

INTERCOLONIAL

The foundation stone of a new church was laid at Strathfield by his Eminence Cardinal Moran on Sunday, November 20.

Rev. Father James Horan, who had been an inmate of St. Catherine's Private Hospital, Brisbane, for some time past, is now quite recovered.

Rev. Father Hays, the celebrated temperance lecturer, has written to Mr. Bowditch (says the 'Advocate'), stating that he will be in Melbourne on January 12, and will spend two months in Victoria in a crusade against drunkenness. He will deliver addresses under the auspices of the League of the Cross, and will hold citizens' meetings under the patronage of the Victorian Alliance Temperance Organisation.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Fowler has left Sydney for Manila. Two of the Manila students to be ordained by Cardinal Moran will follow the Monsignor later on to take up mission duties in the Philippines. A large number of the clergy and other friends saw the Monsignor away, among them being the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, Very Rev. Dean Slattery, Rev. M. Rohan, P.P. (Balmalm East), Rev. J. Furlong, Rev. W. Barry, Rev. P. Sheehy, Rev. J. Sheridan, Rev. M. Sherman, and others.

Mr. J. B. Ronald's motion asking the Federal Parliament to forward a petition to his Majesty King Edward VII., praying that monarch to use his royal influence in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, which was listed for 17th ult., was too far down the list to be touched during private members' motions. It will probably come on for discussion with the next few days.

The St. Augustine's Orphanage Band, Geelong, won the prize competition at Ballarat, which carries with it the premiership amongst the bands of Victoria, and second honors amongst those of the Commonwealth. The South Melbourne Orphanage Band, is also coming to the front. Mr. J. C. Williamson recently entertained this band.

The foundation stone of the additions to Mount St. Margaret, Ryde, where the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary conduct a hospital for female mental invalids, was laid by his Eminence the Cardinal the other day. The subscriptions totalled about £350, of which the Cardinal gave £10, Mr. T. J. Dalton £100, and Dr. Donovan, K.C., £25. The new additions will provide accommodation for about 40 extra inmates.

The Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C., K.C.S.G., whose health has not been satisfactory of late (says the 'Catholic Times'), has sailed for New Zealand. He was accompanied by his son, Mr. Martin Meagher. Mr. Meagher intends trying the hot springs at Rotorua, and it is to be hoped he will return in the best of health. Though unwell he went to the Catholic Congress, where he was specially and cordially welcomed by the Archbishop of Melbourne.

In the course of an address presented to him at Surrey Hills in connection with a Catholic primary school-opening, his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne was warmly praised as providential leader of the Church, who had won the respect and esteem of even its enemies in a country where it was often bitterly assailed. In replying, the Archbishop said it was sad that whilst Catholics were doing so much for the advancement of religion, education, and the interests of the State, they were liable from time to time to meet with unwarranted attacks. But this was exactly what was to be expected, and if they did not meet with such attacks it would be a great proof that they were failing in their duty. The Church of Christ would always be the object of bitter enmity, of untruthful statements, of unjust insinuations, of even brutal calumny, but, whilst that was so, the members of the Church need not lose their peace of mind. It was exactly what our Blessed Lord met with on earth, and what He predicted should be the fate of His apostles—not merely those Apostles who preached the Gospel after His Ascension, but all the successors of the apostles as long as the Church continued. Let them not, therefore, be moved by any attacks of that sort. Let them rather feel assured that the attacks were a proof that they were fulfilling faithfully, energetically, and perseveringly the duties of their position as members of the Church of Christ. Let them pray, as our Blessed Lord directed, for those who calumniated or persecuted them, that their eyes might be opened and their hearts softened, and that the light of truth and Christian charity might be given to them so that they might cease to give offence to Him and scandal to the very name of Christianity.

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- December 11, Sunday.—Third Sunday of Advent.
 „ 12, Monday.—St. Melchisedes, Pope and Martyr.
 „ 13, Tuesday.—St. Lucia, Virgin and Martyr.
 „ 14, Wednesday.—Ember Day. Translation of the Holy House of Loreto.
 „ 15, Thursday.—Octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
 „ 16, Friday.—Ember Day. St. Eusebius, Bishop and Martyr.
 „ 17, Saturday.—Ember Day. St. Leonard of Port Maurice, Confessor.

St. Melchisedes, Pope and Martyr.

St. Melchisedes, who was Pope from 311 to 314, was born in Africa. He presided over the Council of Rome (313) and condemned the Donatists.

St. Lucia, Virgin and Martyr.

St. Lucia, virgin and martyr, was born at Syracuse, Sicily. She was of a noble and Christian family. She made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Agatha at Catania, obtained the healing of her mother Eutychia, consecrating her virginity to the Lord, and, being accused of being a Christian, she was beheaded in 303.

Ember Days.

According to the testimony of St. Leo, Ember Days originated in the time of the Apostles, who were inspired by the Holy Ghost to dedicate each season of the year to God by a few days of penance; or, as it were, to pay three days' interest, every three months, on the graces received from God. The Church always commanded the faithful to fast at the beginning of each of the four seasons of the year, because it is at this time that she ordains the priests and other servants of the Church, which even the Apostles did with much prayer and fasting. Thus she desires that during the Ember Days Christians should fervently ask of God by prayer, fasting, and other good works, for worthy pastors and servants, on whom depends the welfare of the whole Christian flock; she also desires that in the spring Ember Days we should ask God's blessing for the fertility of the earth; in summer for the preservation of the fruits of the field; in autumn when the harvest is ripe, and in winter when it is sheltered, that we should offer to God, by fasting and prayer, a sacrifice of thanks, petitioning Him to assist us, that we may not use His gifts for our soul's detriment, but refer all praise to Him, the fountain of all good, and assist our neighbor according to our means.

St. Eusebius, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Eusebius, who was born in 315 and died in 370, was a native of Sardinia. Whilst Bishop of Vercelli he zealously combated the heresy of Arius.

When buying harvesting machinery quality counts for more than in anything else, see that it bears the name McCormick and you can make no mistake.

The will of the late Mr. S. V. Winter, of Melbourne has been lodged for probate. The document is dated 25th February, 1901, and the whole of the property is left to testator's family. The value of the estate is £31,933, of which £253 is realty and the balance personalty.

Widespread sympathy (writes a Brisbane correspondent) is felt for Rev. Father Nugent, who lies dangerously ill at the presbytery, Mount Morgan. Father Nugent has not been well for a long time past, and it will be remembered that he went south for the benefit of his health several times. Father Nugent is a brother of Mrs. T. Dalton, of Sydney, and is a nephew of the Rev. Father Walsh, of Townsville. His sister is Superioress of the Mount Morgan Convent of Mercy.

In the convent schoolroom, Deniliquin, on November 16, about 200 parishioners and many townfolk of other denominations assembled to bid good-bye and present an illuminated address and purse of 80 sovereigns to the Rev. Father Tracy on the eve of his departure for Broken Hill. Mr. James Peevers (president of the H.A.C.B. Society) presided. Others present included the Right Rev. Mgr. Tracey, V.G., and Rev. Father Morrant. Apologies were received from his Lordship Bishop Dunne, of Wilcannia, and various other gentlemen, wishing the departing priest good luck in his future field of labor.