

## INTERCOLONIAL

The Right Rev. Dr. Broyer, S.M., has left Sydney for the German Solomons.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration in Adelaide resulted in a net profit of £140 8s 2d, the amount being placed to the credit of the Archdiocesan Debt Fund.

The Rev. Father Moynagh, of Balmain West, has been appointed a Fellow of St. John's College in place of the Very Rev. Dean Healy.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne presided at a grand concert in the Town Hall, which was given in aid of the funds of the Christian Brothers' Novitiate, Dublin.

The Rev. Father B. Sheridan was tendered a banquet at the Camden School of Arts by his parishioners prior to his departure for Ireland. He was presented with a cheque for £100.

The 'Catholic Press' states the value of the presents to the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, on the occasion of his consecration, totalled over £600—this is apart from the £120 received in sovereigns from the laity of the diocese.

At the annual meeting of St. Patrick's Altar Society, Ballarat, it was stated that £265 had been collected during the year. Of this, about £204 had been spent on requirements of the sanctuary, and there was a balance of £61.

The increase of population of Western Australia still continues. It is estimated that the total in April was 220,762 (males 133,745, females 87,017). The net increase on the month is 1268, the excess of births over deaths being 308, and of arrivals over departures 960.

The Rev. Father Cassidy, P.P., Moruya, on the occasion of his feast day, was entertained by the pupils of the convent schools, who presented him with a fruit service and jam dish. The primary school pupils gave him a dinner set, and the Children of Mary a tea service.

A distinguished Hungarian, the Right Rev. Mgr. the Count Vay de Vay and Lusked, is at present in Queensland. His visit is entirely unofficial, and he is simply making a tour of the world gathering information about various countries. He has been already through India, Siberia, Korea, China, and the Philippines.

The Mother-General of the Loretto Nuns will shortly arrive in Sydney by the R.M.S. Oratava. The Mother-General has been visiting the various convents in India, and before returning to Europe will spend some time in each convent of the Order in the Australian States. She is accompanied by the head of the famous School of Music at Rathfrilandham, Dublin.

The Sydney correspondent of the Adelaide 'Southern Cross' understands that the next Catholic Congress, which was due in Melbourne in November, has been postponed until next Easter. The new Catholic hall in Melbourne, where the congress will assemble, will not be ready till Easter time. It is probable that Archbishop Carr will accompany the Cardinal to the South Sea Islands.

The Very Rev. Dean Hegarty has returned to Melbourne from Europe. There was a large number of his brother priests and representative members of the laity to welcome the Dean, who is in excellent health and spirits. The very rev. gentleman was to be entertained at dinner by the priests of the Kyneton deanery at Kyneton on May 7. In the evening of the same day his parishioners were to present him with an address of welcome, on which occasion also the Rev. T. S. Collins (the locum tenens) was to receive a presentation.

At the High Mass which was celebrated at Woolwich on the feast of the Blessed Peter Chanel, the first martyr of Oceania, there was noticeable in the sanctuary (says the 'Freeman's Journal') a venerable and interesting old gentleman, in the person of the Rev. Brother Florentine. To this venerable figure the Very Rev. Father Ginsty made a special reference. Brother Florentine had had the singular privilege of being associated in the early part of his life as altar boy to the Rev. Father Chanel. He also spent some time in the Island of Futuna, but left some time before Father Chanel's martyrdom. The memories which Brother Florentine cherishes most dearly are those of his early association with the proto-martyr of the Antipodes, and he relates some interesting stories of Blessed Chanel's life among the implacable dark men of Futuna. Brother Florentine presents a striking appearance, his long beard and flowing hair, whitened with the snows of 90 years, or perhaps we should say bleached with the droughts, spent mostly in religious life, recall the pictures one is accustomed to see of medieval Cistercians and Premonstratensians. Withal he is but slightly stooped, and when the Villa Maria bell chimes out the hour of five and wakes the clerical community to Matins and Lauds, Brother Florentine is among the first, rosary in hand, to be found in the Brothers' stalls. The venerable Brother's health and strength are remarkable, and in spite of his advanced age he actively assists with the work of sacristan and other duties of the choir, and may be seen any Sunday lighting the tapers on the High Altar at ten o'clock Mass.

