

INTERCOLONIAL

A handsome church, dedicated to St. Mary, Help of Christians, was opened by his Eminence Cardinal Moran at Lawson on April 13.

A bazaar, art union, and sports meeting in aid of the church and convent, Mansfield, to liquidate a debt on both these buildings, resulted in over £700 being obtained.

The following clerical changes have been made in the archdiocese of Sydney: The Rev. Father J. H. Morris, of Mount Carmel, has been appointed assistant priest to the Rev. Father P. J. Walshe, of St. Francis', Haymarket. The Rev. Father Thomas Barry, of St. James' Church, Forest Lodge, has been appointed as one of the professors of St. Patrick's College, Manly.

St. John the Baptist Church, Clifton Hill, was crowded on Palm Sunday, when his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 232 persons, including a large number of adults (some of them being converts), who had been prepared for Confirmation during the recent mission given in St. John's by the Vincentian Fathers.

A pioneer priest in the person of the Very Rev. Dr. Hallinan passed away at the Home for Aged Priests, Sydney, on April 8, having attained the venerable age of 91 years. The deceased had been an inmate of the home for about ten years, and three years ago his sight became so impaired that he had been incapacitated from celebrating Mass. He passed away holding the hand of the venerable Archpriest Sheehy, who, though in his 76th year, was once his pupil, quite conscious up to a few minutes before he breathed his last. Dr. Hallinan was a native of the North of Ireland. He came to Australia in deacon's orders from Maynooth, where he read a distinguished course, with the late Archbishop Polding, in the year 1843. In the same year he was ordained to the priesthood together with the Very Rev. Dr. Grant, the Rev. Fathers McGinnes, Dunphy, and the Very Rev. Dean Kenny, in old St. Mary's Cathedral. Before long Father Hallinan was appointed to the Rectorship of St. Mary's Seminary, at the same time being appointed professor of theology. In recognition of his profound knowledge of theology and his writings in defence of the Church, he received, on the recommendation of Dr. Polding, the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Rome. Subsequently Dr. Hallinan was appointed to a mission at Parramatta, where he remained for some years, and was afterwards for the long period of 22 years in charge of the Windsor district. From there finally he retired broken down in health. Dr. Hallinan was of a remarkably retiring disposition, all his good works being performed with a jealous regard to secrecy. It was known, however, that among the many objects which claimed his attention was the Mill Hill Mission, London. The local charities which received his assistance were numerous. The obsequies were carried out by Archpriest Sheehy assisted by the Right Rev. Monsignor Carroll, V.G., and the Rev. Father Ginisty, S.M., and the Rev. Father Tallon, S.M.

At a meeting held in Sydney recently with reference to the proposed South Sea excursion, Mr. Spruson, hon. secretary to the committee having charge of the arrangements, gave an outline of the scheme. He said the idea of the excursion had originated from an invitation to Cardinal Moran by the Marist Fathers at Suva, Fiji, to attend the opening ceremonies in connection with the new cathedral. Others had expressed a wish to attend the ceremonies, and so the possibility of an excursion had been suggested. Some preliminary steps had been taken, but no arrangements had been completed. They were in treaty with one of the shipping companies to charter one of the finest vessels in the Australian waters. She was capable of doing 15 knots, and had saloon accommodation for 200 passengers. A visit would be made to all the points of interest in the South Sea Islands, and the opportunity would be given of studying the work of the Catholic missions. The trip was not to be of a religious character, and anyone who was broad-minded enough to join them would be welcome. No exact estimate of the cost could be made until they knew how many would make the trip. They already had more than 50 applications, and he had no doubt that they would readily obtain the boat's full complement before August, when the trip was to be made. In that case the cost could be put down at £45 or £50 each. Mr. Spruson further explained that those who engaged in the excursion were not expected to give donations to any function or institution en route. In this respect the excursion would stand entirely on its own bottom. Steamship companies in Europe which organised excursions to Norway and other places of interest, usually charged the excursionists three guineas per day. The proposed South Sea Islands excursion would provide equally good accommodation at a cost of about 25s per day. The cause of this great disparity is simply that, while in the case of the companies the desire is to obtain a profit on the venture, there is no such desire in connection with the South Sea excursion. Another difference is that while in the one case there is a very mixed company, in the other the utmost care will be taken to exclude undesirable elements. Father Le Rennelet also made a brief explanation of the scope of the proposed excursion and the pleasure in store for those taking part. He explained that ladies would be admitted under proper restrictions, and that no one would be debarred by reason of religion from joining in—the one essential being respectability.

