

INTERCOLONIAL

The Right Rev. Mgr. Rigney, the oldest priest in Australia, died during the week; aged 89 years.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran blessed and opened the new additions to the Convent of St. Joseph, North Sydney, on Sunday last.

The Rev. Brother Barron has been appointed Provincial of the Christian Brothers in Australia in succession to the late Rev. Brother Mullan, to whom Brother Barron was Consultor.

At a Government sale of land recently the Very Rev. Dr. Barry, administrator of the Sandhurst diocese, purchased a large area at Grassy Flat, on which it is proposed to erect an orphanage similar to the institution at Abbotsford. The cost will be defrayed out of the estate of the late Dr. Bacchauss.

Preparations for the trip to the South Sea Islands are going on apace in Sydney. It is reported that many prominent members of the Catholic laity throughout the Commonwealth have applied for berths, and will be accompanied by their wives and daughters. A cable message received last week stated that Messrs. Huddart, Parker and Co's fine steamer Victoria has been chartered for the trip.

Sunday, May 3 (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), will be memorable in the Catholic annals of Armidale as the occasion of the first local consecration of a bishop. The Cardinal will be the consecrating prelate, and we understand that his Eminence will be assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Lismore. Other bishops will also be present. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Donovan (Mudgee) will preach the occasional sermon, and a special discourse will be delivered in the evening by Father Fitzgerald, O.F.M.

Cardinal Moran a few Sundays ago entertained the deputies to the biennial meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society at the Palace, Manly. Much interest was taken by the visitors in his Eminence's fine collection of art treasures and articles of archaeological interest and relics of the saints. His Eminence showed in a state of splendid preservation the prayer book used by Mary Queen of Scots, the gold watch of the venerable Oliver Plunkett; a metal altar chalice of the days of persecution, and ancient Irish rosary beads. With characteristic courtesy he related the historical circumstances surrounding each object. The visitors, through Mr. John Toohey, afterwards accorded his Eminence a vote of thanks.

At Little Lonsdale street, Melbourne, the Sisters of St. Joseph conduct a school entirely for Syrian children. The institution at present trains 120 children. The building was erected at a cost of £1350. This money was received by bequest, so that no public appeal was made for the liquidation of the debt. Who the donor was appears to be kept a close secret. A few days ago the children were entertained by a generous benefactor of the Sisters—Mr. P. F. Kavanagh—at a picnic at Brighton Beach. Among those present were the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, the Rev. D. McKillop, S.J., and the Rev. L. Martin.

Active preparations are going on at Paddington in connection with the opening of the new convent for the Sisters of Charity. For 17 years the nuns in charge of St. Francis' schools had to go forwards and backwards every day from St. Vincent's College and the Monte Oliveto Convent at Woollahra, under trying circumstances and in all kinds of weather. Lately a very desirable piece of property fell into their hands which they intend to make their headquarters, both for Paddington and the Sacred Heart. It is situated in Gordon street, in close proximity to St. Francis' Church and school, and has been hitherto known as 'The Towers.'

An event of considerable interest to the Catholics of Melbourne took place a few Sundays ago, when the foundation stone of the new Cathedral Hall was laid, and the new club rooms in Brunswick street were opened. There was a large and representative gathering present, amongst whom were his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, his Lordship the Bishop of Ballarat, and a large number of clergy. The general public and Catholic laity were represented by the Mayor, the Postmaster-General, the Chief Secretary, Hon. Nicholas Fitzgerald, Hon. J. G. Duffy, M.L.A., Hon. D. V. Hemmsey, M.L.A., Doctors Kenny, O'Donnell and Ryan, etc. At the invitation of the Archbishop the Lord Mayor, Sir Samuel Gillott, opened the club, class, and society rooms, and made an appropriate speech, an address being also given by the Hon. John Murray, M.L.A. Later on the Archbishop laid the foundation stone of the new hall, which will be connected with the club rooms just opened. At the completion of the ceremony addresses were delivered by the Archbishop, Senator Drake, Hon. N. Fitzgerald, Hon. J. G. Duffy, Dr. Kenny, and others. A large number of subscriptions, of which the following were the principal, were received:—His Grace the Archbishop, £1000; Monsignor O'Hea, £500; Bishop Reville (Bendigo), £105; Bishop Moore (Ballarat), £100; Dean Phelan, £100; Sir Samuel Gillott, £100; Mr. T. Loughlin (Ballarat), £100; Mr. D. G. Cullen, £100; Mr. T. E. Verga, £100; Mrs. Mary Brude, £100; Catholic Young Men's Society, £100; St. Francis' Parish, £100; A Friend, £100; League of the Cross, £50; Miss Mary Coughlan, £50; Very Rev. T. Lynch, P.P., £50; Very Rev. W. Quilter, £50; Mr. M. Hood, £40; Mrs. J. F. Hughes, £30; Children of Mary Society, £30. The total cost of the club rooms is about £7000 and of this amount £4500 was received up to and at the formal opening.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- May 17, Sunday.—Fifth Sunday after Easter. St. John of Nepomuk, Martyr.
 „ 18, Monday.—Rogation. St. Venantius, Martyr.
 „ 19, Tuesday.—Rogation. St. Peter Celestine, Pope and Confessor.
 „ 20, Wednesday.—Rogation. St. Bernardin of Siena, Confessor.
 „ 21, Thursday.—Feast of the Ascension.
 „ 22, Friday.—St. Pascal Baylon, Confessor.
 „ 23, Saturday.—St. John Baptist de Rossi, Confessor.

