

continue to perfect our schools; and, with its able and devoted teachers, no Catholic school need be inferior to any other school. We must not relax our efforts till our schools have reached the highest educational excellence. With these cheerful hopes, and with hearts full of charity towards you and wholly devoted to your service, we fervently pray that the blessing of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, may descend upon you and abide in you for ever.

Given at Wellington, on this 19th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, 1902.

- ✠ FRANCIS REDWOOD, S.M.,
Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan.
- ✠ JOHN JOSEPH GRIMES, S.M.,
Bishop of Christchurch.
- ✠ MICHAEL VERDON,
Bishop of Dunedin.
- ✠ GEORGE M. LENIHAN,
Bishop of Auckland.

INTERCOLONIAL.

Mr. J. Tighe Ryan, the well-known Catholic journalist, of Sydney, was banqueted by his admirers recently. Monsignor O'Brien occupied the chair, and the toast of 'Our Guest' was proposed by the Rev. Father Fitzgerald, O.S.F.

The opening of the new Catholic Cathedral at Suva, Fiji, erected by his Lordship Dr. Vidal, S.M., has been postponed, pending the return of Cardinal Moran. It has been his Eminence's desire to visit the island.

The Rev. Father A. J. Shaw, M.S.H. (says the *Sydney Catholic Press*), is ministering in the Plague Hospital at Little Bay. Two years ago, it will be remembered, the Passionist Order supplied the priest for the Quarantine Station during the first deadly outbreak.

It is stated that his Eminence Cardinal Moran will probably return from Europe by way of the United States. Should he do so he is sure to meet with a very hearty reception, as he is well known by reputation there.

Eight Benedictine Brothers for the mission at New Norcia have arrived in Western Australia. The impression, so generally prevailing, that the New Norcia missionaries labor exclusively for the blacks is wrong: 'Their object is the good of all—blacks indeed first, but whites afterwards.'

The Rev. Father Peter O'Reilly, who has been appointed pastor of Latrobe, Tasmania, was given a most enthusiastic send-off at Hobart the other day. His Lordship Bishop Delany presided, and members of the Ministry and other prominent citizens were present, as well as a large number of priests. Bishop Delany referred to Father O'Reilly as a capable administrator and an ideal priest.

At the St. Patrick's Day banquet, in Sydney, Archbishop Kelly, pleading the cause of Ireland, said that they might hope that they might have an Irish Administration sitting in Dublin Castle and Irish members in the British Cabinet, and have Mr. John Dillon, Mr. John E. Redmond, and men of that kind invited by the King to bring peace and prosperity to ill-governed Ireland. Let them not keep Ireland in a second-rate position, as a footstool to Britain, and the clouds of misunderstanding would disappear. Ireland would then willingly forget the past.

The Very Rev. T. O'Connell, of Hay, after 28 years' pastoral work in the Riverina district, without a holiday, has entered upon a twelve months' vacation, and is a fellow-voyager with Cardinal Moran and Dean O'Haran on the R.M.S. *Ophir*, en route for Ireland. During his long connection with the Hay district Father O'Connell has won the affection of his own flock by his unselfish devotion to their interests; and as a citizen no man holds a higher place in the esteem of the general public of Hay than the Very Rev. gentleman who is now taking a well-earned holiday.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran had a very busy time of it before his departure for Rome. A correspondent enumerates some of the Cardinal's engagements for a few days before leaving. Last Thursday (says the writer) his Eminence blessed and opened a new convent for the Sisters of Mercy. For the same Order he blessed and opened a high school to-day in Surry Hills; to-morrow he lays the foundation-stone of additions to St. Vincent's Redfern; on Monday he lays the foundation-stone of a new home at Waitara, near Sydney. This building will cost over £8000. On Tuesday he will open the meeting of the delegates of the H.A.C.B. Society's Conference in the Sydney Town Hall, and will be the recipient of an address. On next Saturday he will open the new high school at the palatial convent of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan at Glebe Point, Sydney.

A meeting of the committee called to deal with the publication of an illustrated monograph on the work of his Eminence Cardinal Moran and the expansion of the charitable and educational institutions of the Catholic Church during his episcopacy in Australia was held in St. Mary's Cathedral presbytery the other day. His Grace Archbishop Kelly occupied the chair, and the Rev. Father O'Gean, as secretary, submitted a synopsis and plans for the publication, the preparation of which had been carried out by Messrs. T. Shortel and Co., acting in co-operation with Mr. D. H. Souter. On the motion of Mr. T. M. Slaterry, M.L.C., seconded by Mr. T. Dalton, the general approval of the committee was accorded to the work, and Messrs. T. Shortel and Co. were authorised to proceed with its production. It was also decided that half the profits of the publication should be devoted to the building fund of St. Mary's Cathedral.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- March 30, Sunday.—Easter Sunday.
- " 31, Monday.—Easter Monday.
- April 1, Tuesday.—St. Francis of Paula, Confessor.
- " 2, Wednesday.—Feria.
- " 3, Thursday.—Feria.
- " 4, Friday.—St. Vincent Ferrer, Confessor.
- " 7, Saturday.—St. Sixtus I., Pope and Confessor.

