

INTERCOLONIAL

His Eminence Cardinal Moran blessed and opened a new wing of the Convent of Mercy, Parramatta, a few Sundays ago.

Mr. P. F. Kiley, district secretary of the H.A.C.B. Society, has been unanimously elected president of the South Australian Friendly Societies' Association for the ensuing year, at the annual meeting held on Wednesday, November 29.

The Bishop of Wilcannia (Dr. Dunne), who has returned to Broken Hill after an absence of nearly three months, eulogised the congregation upon the manner in which it was setting itself to meet, by the payment of monthly subscriptions (totalling about £60), the interest charges on the Cathedral building fund, and also to reduce the principal indebtedness.

In connection with Bishop Duhig's consecration at Rockhampton on Sunday, December 10, it is interesting to note that he was the first student received by the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney when that prelate was Rector of the Irish College in Rome, and he was the first Bishop that Dr. Kelly has consecrated. Further, Dr. Duhig's chaplains on Sunday were the Rev. Fathers Fitzpatrick (Maryborough) and Wolfe (Blackall), both of whom were at college with the new prelate.

On Monday, November 27, a serious accident was averted by the brave act of the Very Rev. M. J. Shanahan, at Hamilton, Vic. A pair of horses were bolting through the streets, and were travelling straight towards two little children, one of whom was seated in a go-cart, in Cox street. Father Shanahan rushed out, and caused the animals to swerve. He then grasped the reins, and was knocked down, but succeeded in stopping the runaways.

Master Eugene Gorman, a pupil of the Marist Brothers' School, Bendigo, who some months ago won the Austral Society's scholarship, has again distinguished himself at St. Joseph's College, Sydney, where he is now pursuing his studies. He won a special gold medal for an essay in competition with the whole of the college, besides gaining several other valuable prizes in various subjects. Master J. Ryan has this year gained the Hibernian scholarship at the Marist Brothers' School, Bendigo, also a very valuable gold medal, presented by Mr. Lewis, B.A., for the dux of the school.

Among the presentations to Dr. Duhig prior to his departure from Brisbane for Rockhampton was a gold crozier and an episcopal ring set with an amethyst. These were given him at Dara by Brother Barrett, under whom Dr. Duhig was a pupil. Archbishop Kelly and Mr. Justice Real spoke on the occasion, and Dr. Duhig noted the coincidence that he should have been the first student to be received by Archbishop Kelly at Rome, and the first Bishop to be consecrated by him. Nudgee College students presented Dr. Duhig with a 'History of the Church,' and a great number of handsome vestments were presented by other donors.

Mr. J. G. Duffy, the Melbourne barrister, who appeared in a recent law case, trapped a witness neatly. As a practical test of handwriting, Duffy asked him to turn his back while two of his friends at the barristers' table wrote something on slips of paper that was to be submitted to him for examination. But when the man's back was turned Duffy wrote both the samples himself, but one of them in a disguised handwriting. Then he asked the expert for his opinion. The latter pointed out many proofs that the handwritings were quite dissimilar, and gave his opinion that one was the work of a man of morose, gloomy nature, and the other of the opposite sort of character! Then Duffy told the expert what had been really done while his back was turned, and the witness retired for a deep, solid think.

The consecration of the Right Rev. James Duhig as Bishop of Rockhampton took place in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton, on Sunday, December 10. The ceremonies lasted two and a half hours. The Cathedral, which holds several thousand people, was filled with a representative congregation, which included members of both Houses of Parliament and visiting prelates. The consecration ceremony was performed by the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney, assisted by Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland, and Dr. Murray, Bishop of Cooktown. The Papal Briefs were read by the Very Rev. Father Walsh, of Townsville. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Archbishop Kelly delivered an impressive address, during which he reviewed the life and work of the Church. Afterwards several hundreds knelt before the newly-consecrated Bishop, kissed his hand, and received his blessing.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

December 31, Sunday.—St. Sylvester, Pope and Confessor.

January 1, Monday.—The Circumcision of Our Lord.

" 2, Tuesday.—Octave of St. Stephen, Protomartyr.

" 3, Wednesday.—Octave of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

" 4, Thursday.—Octave of the Holy Innocents.

" 5, Friday.—Vigil of the Epiphany.

" 6, Saturday.—Feast of the Epiphany.

St. Sylvester, Pope and Confessor.

St. Sylvester, a native of Rome, was called to rule the Church during the twenty-one years which followed the accession of Constantine. One of his principal cares was to provide churches for the faithful, who were now, for the first time, allowed perfect liberty in the exercise of their religion. The most important event in the pontificate of St. Sylvester was the celebration of the First General Council, which was presided over by the Papal legates, and in which the errors of Arius were condemned. St. Sylvester died in 335.

Feast of the Circumcision.

This is a festival celebrated on January 1 to remind us of the humility of our Lord in allowing Himself to be seemingly numbered among sinners, by submitting to the law of the Jews. Circumcision was a religious practice among the Jews in the observance of which a distinctive mark was placed on male children the eighth day after their birth, and on all adults who embraced their religion. It was established as a distinctive sign of the people of God, a sign of the covenant made by God with Abraham, and as the figure of Baptism in the New Law. The feast of Circumcision is very ancient in the Church, as is proved by the homilies and sermons of the Fathers of the Church.

Feast of the Epiphany.

This festival is set apart to solemnly commemorate the coming of the three wise men from the East, guided by a miraculous star which appeared to them, and directed them to Bethlehem, where they found Christ in the stable; here they honored and adored Him and offered gifts to Him.

The Octave of a Feast.

The octave of a feast is the period of eight days assigned for its celebration during which is repeated every day a part of the office of the feast, as the hymns, antiphons, or verses, with one or several lessons referring to the subject. On the eighth day, the octave properly speaking, the office is more solemn than that of the preceding days. Generally the most solemn feasts, like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, the feast of the patron saint, are accompanied by an octave.

Father O'Hanlon, of Tamworth, has been transferred to Inverell as assistant to Father English, and has been succeeded by Father Keane, a recent arrival from Ireland.

On Friday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, a solemn ceremony took place in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, when Rev. Arthur E. O'Brien, of Glebe Point, Sydney, was raised to the dignity of the priesthood.

Mrs. Thomas Hynes, who died recently at Gulgare (S.A.), at the ripe old age of 98 years, was a native of County Galway, and came to Australia in 1851 accompanied by her husband and family. Their ship, the 'Marion,' was wrecked on a sandbank near Kangaroo Island, the occupants having to proceed to Adelaide in bullock drays.

MYERS & CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George Street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth.