

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 16.

A delightful entertainment was given in St. Mary's Convent High School, Ponsonby, on Monday December 12, on the occasion of the presentation of prizes to the successful pupils. It was largely attended by the local clergy, Sisters of Mercy, parents and interested friends. The first item was a finished rendering of "The War March" by the orchestra, and this was followed by a very pretty chorus, "The Heavenly Song." In an address then read by one of the pupils thanks were expressed to the Sisters for their very great care and interest taken in their studies and welfare during the past year; to the clergy, who had looked after their spiritual welfare, and to their parents, who had, often at great sacrifice, placed them in St. Mary's—an institution second to none in the Dominion. In the course of the address regret was expressed for the unavoidable absence of the Coadjutor-Bishop, Dr. Liston, whose anniversary of consecration as Bishop was this day (December 12). "The Shamrock" was spiritedly given, while the junior pupils excelled all in their character action song, "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod." Then followed the well-acted drama of "There Was no Room in the Inn," in which the following took part:—Misses M. Flynn, D. Robinson, H. Stansfield, K. Franklin, C. Kelly, N. Moynihan, N. Flynn, A. Baster, K. Molloy, and O. Baster. During a beautiful tableau at the conclusion, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" was sung. Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, who in a happy manner congratulated the pupils and Sisters on the very artistic and enjoyable entertainment provided, then proceeded with the presentation of prizes, etc. Beautiful specimens of the pupils' plain and fancy work and paintings were on exhibition and were greatly admired.

The results of the examination, held recently, for the two Sacred Heart College scholarships, are announced. The successful candidates were Edgar Murphy, Marist Brothers' School, Christchurch, who has been awarded first place; and Desmond Maher, Sisters of St. Joseph, Dominion Road, Auckland, second. The scholarships are of the annual value of 70 guineas each, and are tenable for three years. The examination is open to all Catholic scholars in New Zealand.

Mr. Leo Whittaker, conductor of St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir, has visited Naples and all the principal centres of interest in Italy. While in Rome he attended, with other English pilgrims, Mass in the Vatican. The celebrant was his Holiness the Pope, who also gave the pilgrims a special audience, and delivered to them a short address. Mr. Whittaker was much impressed by the singing in Rome of a male choir of 80 voices, all of whose items were memorised and unaccompanied. In Paris he attended a delightful performance of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Opera House. Mr. Whittaker is to spend Christmas with friends in Scotland, and hopes to leave for New Zealand in February.

The Auckland Catholic Federation Scholarships have, as a result of the recent examination, been awarded as follows:—John Hawkins, Convent, Taumarunui; Claude McCabe, Marist Brothers' School, Vermont Street, Auckland; John Bonner, Marist Brothers' School, Vermont Street; Peter Burke, Marist Brothers' School, Vermont Street; Ernest Higgins, Marist Brothers' School, Vermont Street. The winners of the girls' Federation Scholarships were—Kathleen Moore, Sacred Heart Convent, Vermont Street, and Mollie Gillies, Otahuhu Convent (Sisters of Mercy).

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.

The garden fete, in aid of St. Mary's Memorial School was brought to a conclusion on Monday evening last. From beginning to end it was a happy function, and financially was an unqualified success. Up to the present well over £900 has been netted, and by the time the final returns come to hand it is expected that £1000 will be cleared. The utility of the new hall was amply demonstrated, and that portion of the school building is sure to prove a valuable asset to the parish. Rev. Father Seymour expressed his warm appreciation of the work of the executive committee, the stallholders and their assistants, as well as of the magnificent support accorded by the parishioners and general public. The original idea of bringing the fete to a close on the Saturday evening had to be abandoned owing to the great crowd patronising it,—the assistants being unable, owing to the demands made upon them, to cope with the programme allotted them. Those in charge of the various stalls were as follows:—Choir stall, Miss Enright; Children of Mary stall, Mrs. Gray; suburban stall, Mrs. Catherwood; New Brighton stall, Mrs. M. McKenna; side shows, St. Mary's Hibernian Society. Cooking competitions were supervised by Mrs. T. Brosnahan and Mrs. O. Baker; flowers and vegetable displays were managed by Messrs. C. Barnett and F. Rogal; and fancy working competitions by Mrs. Vincent. The dancing of Miss McDonald's pupils met with great favor. A competition in basketball, in which the leading teams of Christchurch took part, formed a big attraction, and was won by Kia Ora, with Sacred Heart Convent runners-up. Derry's Band enlivened the proceedings throughout with spirited music. Mr. Prendergast, as executive secretary, was always at his post, and

left nothing undone to second the plans of the untiring promoter, Father Seymour.