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- May 3, Sunday.—Third Sunday after Easter. The Finding of the Holy Cross.
 „ 4, Monday.—St. Monica, Widow.
 „ 5, Tuesday.—St. Pius V., Pope and Confessor.
 „ 6, Wednesday.—St. John before the Latin Gate.
 „ 7, Thursday.—St. Benedict II., Pope and Confessor.
 „ 8, Friday.—Apparition of St. Michael.
 „ 9, Saturday.—St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop, Confessor and Doctor.

Finding of the Holy Cross.

St. Helena, having gone to Jerusalem, ordered the destruction of a temple of Venus, built over the tomb of Christ. Then, upon excavating to a great depth, the holy sepulchre, and near it three crosses, also the nails which had pierced our Saviour's body, and the title which had been affixed to His cross, were found. The true cross was recognised by the miracles which it wrought. St. Helena sent a part of the cross to Constantinople and left the other part at Jerusalem, where it was encased in a silver box and preserved in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which had been erected on the spot of the discovery. The Church has consecrated this event by the institution of the feast of the 'Finding of the Holy Cross,' which is celebrated on May 3. Chosroes II., King of Persia, having taken Jerusalem, carried off the relic (614), which was recaptured 14 years later under Siroes, his son and successor, by the Emperor Heraclius. Both the Greek and Latin Churches still celebrate this victory, on September 14, by the feast of the 'Exaltation of the Cross.'

St. Pius V., Pope and Confessor.

St. Pius V. was Pope from 1566 to 1572. His Pontificate, though extending over a period of only six years, was most advantageous to the Church. With indefatigable zeal he labored in restoring the discipline and restoring the canons of reformation promulgated at Trent. He obliged bishops to reside in their sees, and enjoined the strictest seclusion of both monks and nuns.

St. Benedict II., Pope and Confessor.

St. Benedict II. succeeded, in 684, Leo II., in the Chair of St. Peter. He occupied it only 10 months and 12 days, but with so much zeal and virtue that he was admitted amongst the number of saints.

St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop and Doctor.

St. Gregory, surnamed Nazianzen from the city of his birth, was born in the reign of Emperor Constantine, and was a native of Cappadocia in Asia Minor. His mother, brother, and sister are all numbered among the saints. So also is the father of this holy family, likewise called Gregory, who, after his conversion to the Christian faith, was consecrated Bishop of Nazianzen, and governed that See for five and forty years, dying at an extremely old age.

After completing his studies in Cappadocia, Gregory repaired to Athens, a celebrated school of learning, where he was joined by St. Basil, with whom he was united by the most intimate ties of friendship. After quitting Athens Gregory returned to Nazianzen and for some years employed himself in assisting his father in the management of his affairs. He then retired into the solitudes of Pontus, but was soon afterwards recalled to Nazianzen by his aged father, who desired his assistance. Knowing his son's reluctance to undertake the heavy charge of the priesthood, the good Bishop ordained him by force and when he least expected it.

After the death of his father Gregory, who had already received episcopal consecration, was invited to undertake the charge of the Church in Constantinople. In a short time he succeeded in winning over the greater part of the inhabitants to the Catholic faith, but the success which attended his efforts aroused the jealousy of the neighboring bishops. Whereupon Gregory, in order to quell the rising storm, resigned the See into the hands of a worthy successor and returned to his native province. The rest of the Saint's life was spent in retirement in the neighborhood of Nazianzen, though he still continued to help the Church by his prudent counsels. At length, worn out by his austerities and constant infirmities, he passed to his eternal reward about A.D. 390. His learned writings and eminent services in defence of the faith have merited for him the title of 'Doctor of the Universal Church.'

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