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## Friends at Court

### CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- May 21, Sunday.—Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians.  
 „ 25, Monday.—St. Gregory VII., Pope and Confessor.  
 „ 26, Tuesday.—St. Philip Neri, Confessor.  
 „ 27, Wednesday.—St. John I., Pope and Martyr.  
 „ 28, Thursday.—Octave of the Ascension.  
 „ 29, Friday.—St. Boniface IV., Pope and Confessor.  
 „ 30, Saturday.—Vigil of Pentecost.

#### Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians.

This feast was instituted by Pope Pius VII. at the beginning of last century. Napoleon, in his ambitious attempt to become autocrat of the world, found a formidable obstacle in the opposition of the Supreme Pontiff, who refused to surrender the patrimony of the Church, or to allow the French Emperor to control the management of ecclesiastical affairs. As a consequence of his firmness, Pius VII. was detained in captivity for several years. In gratitude for his liberation, which seemed an answer to the prayers of the Church, invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin on his behalf, he ordered the present feast to be celebrated. Under the title of 'Help of Christians,' the Blessed Virgin Mary has been selected as principal patron of the Catholic Church of Australasia.

#### St. Gregory VII., Pope and Confessor.

St. Gregory, or Hildebrand as he was called before his elevation to the Papacy, was a native of Italy. Of the great men who have sat in the chair of Peter he was one of the greatest. He was a strenuous reformer of abuses and a fearless upholder of the rights of the Church against the encroachments of the civil power. Imprisoned by a rebellious noble whose crimes he had censured, besieged in the castle of St. Angelo by Henry IV. of Germany, rescued by the Norman Duke of Calabria, he died in exile at Salerno, A.D. 1085, after a Pontificate of nearly twelve years.

#### St. Philip Neri, Confessor.

St. Philip Neri, the founder of the Congregation of the Oratory, was borne at Florence in 1513, and died at Rome in 1595. He established (1548) the Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity, destined to take care of foreign pilgrims. Having been ordained priest (1551), he devoted himself to the education of children, and for this work associated himself with other ecclesiastics, who were called Oratorians. He soon formed a Congregation of these associates, whose statutes were approved by Gregory XIII. in 1575.

#### St. John I., Pope and Martyr.

St. John was chosen to succeed Pope Hormisdas in 523. Cast into prison by the Arian king of the Goths, he succumbed to the hardships inflicted upon him (A.D. 526).

#### St. Boniface IV., Pope and Confessor.

St. Boniface governed the Church for nearly seven years. His death occurred in 614.

#### Vigil.

The day that immediately precedes a feast is called a vigil or watch, because in ancient times the faithful assembled in the churches on the eve of the solemnities, and passed therein a part of the night in praising God by singing psalms and reading Holy Scripture. Several abuses having crept into these nocturnal assemblies, the Church suppressed them, with the exception of the vigil of Christmas. The office commenced generally about nine o'clock in the evening, and ended about one o'clock in the morning. The Church has instituted the fast of the vigils of certain great feasts, in order that detaching ourselves through penance and mortification from the inordinate love which we have for our body, we may elevate ourselves more easily to spiritual and divine things, and celebrate more worthily the great mysteries of religion. If the vigil of a feast falls on a Sunday, as, according to the apostolic constitutions, it is not permitted to fast on this day, because it is a day of rejoicing, the fast is advanced and kept on Saturday. Some vigils are celebrated without fasting, like that of Epiphany and of the Ascension, the reason why the Church has not prescribed fasting on these days is because it appears incompatible with the joy with which the Birth and Resurrection of Christ inspire us. The vigils of feasts are fast days of obligation.

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