Very Rev. Father Whelan, O.S.S.R., is at present conducting the annual spiritual retreat for the Sisters of Mercy.

Rev. J. J. Seymour, S.M. (brother of Father Seymour, of St. Mary's), who was recently ordained, is on a visit to Christchurch, and is a guest at St. Mary's presbytery.

Rev. Father Higgins, S.M., leaves for Sydney on Tuesday.

Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., will leave Sydney for Christchurch on December 23. He is expected back at St. Mary's prior to the New Year.

Rev. Father Eccleton, S.M., who is conducting the annual spiritual retreat for the Marist Brothers of the South Island, preached at Vespers in the Cathedral on last Sunday evening.

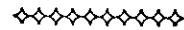
Rev. Father John Hyland, of Rockdale, archdiocese of Sydney, left last week on his return to Australia.

Right Rev. Mgr. Brophy, D.D., of Dubbo, diocese of Bathurst, New South Wales, is at present a visitor to Christchurch.

Rev. Father McEvoy returned to Christchurch during the week from Auckland.

The members of the Cathedral sodality of Children of Mary are arranging a picnic, to be held at Diamond Harbor on Tuesday, the 27th inst.

On last Thursday Rev. Father Hanrahan, Adm., took the Cathedral altar boys for an outing to Kairaki beach. The weather was ideal, and the boys indulged in swimming, cricket, and general sports. Some of the racing events were keen contests, and good performances. The victualling was decidedly generous, and the picnic altogether most enjoyable. Father Hanrahan also marshalled the children attending St. Joseph's parish school, and the Convent high school, and provided them with a day out at Sumner. The girls entered whole-heartedly into sports and other attractions, and expressed their warm appreciation of the generosity of the Administrator.



Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.

The annual parish picnic was held at Victoria Park, Temuka, on the 10th inst., when over 600 persons attended the popular outing. An energetic sports committee got off a lengthy programme of children's races, for which good prizes were allotted. A tennis and cricket match took place with the Temuka Clubs. The Children of Mary sodality had stalls for the sale of sweets, soft drinks, ice-creams, etc., and reaped a handsome profit, the proceeds of which go towards a laudable object. The day was fortunately fine, and the picnic was a great success in every respect.

The pupils of the Marist Brothers gave a very enjoyable entertainment in St. Patrick's Hall on the 13th inst., when the building was crowded. The items consisted of choruses, duets, solos, action songs, recitations, drill and boxing displays, followed by a farce. The boys acquitted themselves remarkably well, receiving unstinted applause. Great credit is due to the Marist Brothers, who spared no efforts to make the entertainment a success.

The Sacred Heart Hall was filled on the 15th inst., on the occasion of the annual concert given by the school girls. A splendid programme, which met with the hearty approval of the audience, was capably rendered, and the Sisters received congratulations on the success achieved.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 15 aspirants were received into the sodality of the Children of Mary by Rev. Father Hurley. Rev. Father O'Meehan, newly-ordained priest, was present, and gave his blessing to a large number after devotions.

Rev. Father Paul Kane, S.M., of St. Patrick's College (a native of Timaru), preached on Sunday evening at the Sacred Heart Church.

The literary and social study circle of the Catholic Club commenced their programme on 14th inst., when the patron (Rev. Father Hurley, S.M.) gave an interesting and instructive address on public speaking to a large audience. The second portion of the programme comprised the ever-popular "question-box," when many subjects were treated, and all present spent a very profitable evening thereby. The membership is increasing, the rooms are being gradually furnished and equipped, and by next winter it is expected the appointments will be complete.

Garden Fete, Mosgiel

Winning numbers at Garden Fete held in Holy Cross College Grounds, Mosgiel, December 10th, 1921:—

Gold Nugget, No. 2938, Miss Anderson, Wyllies Crossing; Oil-printed Panel (Refreshment Stall), No. 85, Miss Rose Pink, 5 Crawford Street, Dunedin; Fancy-worked Cushion (Refreshment Stall), No. 20, Mr. Pedofski; Fancy-worked Black Satin Cushion (Sweets Stall), No. 485, Mrs. A. McDonald, Kelso; Hand-painted Panel (Produce Stall), No. 26, E. Pearson, Mosgiel; Pen-painted Table Centre (Sweets Stall), No. 132, Miss Lizzie O'Brien, Mosgiel; Hand-painted Mirror (Jumble Stall), No. 501, Greta Seguin, Mosgiel Junction.