EASTER.

The name of Paschal time (says the 'Messenger of the Sacred Heart') is given to the period of weeks which extends from Easter to the Saturday after Pentecost. This is the most sacred portion of the year, which is easily understood when we consider the greatness of the festival of Easter, to which Christian antiquity has given the name of the Feast of Feasts, of the solemnity of solemnities. It is at Easter that the human race has risen after its fall, and entered into the possession of all they had lost by the sin of Adam. The period of 50 days which separates the festival of Easter from that of Pentecost has constantly been the object of special respect in the Church. The first week, consecrated to the mystery of the Resurrection, was celebrated with great pomp, and the others had also their devotion. The joy of which the 'Alleluia' is the expression belongs specially to this part of the year, for the entire Paschal time is like one great feast day. All that preceded it was only a preparation. The pious waiting during Advent, the sweet devotions of Christmas, the grave and severe thoughts of Septuagesima, the compunction and penitence of Lent, the sad spectacle of the Passion—all this series of sentiments and marvels only tended to lead us to the sublime end at which we have now arrived.

The Holy Fathers tell us that the 50 days of the Paschal time are the image of the eternal paradise. They are consecrated to joy; all sadness is banished, and the Church scarcely says one word or chants one song without mingling in it 'Alleluia,' this celestial cry which unceasingly re-echoes throughout the heavenly Jerusalem. During some weeks we have been separated from the hymns of admiration and joy, we had to die with Christ, our Victim; but now we are risen from the tomb, and are resolved, with God's grace, not to die any more this death which kills the soul, and which made our Redeemer expire on the cross, and so the 'Alleluia' is for us.

The practice befitting this holy time is the Christian joy that it must produce in the souls risen with Christ. This joy is a foretaste of the eternal happiness, and the Christian must henceforth maintain it in himself, ever seeking more ardently the life which is in our Divine Chief.

ST. FRANCIS OF PAULA.

St. Francis of Paula was the founder of the Order of Minim-Hermits about the year 1436. The rule of this Order surpasses in austerity even that of the Minorites, or Franciscans; to the usual three monastic vows St. Francis added a fourth, perpetual Lent and abstinence not only from meat but also from eggs and milk. In 1473 Pope Sixtus IV. gave his sanction to the new congregation, and named Francis its first Superior General. In 1495 Pope Alexander VI. formally confirmed the community as a mendicant Order under the title of 'Minim-Hermits,' giving it all the privileges possessed by the Mendicant Friars. Notwithstanding its extreme severity the Order spread rapidly throughout Italy, France, and Spain; within a few years it numbered 150 convents for men, and 11 for women. St. Francis, who died in 1507, was canonised in 1519 by Leo X.

The Very Rev. Father Gregory, Provincial of the Passionist Order in Australia, is now quite recovered from his illness. On the 14th of next month he goes to Dublin to attend the Provincial Chapter of the Order, which is to be held at the head house, Mount Argus. This Chapter is held every three years. Its object is to discuss affairs connected with the various parts of the province, of which Australia is a portion. Father Gregory is First Provincial Consultor to the Chapter about to be convened.

The fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of Maitland, occurs on to-morrow (Good Friday.) As it is impossible on the day to have any celebration. Dr. Murray, in a letter to the clergy of his diocese, says:—'I trust the clergy of the diocese will not forget me in their Masses on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 20th, 21st, and 22nd of April, and that your people will be good enough, at your suggestion, to offer up their Holy Communion for my intention on any of these days, as well as on Sunday, the 27th; also that the faithful will be kind enough to recite the rosary for my intention every day from the 20th of April till the 27th, either in their homes or in their respective churches. The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament I intend to be an act of reparation as well as of thanksgiving. I want all the priests, nuns, and people to join me in asking pardon of God for any Masses which I may have said negligently. The time cannot be far distant when I shall have to render an account to the Eternal Judge for those omissions and negligences that I may have been guilty of. In the next place I want you to join me in returning thanks to God for having protected me while a young inexperienced priest from the dangers of the world, and for having here in Australia placed me over a devoted clergy and faithful people, distinguished for their piety and devotion to religion.'