

INTERCOLONIAL.

His Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney blessed and opened a new church at Katoomba on last Sunday.

Mr T. O'Callaghan has been permanently appointed Commissioner of the Victorian Police at salary of £900 per year.

Of 8000 rats examined by the health authorities of Sydney since April 1, only 64 were found to be suffering from plague.

The population of Victoria on March 31 last was estimated by the Victorian Government statist to be 1,208,395.

The new presbytery has been completed at Dubbo at a cost of about £1500. The presbytery is a very fine building—in fact, among the finest in the place, commanding an extensive view of Dubbo and surroundings.

On Thursday, June 26, Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, to invoke the blessings of peace and prosperity on the Reign of King Edward VII. The vast building was filled, the whole of the seating accommodation being occupied.

The Melbourne *Advocate* has been permanently enlarged to 36 pages, and is much improved in appearance by a green cover. To keep pace with the times the proprietors have imported a font of Irish type, so that students of Gaelic can now express in its columns their thoughts and sentiments in Irish.

Major F. B. Freehill entertained Mr Thomas Curran at dinner on the eve of Mr Curran's departure for Ireland. Major Freehill, Mgr. O'Brien, and the Hon. John Meagher having eulogised Mr Curran's services to the Irish cause the toast of his health was drunk with enthusiasm. Mr Curran, in reply, said that it was his intention to finally settle down in Ireland. Several prominent citizens assembled at the boat to say farewell to Mr Curran.

Lady Rawson paid a visit the other day to St. Magdalen's Refuge, Tempe, at the invitation of Rev. Mother Dominic and the ladies of the committee for the Tempe ball, which was held in the Town Hall. Her ladyship, who drove out with Mrs John T. Toohey, was met on her arrival by the Rev. Mother and Sisters and the hon. secretaries (Mrs E. W. O'Sullivan and Mrs P. E. Quinn), and the hon. treasurer (Mrs W. F. Brennan), and the members of the committee. Lady Rawson was escorted through the Home, taking the keenest interest in each department. It was explained that the Refuge was started 15 years ago by the Rev. Mother Gertrude Byrne. Since then over £20,000 had been spent on buildings and machinery for the laundry work. The institution is self-supporting. A debt yet remains of £4000 on the buildings. The object of holding a ball annually by the ladies was to help to reduce this debt. Lady Rawson was particularly interested in the spotless state of the living apartments of the inmates, and in the laundry, where it was evident that no trouble or expense had been spared in fitting it up with the latest machinery, etc.

Not since the opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral in October 1897 (says the Melbourne *Advocate*) had so immense an assemblage been gathered within the four walls of the noble temple as that which assembled at the intercessory service for Edward VII on Sunday evening, June 29. The people began to assemble shortly after 5 p.m., and at 6 o'clock every available seat was filled. There were then some 6000 persons present. The stream of people continued to pour in right up to the hour appointed for the commencement of the intercessory service—7 o'clock. There was a strong force of police, who, however, found no little difficulty in keeping the passages clear, in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Health—a wise precaution, too, for were a panic to occur in such a closely packed assemblage, the result would have been disastrous to life and limb. A few minutes before 7 o'clock, Lord Hopetoun, accompanied by Captain E. W. Wallington, C.M.G. (Private Secretary) was received at the main entrance by the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, Adm. Very Rev. T. Lynch, P.P., and others of the clergy, Hon. J. G. Duffy, M.L.A., etc. On the left of the Earl of Hopetoun's party were His Excellency the Governor of Victoria (Sir George Sydneyham Clarke), Lady Clarke, and Captain C. V. Vallance (private secretary). Immediately behind the Vice-regal reserve were the Acting Prime Minister and Federal Attorney-General (Hon. Alfred Deakin, M.P.), and Mrs. Deakin. Senator R. E. O'Connor (N.S.W.), Senator J. H. Keating (Tasmania), Senator the Hon. J. G. Drake, Postmaster-General (Queensland), the President of the Legislative Council (Sir Henry Wrixon) and Lady Wrixon, Hon. J. G. Duffy, M.L.A., Lady and Miss Madden, the Mayor of Melbourne (Sir Samuel Gillott, M.L.A.), Sir Edward McKenzie, Captain Tickell (Naval Commander), Surgeon-General Colahan, Mr. P. J. O'Connor, M.L.A., Cr. D. V. Hennessy, M.L.A., and members of the Melbourne City Council. The occasional sermon was preached by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, which was based on the text, 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' In concluding, his Grace said: 'And now, your Excellency, who so worthily represents the King in this new Commonwealth of Australia, we desire, on the eve of your departure, and in the performance of almost your last official act in Victoria, to convey to you our appreciation of your uniform kindness and courtesy towards the Catholic section of the community. We had hoped that your residence amongst us would be prolonged, so that by your earnest zeal, tactful administration, and transparent sincerity, you might further assist and advance the cause of Australian unity. But as this is not to be, we thank you sincerely for the past, and we wish you and yours every happiness in the future. We are deeply gratified that his Majesty has added to the honors and decorations you so worthily bear, and we ask you on your return to England to convey to his Majesty the expression of our loyal attachment, and fervent joy and thankfulness to God for his happy recovery.'

