacqua medals, presented to the boy and girl gaining the highest aggregate marks in the sixth standard examinations, were won this year by Vincent McSherry and Kathleen Sampson.

The Archconfraternity of the Sacred Heart, formed during the recent mission, is in working order, and its success is assured.

The first count in connection with the convent bazaar queen carnival resulted: Miss Z. Macfarlane 1, Miss M. Phelan 2, and Miss E. O'Brien 3. The bazaar opens next week.

The Marist Brothers' annual concert drew a crowded house. As usual the programme was perfect, and the audience signified its delight in encore after encore. The following assisted during the evening:—Misses V. and R. Knell, pianoforte duet, "The Hussars' Ride"; Master V. Knapp, song, "Let the Rest of the World Go By"; Mrs. W. Fletcher, Misses V. and K. Hannan, H. Kilgour, E. O'Rielly, quintette, "Oaken Lords and Ladies Gay"; Miss J. Mathieson, violin solo, "Mazur"; Mr. W. Kitchingham, song, "Sweet Early Violets"; Mr. L. Stapp, song, "Before You Came"; Miss V. Hannan, song, "Kathleen Mavourneen"; Miss E. O'Rielly and L. Stapp, vocal duet, "Venetian Song"; Miss B. Gilbert, recitation; Mr. N. Doogan, musical monologue, "Foolish Questions"; Rev. Father Shore, song, "Tis Irish as it's Spoken"; Miss D. O'Hallahan, musical monologue, "Life"; Mr. A. Fennell, character sketch; Master Malloy, song, "An Irishman's Opinion"; Miss Mona Hannan and Master Jack McBreearty, "Kerry Dance." Misses L. Higgins and M. Griffen were official accompanists. Mr. H. McKeowen, the enthusiastic organiser of the concert, thanked the audience on behalf of the Brothers. In doing so Mr. McKeowen referred to the splendid work done by the Brothers during the year. Besides securing excellent results at the annual examinations one of their pupils, Vincent McSherry, won the Kennedy Scholarship, tenable for four years at St. Patrick's College. In the Sacred Heart Scholarship another pupil, Alan Kennedy, gained second place for the South Island.

Rev. Brothers Herbert, Luke, and Ernan leave for Christchurch to-morrow, where the annual Retreat is to be held. Greymouth Catholics hope they will be with us again next year.

Temuka

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.
Rev. Father Spillane, S.M., an ex-pupil of the local Convent School, who was recently ordained in Christchurch, arrived in Temuka during the week. Yesterday he celebrated the 10.30 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph's Church, and officiated at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening. Both morning and evening he gave his blessing to a large number of parishioners.

Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., who recently gave a lecture on Lourdes in aid of the Children of Mary Sodality, and from which a good sum was netted, was a recipient of the members' appreciation yesterday afternoon. The gathering took place in the Catholic Hall, and after several musical items had been given, Miss McAuliffe asked Dr. Kennedy to accept a few pieces of printed paper with which he was to purchase something useful, and to show the members' appreciation of their spiritual director's many thoughtful actions on their behalf. Rev. Dr. Kennedy, who was wholly taken by surprise, thanked the members for their kind action, which he much appreciated. Rev. Fathers Herring and Spillane, and the Sisters of St. Joseph, were also present at the gathering.

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