

INTERCOLONIAL

The Rev. J. H. O'Connell (Carlton) received a cable the other day informing him of the death of his sister, a member of the Presentation Order, Listowel, Ireland. Sister Brendan died at the convent on the 5th ult.

A strong remonstrance on the non-recognition of Catholic chaplains by the Commonwealth Defence Department was addressed by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne to the Melbourne morning journals. No Catholic chaplain is attached to the Victorian forces, and, of course, no priest took part in the function of blessing the colors the other day. In view of the prominence given to the Archbishop's letter the Reid Administration will at once invite his Grace to duly appoint a chaplain, whose status the Defence Department will probably recognise.

A splendid Catholic demonstration was held at the Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne, on the King's Birthday. Thousands of Catholic school children of both sexes, headed by the South Melbourne Orphanage Band, marched from the Cathedral to the scene of festivity, where numerous amusements had been provided. His Grace the Archbishop, Very Rev. Dean Phelan, and others of the very rev. and rev. clergy were present. There was an enormous attendance of the general public.

Monsignor Fowler, of Manila, preached at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, a few Sundays ago. Referring to the cable message concerning the alleged address of the Kaiser to the Archbishop of Metz, the Monsignor expressed his doubts as to the authenticity of the statement, and even if it were true, the Archbishop had not transgressed the law, and should not therefore be liable to rebukes. The Archbishop, he pointed out, had been appointed to Metz, at the request of the Emperor, and, further, there was no mention in the cables to what the Archbishop had to say about the matter whatever it might be.

By the 'Orontes' which arrived at Port Melbourne on November 16 (says the 'Advocate') the following priests for Australian dioceses were passengers: Rev. H. Gibbons and Rev. M. McCarthy, for the archdiocese of Melbourne. Both rev. gentlemen are from Maynooth College, which has 600 Divinity students. Rev. Father P. O'Brien and two ecclesiastical students, Rev. J. Hayes and Rev. P. Sterling, for the diocese of Sale. The latter two rev. gentlemen will be ordained by the Bishop of Sale in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, Sale. These rev. gentlemen are also from Maynooth. For the diocese of Armidale (N.S.W.), Rev. P. McGrath; for the diocese of Maitland (N.S.W.), Rev. J. C. Meagher. Father Hayes is from the Foreign Missionary College of All Hallows, Drumcondra. Father McGrath is from St. John's College, Waterford. Father Meagher, who is on vacation, disembarked at Naples, and will resume the journey to Australia by the next outgoing vessel of the Orient line.

The property of the trustees of the Presbyterian denomination at Albury has been purchased by the local authorities of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. The price given was £2250. The property comprises five acres, three perches, land and buildings erected thereon. These consist of the minister's residence and a church and Sunday school building. Even at the present time the necessity for more accommodation is pressing at the convent, and about half of the land just required will be devoted to the use of the convent. The church building will be used as a meeting hall for the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, and the Sunday school building is to be devoted to the Young Men's Literary and Social Club.

Much gratification has been expressed (writes a Melbourne correspondent) at the honor conferred by his Majesty King Edward, on Mr. C. G. Duffy, the popular Clerk of the House of Representatives, who has been created a C.M.G. He is a brother of the Hon. J. G. Duffy, LL.B. Mr. Duffy first entered the public service as private secretary to his father, Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, who was Premier and Chief Secretary in 1871. Mr. Duffy subsequently served other Premiers in a similar capacity. In 1878 he was transferred to the staff of the Legislative Assembly as assistant clerk of committees, and in 1891 he became clerk assistant. When the Commonwealth Parliament met, Mr. Duffy accepted the position of clerk assistant in the Senate, and upon Sir George Jenkins retiring from the clerkship in the House of Representatives he was asked to fill that office. He has done so since in a manner which has evoked unanimous expressions of commendation from members of both sides of the House. Mr. Duffy is the author of a very interesting and informative work, in which the Speakers' rulings for over a generation are tabulated and classified.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- December 1, Sunday.—Second Sunday of Advent.
 „ 5, Monday.—St. Martin, Pope and Martyr.
 „ 6, Tuesday.—St. Nicholas, Bishop and Confessor.
 „ 7, Wednesday.—St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 „ 8, Thursday.—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 „ 9, Friday.—St. Eutychian, Pope and Martyr.
 „ 10, Saturday.—Octave of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

St. Martin, Pope and Martyr.

St. Martin, who was Pope from 649 to 655, formally condemned the Monothelites and the two imperial edicts, which forbade all controversy on the subject of two wills in Christ. For this opposition Pope Martin, by the order of Emperor Constans II., was forcibly carried to Constantinople, and, after many sufferings, died a martyr in exile.

St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor of the Church.

St. Ambrose was born at Treves in the year 340 and died Archbishop of Milan in 397. He was a Roman governor when, upon the death of the Arian Auxentius, he was, though then only a catechumen, chosen Bishop of Milan in 374. Rising at once to the full height of his office, Ambrose distributed all his goods among the poor, and with unwearied zeal devoted himself to the performance of his pastoral duties. Such was his zeal and success in rooting out heresy and propagating the orthodox faith, that it caused St. Jerome to write that, when Ambrose became Bishop of Milan, all Italy was converted to the faith. To him, also, in part, is to be ascribed the conversion of the great St. Augustine.

The Immaculate Conception.

The veneration which the Church renders to the Blessed Virgin Mary is founded upon the same reasons and motives as that which she renders to other saints, with the difference that the first is superior, although it essentially differs from the worship we owe to God. In fact, when all the saints can intercede for us, and when God is pleased to listen to their prayers, with much more reason does she merit our confidence, who was blessed among all women, and who, in consenting to become the Mother of God, has become, says St. Irenaeus, the cause of salvation for all mankind. She is also the object of a particular veneration in the Church, which has always regarded her as our advocate with God, celebrating her titles, virtues, and glory. All the generations have called her, and will call her, blessed, because the Almighty has done great things in her: Mary is the Mother of God and this title elevates her above the saints and angels, above all creatures. She is the Mother of God in the full sense of the word: she conceived and brought forth, as to the humanity, Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man; in her bosom the Word was made flesh. Mary, in becoming the Mother of God, never ceased to be a virgin; she was a virgin when the angel announced to her the mystery to be operated on her; she remained a virgin in conceiving the One who is holy 'par excellence.' She conceived through the operation of the Holy Ghost. She remained a virgin after childbirth, which, having been done in a supernatural manner, could not impair her virginal integrity. The Church believes that the Blessed Virgin Mary never committed any sin, not even a venial one, the exemption from all actual sin is a privilege which we acknowledge in Mary, and which has never been contested among Catholics. The Council of Trent declared that nobody can, during his whole life, avoid all sin, without a special privilege of God, as the Church believes in regard to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is an article of faith that Mary has been even exempt from original sin. By his 'Apostolic Constitution' of December 8th, 1854, the immortal Pius IX. has solemnly defined and proclaimed as dogma of belief the Immaculate Conception of the glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of God. By the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary we understand that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment when her soul was united to her body, was preserved from original sin and exempted from every stain by a Divine privilege, in view of the future merits of Jesus Christ.

St. Eutychian, Pope and Martyr.

St. Eutychian, who was an Etruscan by birth, was Pope from 275 to 285. He suffered martyrdom under Numerian.