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- July 20, Sunday.—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. St. Jerome Emilian, Confessor.
 „ 21, Monday.—St. Alexius, Confessor.
 „ 22, Tuesday.—St. Mary Magdalen, Penitent.
 „ 23, Wednesday.—St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr.
 „ 24, Thursday.—St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor.
 „ 25, Friday.—St. James, Apostle.
 „ 26, Saturday.—St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin.

ST. JEROME EMILIAN, CONFESSOR.

St. Jerome Emilian belonged to a noble Venetian family, distinguished for its many services to the State. Upon the death of his father, when he was about 15 years of age, he entered the army, to the great affliction of his mother, who soon beheld him fall into a dissolute way of life through the bad example of his companions. Having received a commission from the Venetian Senate to relieve the garrison of Castellanovo, which was invested by a German army, Jerome succeeded in effecting an entrance to the citadel, and in repelling for some time the assaults of the enemy. Upon the fall of the castle he was seized, loaded with chains, and cast into a dark dungeon. In these straits he began to reflect with anguish on the state of his soul, and with sighs and tears acknowledged the justice of God in thus treating him according to his merits. Suddenly a ray of hope penetrated his heart when he thought of the tender mercy of our Blessed Lady, and he made a vow on the spot, in case of his deliverance, to visit barefoot her celebrated shrine at Treviso, and there publish aloud her bounty in his regard. No sooner had he pronounced the words of his vow than Mary appeared to him in the midst of heavenly light, and giving him the keys of his fetters and of the prison door, conducted him through the midst of the enemy to the very gates of Treviso. As soon as he completed the terms of his vow he returned to Venice, and renouncing the honors and offices of the State, devoted himself henceforth to the service of God and the relief of the afflicted poor.

Jerome determined to establish a congregation of men who were willing to devote their lives to the relief of the needy and afflicted. The foundation of the new congregation was laid in the village of Somascha, not far from Milan, and there Jerome trained his first disciples. A frightful pestilence having broken out in Bergamo, Jerome hastened thither to minister to the wants of the victims of the plague. While employed in this charitable office he was himself attacked by the disease, and died happily at Somascha on February 8, A.D. 1537, at the age of 56.

ST. APOLLINARIS, BISHOP AND MARTYR

St. Apollinaris, who was the first Bishop of Ravenna, and the only one of this Church who suffered martyrdom, was, it is believed, a disciple of St. Peter. He is famous in Church history, although the acts of his life, such as we have them, are not authentic. His panegyric was pronounced by St. Peter Chrysologus, one of his successors. Hungary claims him as its apostle. His remains, formerly kept at Classe (ancient sea harbor four miles from Ravenna), were transferred in 549 into a vault of the same church. Pope Honorius founded a church at Rome in honor of St. Apollinaris about the year 630.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, CONFESSOR.

St. Vincent de Paul was born in 1576. The indications of ability which he exhibited led to his being sent to school at Toulouse. He was admitted to priest's orders in 1600. He laid the foundation of what eventually grew into the great and influential Congregation of 'Priests of the Missions.' Vincent's preaching was of the most simple kind, singularly affecting and progressive. He founded the Order of the 'Daughters of Charity' at Paris in 1634. The Order is popularly known by the title of 'The Sisters of Charity,' or 'Grey Nuns,' and its members have won for their Order as well as themselves the admiration, esteem, and well-deserved praise of all nations for their godlike ministrations to the sick and afflicted, during times of war and peace. St. Vincent died at the advanced age of 85, at St. Lazare, September 27, 1660; and was canonized by Clement XII. in 1737.

ST. ANNE MOTHER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

According to old traditions, the saintly mother of the Blessed Virgin, whose name, Anne, signifies grace, was descended on her father's side from the tribe of Levi, and on her mother's side from the tribe of Juda. She was born in Bethlehem and was married, while still a pure and pious virgin, to Joachim, a man of position, with whom she lived, occupied in pious works, and patiently conforming to the will of God in all things. When the pious couple had reached a very advanced age, in which they could scarcely expect to have children, an angel announced to them that they were to be blessed with a daughter whom they were to name Mary. And it occurred as foretold. In the autumn (September 8) following the announcement was born the holiest of God's creatures, the Queen of angels and of men, the chosen Mother of the Son of God, not so much the fruit of the body as she was the fruit of grace. Joachim and Anne brought this child Mary, at a very tender age, to Jerusalem, presenting her to the high-priest as an offering to God, to be brought up in the service of the temple. How long Anne lived after this sacrifice is not known, but she is now enthroned among the elect in heaven with her beloved child in glory. The devotion towards St. Anne is very great among the faithful. Her remains, first buried at Bethlehem, in the tomb of her parents, then transferred by the faithful into the Church of the Sepulchre of Notre-Dame, in the valley of Josaphat, were, finally, transferred into the Church of Apt, in Provence.