St. John of Nepomuk.

St. John of Nepomuk, patron of Bohemia, was born at Nepomuk between 1340-50. Having become priest, he refused three bishoprics and accepted only a Canonicate of Prague. Refusing to reveal to King Wenceslaus the secret of confession of Queen Joane, his wife, whose fidelity the King suspected, he was thrown into prison, then drowned in the Moldau, March 20, 1393. He was canonised by Pope Benedict XIII. in 1729.

Rogation Days.

The observance of Rogation Days—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday—owes its origin to a variety of calamities that befel the city of Vienne in Dauphine. For more than half a century, not a year, not even a season, passed without Dauphine and Savoy being afflicted with some new evils. So many misfortunes had reduced these provinces to a state of extreme desolation. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne (and who is honored as a saint), in the liveliness of his faith and charity, offered up prayers and tears to appease the wrath of God. He was heard. Stopping a conflagration which devoured his cathedral, on Easter night (469), he made a vow to institute the 'Rogations.' The Rogations are litanies, or supplications, which consist in solemn procession, accompanied with public fast and prayer. With the general consent of the clergy and people, the three days preceding Ascension Day (Thursday) were chosen for the fulfilment of this vow. This example was soon followed everywhere. A decree of the First Council of Orleans, in 514, established the Rogations in Gaul, and from there the practice was introduced into Spain and other countries.

St. Peter Celestine, Pope.

St. Peter Celestine was a native of southern Italy, and was born of virtuous parents, who made every sacrifice to advance his education. Considering the salvation of his soul to be the primary object of his attention, he retired at the age of 20 to a solitary mountain, where he hallowed a small cave. Here he led the life of a hermit, practising great austerities and spending his time in prayer and contemplation. Forced by obedience to present himself for Holy Orders, Peter was ordained at Rome, but soon returned to his former way of life. The fame of the sanctity of the holy hermit attracted to him numerous disciples who lived in scattered cells on the mountain side. At length he gathered them together in a monastery, in which the rule of St. Benedict was observed in its primitive severity. This new reform received the approbation of the Pope, and spread throughout the country. After 50 years spent in the eremitical and monastic life, Peter, toward the end of his days, saw himself called by the unanimous vote of the Cardinals to take upon his shoulders the Government of the Universal Church. The news of his election fell upon him like a thunderbolt, and finding remonstrances unavailing he took to flight in company with one of his monks. He was intercepted, and, being brought back, found himself obliged to submit to the burden. At his consecration he took the name of Celestine V., but he did not long retain the unwelcome dignity, for, after four months' reign, he summoned a council of the Cardinals and read before them a formal act of abdication. On Whit Sunday, 1296, after hearing Mass with extraordinary fervor, he announced that he should die before the end of the week. Immediately afterwards he sickened of a fever, and received the Holy Sacraments. On Saturday, May 19, as he uttered the last words of the Psalms for Lauds, 'Let every spirit praise the Lord,' he calmly expired at the age of 75.

St. Bernardin of Siena.

St. Bernardin of Siena was a Franciscan religious. He was a famous preacher of penance. He conducted missions in nearly all the cities of Italy, and the effects which his sermons everywhere produced is said to have been overwhelming. He was surnamed 'The Trumpet of Heaven,' 'The Evangelical Preacher.'

The following is the text of a message sent to the Holy Father by the Conference of the H.A.C.B. Society which sat lately in Sydney:—'We, the delegates of the Hibernian Society assembled in Sydney from all the federated States of Australia and New Zealand, offer, through his Eminence Cardinal Moran, our most hearty congratulations to our Most Holy Father the Pope on this the auspicious day of his attaining the days of Peter.'