

# INTERCOLONIAL.

In the election for the Temora Hospital committee the other day, the Very Rev. Father Fallon headed the poll with 75 votes.

Alderman Michael Real, a brother of Mr. Justice Real, has been elected Mayor of Ipswich.

The Rev. Father Hogan, Forest Lodge, has succeeded the late Father M'Glone in charge of the Lithgow parish.

THE Very Rev. J. Ryan, S.J., Rector of St. Xavier's, Kew, and former Rector of St. Ignatius's College, Riverview, has been appointed Superior of the Jesuit Mission in Australia. The appointment, which was made by the General of the Society, comes from Rome.

The Rome correspondent of the *Irish Catholic* states that it is generally believed in the Eternal City that the Holy Father has approved the nomination of the Right Rev. Monsignor Kelly, Rector of the Irish College, as Coadjutor to his Eminence Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney.

Talking of churches reminds me (writes a Melbourne correspondent) that the fine church under the invocation of St. John, East Melbourne, is now receiving its finishing touches. Two leading features in the design of this pretty church are of special interest—its Irish Round Tower (the only one in the colony) and Celtic Cross of New Zealand Oamaru stone elegantly carved. The latter is inserted in the facade, and its arms enclose the main lights. The new church will be solemnly blessed and opened on Ireland's Patron Saint's Day.

Lord Hopetoun has submitted the following programme for the Duke and Duchesses of York's movements for Mr. Chamberlain's approval:—Arrive in Melbourne on May 6; open Parliament on the 9th; leave on the 17th; arrive at Brisbane on the 20th; leave on the 25th; arrive at Sydney on the 27th; leave on June 8; arrive in New Zealand on the 12th, and leave on the 28th; arrive at Hobart on July 1, and leave on the 6th; arrive at Adelaide on the 9th, and leave on the 15th; arrive at Perth on the 19th, and leave Australia on July 24.

The Melbourne *Argus* of a recent date has the following paragraph concerning a son of the Hon. N. Fitzgerald, K.S.G., M.L.C.:—'Captain P. D. Fitzgerald, of the 11th Hussars, who distinguished himself at Ladysmith, recently returned to London wounded. He went to South Africa from India on special service before war was declared. Captain Fitzgerald served as adjutant for six months in the Imperial Light Horse, and then joined the staff of the Earl of Dundonald. He has been twice recommended for the Victoria Cross for two separate deeds of gallantry, once at Lombard's Kop and again at Wagon Hill, Ladysmith, on that memorable day when the garrison was hard pressed and was saved by the Devons. Captain Fitzgerald on this occasion rallied the troops at the moment the Boers pushed home the attack, and of the officers engaged 15 out of 21 were killed or wounded he being among the latter.'

The death is reported of the Rev. Father Casey, pastor of Bourke, New South Wales, who passed away at the early age of 33 years. Father Casey was born in the parish of Carna, in the County of Galway, on the Feast of St. Columba, in the year 1868, and on the same day he was baptised and called Colme, or Colman, after that great Irish saint, and Jarlath, after the patron saint of his native diocese. Evincing at an early age a strong inclination for the priestly life, he entered the diocesan seminary, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam. Having finished his early training he resolved to labor for God and his holy religion in a foreign land. With this end in view he entered the Ecclesiastical College of Carlow, and commenced there his philosophical studies. Just at this time Dr. Dunne, the zealous bishop of the newly-formed diocese of Wiccania, was looking for volunteers for this new and difficult mission. The young student offered himself, and was joyfully accepted. His course at Carlow was short, but most successful. He was ordained in Carlow Cathedral in June, 1892, and arrived in Australia in October of the same year.

On Sunday, February 17, at All Hallows' Convent, Brisbane, there passed away, at the age of 84 years, Rev. Mother Mary Elizabeth. A peculiar interest was attached to the life of the deceased nun, owing to the fact that she was one of the company of Sisters of Mercy who went through the Crimean War in 1854-6, caring for and tending the sick and wounded British troops. Mother Mary Elizabeth was a member of a very old English family named Hercy, of Berkshire, and a sister of Major-General Francis Hercy, who is still living. The late Sister took the black veil at Baggott street, Dublin, in 1845. Going with the Sisters of Mercy to the Crimea, she remained there, from 1854 to 1856, being associated with all the good work done by the worthy Sisters. Ten years later, 1866, she arrived in Queensland, where she had remained almost ever since. Mother Mary Elizabeth was 81 years of age on the 20th January last, so that she was actually in her 85th year when she died, the cause of death being a general breaking up of the system from age. On the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee in 1897 it was decided to decorate all the nurses then living who had been at the Crimea, and the late Sister was one of five who were then living, three being at the Bermondsey Convent, London, and the other at Gort Convent, County Galway, Ireland. All the others, excepting Sister Mary Elizabeth, attended at Windsor on this occasion; but for a time there was some doubt in the minds of the authorities in England whether she still survived. The Sisters were decorated with the decoration of the Royal Red Cross, and Sister Mary Elizabeth's Order was sent to her brother, General Hercy, to be forwarded to her.

