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### CATHOLIC NEWS.

(From the *Catholic Times*, May 4)

PREACHING at St Augustine's, Preston, on Sunday evening, the Rev Father Payne, S.J., said it was to be feared that England was becoming pagan rather than Christian.

The Very Rev Father Gregory, Provincial of the Passionists, will sail on the 17th inst. for Australia to make the canonical visitation of the members of the Congregation at Sydney and Geulburn. He will return in October.

Rev J. G. F. Reupert, whose conversion we announced last week, was born and educated abroad. He was ordained by the late Bishop of St Albans in 1887, and appointed to the curacy of a large parish in Essex. After that he held a curacy in Kent for nearly three years, and early in 1893 was appointed to an incumbency in the West of England.

Abbé Tolstoi, a Russian priest, who recently joined the Roman Church, is studying in the Grottaferatta Monastery and will probably be sent to take charge of the Oriental Seminary which has been formed at Constantinople by the Pope. The annual Roman exodus has begun, and although the city is still full of visitors of all nationalities, a marked thinning in the Pincio crowd is daily witnessed. Several Bishops, paying their *ad limina* visits to Rome, were received in special audience by his Holiness this week.

When Cardinal Vaughan was in Rome he sowed the first seeds of union and fraternity between many hitherto antagonistic elements. The gradual evolution witnessed in Rome of late is truly marvellous and we daily learn that parties who once refused to even recognise each other in the most ordinary social gatherings, now cordially seek each other's society in the evident wish to forget the past and be reconciled in the future.

The subscription opened under the auspices of the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris for the decoration of the French chapel of the Basilica of Loretto, in Italy, having reached the sum of 50,000 francs, the work is about to be commenced. It is believed that in the religious and artistic rivalry of various nations as regards the decoration of their various chapels in the Basilica, France will take a very prominent, if not a pre-eminent place.

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan has transmitted through the Rev Philip Fletcher, president, his blessing to the members of the Catholic Journalists' Guild. The first annual Mass will be said (by kind permission of the Very Rev Father, Bone) at St Etheldreda's, Ely-place, in the upper church, at 10 o'clock, on Sunday, May 19th (the Feast of St Dunstan), by the rev president. All members of the guild are requested to attend. The following is the full list of vice-presidents of the guild: Mrs M. Blundell, Mr James Britten, Mr

Percy Fitzgerald, the Rev John Gerard, S.J., Mrs A. M. Grange, Mrs K. Hinkson, Mrs Maynell, Mr J. C. Millage, Mr B. Partridge, Mr Clemeant Scott, and Mr T. D. Sullivan, M.P.

On the 7th of May, at the Congress of the Congregation of Bites, the favourable decision for the beatification of the martyred Benedictine Abbots and their companions will be given. The same decision will be issued also with regard to Earl Percy and Sir Adrian Fortescue, who were martyred later, and whose beatification had been deferred also. The following is the list of the Benedictine martyrs: B. Richard Whiting, Abbot of Glastonbury; B. Hugh Cooke, Abbot of Beading; B. John Beche (or Marshall), Abbot of Colchester. Their four companions were: John Thorne, Roger James, John Rugg, James Eynon—of whom the two former were Benedictines, the two latter possibly Benedictines, but more probably secular priests. There are consequently nine in the formal Decree whose beatification will be published shortly after the decision of May 7th.

One of the most learned English scholars and Latinists in Rome has made the following strictly literal translation of the Holy Father's prayer for England which terminates his recent letter: "O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, our sweetest Queen and Mother, turn thine eyes of Mercy upon England, named thy 'dowry,' turn them on us who trust in thee with an entire confidence. Through thee was given Christ the Saviour of the world, in whom our hope was to be grounded: by Him in return wast thou then given to us that this hope might be increased. Pray for us, whom thou, most sorrowful Mother, didst take as thy children at the foot of the Lord's Cross. Intercede for our separated brethren, that in one true fold they may be united with us to the Chief Shepherd, the earthly Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, most loving Mother, that by Faith, fruitful in good works, we may all merit with thee to behold God in the heavenly Fatherland, and to praise Him for all eternity. Amen."

The Abbé Garnier, commenting on the letter of his Holiness Leo XIII., to the English nation, observes that the language is in the largest sense that of an apostle and priest speaking to a people by education and custom religious, to a people formed by the Bible and not unchristianised by pagan literature. The English institutions, he says, rest upon the Holy Scriptures and Canon law and not like those of France on Roman law. "The Pope," adds the leading spirit of the *Peuple Français* "does not treat as between one power and another; he does not speak of the conditions of a rapprochement. The Catholic Church—as the *Times* has perfectly understood—cannot accept any compromise. It is, therefore, on the supernatural power of prayer alone that Leo XIII. rests the supreme hope of his pontificate. And a great and touching spectacle is that of the glorious Pontiff foreseeing 'an end that cannot be long delayed,' and filled with love for the great flock of Christians, appealing to a people that repudiate his

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