# Friends at Court.

## GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- March 24, Sunday.—Passion Sunday.
- " 25, Monday.—Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- " 26, Tuesday.—Chair of St. Peter at Antioch.
- " 27, Wednesday.—St. Rupert, Bishop and Confessor.
- " 28, Thursday.—St. Sixtus III., Pope and Confessor.
- " 29, Friday.—Feast of the Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin.
- " 30, Saturday.—St. John Capistran, Confessor.

## PASSION SUNDAY.

PASSION SUNDAY is so called because from this day the Church occupies herself exclusively with the contemplation of the Passion and Death of the Saviour. The pictures of Christ crucified are covered on this day in memory of His having hidden Himself from the Jews until His entrance into Jerusalem, no longer showing Himself in public. In the Mass, the 'Glory be to the Father,' etc., is omitted because in the person of Christ the Holy Trinity was dishonored. The psalm 'Judica' is not said, because on this day the high priests held council about our Lord, for which reason in the name of the suffering Saviour the priest uses these words at the 'Introit':—'Judge me, O God, and distinguish my cause from the nation that is not holy: deliver me from the unjust and deceitful man, for Thou art my God and my strength, etc.'

## THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

When our first parents Adam and Eve had, by their disobedience to the Divine command, defiled our human nature with the guilt of sin, and drawn down the vengeance of heaven on themselves and their posterity, God in His infinite mercy promised that another Eve should one day appear on earth, who, by giving birth to the Saviour of the world, would repair the ruin brought on mankind through the malice of the devil. After some thousands of years of anxious expectation, during which the world groaned under the burden of sin, and the gates of heaven remained closed against the human race, the day of deliverance at length arrived. A solemn embassy was sent from heaven to negotiate with her, who from all eternity had been chosen to be the Mother of the Incarnate God, the important work of man's redemption. The ambassador was the great Archangel Gabriel; and she to whom his mission was directed was a humble virgin of the race of David, and was espoused to a poor but virtuous artisan named Joseph. The history of this great event, the greatest that the world has ever seen, is recorded by the Evangelist St. Luke, who probably learnt the particulars of this as well as of the other mysteries of our Lord's early life from the lips of our Blessed Lady herself.

It is to remind us of the infinite goodness of God as manifested in the Mystery of the Incarnation, and to honor Mary as the Mother of the Word made Flesh, that the Feast of the Annunciation has been instituted by the Church. For the same reasons the Angelus bell is sounded thrice each day—namely, morning, noon, and evening, when we are invited to meditate on the great mystery of a 'God made Man,' and to recite a prayer in honor of the Mother of the Redeemer.

## CHAIR OF ST. PETER AT ANTIOCH.

On this day is commemorated the establishment by St. Peter of his episcopal See at Antioch, whence for seven years he ruled the Church before finally fixing the seat of his spiritual government at Rome.

## ST. RUPERT, BISHOP AND CONFESSOR.

St. Rupert, a Frenchman illustrious for his noble birth, but still more so for his many virtues, was Bishop of Salzburg in Bavaria, the inhabitants of which country he had converted to the True Faith. He died about the beginning of the seventh century.

## ST. SIXTUS III., POPE AND CONFESSOR.

St. Sixtus succeeded Pope St. Celestine in 432. His pontificate lasted till 440. The meek and forgiving spirit of this Pope was shown by his many acts of kindness towards a Roman nobleman by whom he had been grievously slandered.

## ST. JOHN CAPISTRAN.

St. John Capistran was a disciple of St. Bernardine of Siena, and was born in 1385 at Capistrano, Italy. He showed great zeal and power in preaching; he traversed Italy, Austria, Moravia, Bohemia, Hungary, Poland, and part of Germany. He received the abjuration of 11,000 Hussites. To his zeal and eloquence, principally is ascribed the great victory, which, in 1456, the Christians, under the gallant Hanniades, gained at Belgrade, over Mohammed II.

A few weeks ago the Right Rev. Dr. Torreggiani, Bishop of Armidale, received a gold medal of the Order of Pro Ecclesia Pontifice from the Pope, in recognition of his great zeal and activity. The medal is in the form of a large solid gold Latin Cross with the head of the Pontiff raised in the centre, and the lettering 'Leo XIII. Pontifex Maximus.' The medal is accompanied by a brief parchment signed by Cardinal Rampolla, Secretary of State to the Papal Court. There are three degrees of the Order, and the Bishop obtained the first degree, and is the only recipient of this Order in the Australian colonies. There were only eight priests between Grafton and Quirindi when the Bishop arrived, but there are now over 40. Grafton was made a separate diocese in 1877. The Bishop was ordained 40 years ago, and was made subdeacon by Cardinal Baoffin, and deacon by Cardinal Viapiella, Archbishop of Bologna.