

INTERCOLONIAL

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne contributed £500 towards the building fund of the new Cathedral Hall, which was opened recently.

Rev. Fathers W. Lee (Brisbane), M. Ryan (Ipswich) and P. Fouhy (Laidley) left for Ireland, via America, on April 20. They will be absent about twelve months.

The parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church, Mount Morgan, Queensland, have presented the Rev. Father T. F. Cahill with a purse of sovereigns on the eve of his departure on a trip in search of health.

The net proceeds of the Geelong St. Patrick's Day sports and dramatic entertainment totalled £95, and the fete on behalf of the funds of the Hibernian Club returned a profit of £147.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran laid the foundation stone of a new church at Riverstone a few Sundays ago. The cost of the church will be over £800, of which sum £350 were in hand before the foundation stone was laid.

The monument erected to the memory of the late Father Murphy, of Parramatta, was unveiled last Sunday at the new cemetery, Liverpool. A tender for the erection of a new presbytery at St. Patrick's, Parramatta, in memory of the late Father Murphy, has been accepted, the contract price being £1200.

The members of the H.A.C.B. Society (says the Brisbane 'Age') have entrusted to Mr. Rafter, monumental mason, of Nudgee, the work of carving out the marble tablet to be placed by them in St. Stephen's Cathedral in memory of the late Pope Leo XIII. His Grace the Archbishop, to whom the design was submitted, highly approved of it.

The proceeds of the Sydney St. Patrick's Day celebration have been allotted. A cheque for £65 is to be presented to each of the following charitable institutions: Waitara Foundling Home, Liverpool Orphanage, Kincumber Orphanage, Manly Industrial School, Baulkham-hills Orphanage, Westmead Boys' Home, Ryde Orphanage, and Gore-hill Orphanage.

Rev. Father Hennessy, who has been in charge of the Lilydale mission for the past twelve years, has been granted a few months' leave of absence by the Archbishop of Melbourne, and proposes to take a trip to Europe. The rev. gentleman, whose health has not been good for some time, is to be presented with a purse of sovereigns and an address by each of the three districts of his mission.

Rev. W. Brown, Methodist minister of Townsville, and Mr. Joseph Duffell, of Melbourne, have both written to Rev. Father Duhig, of Ipswich, expressing their grateful thanks for his kindness towards them on board the s.s. 'Barcoo', after they had been picked up in the sixth boat from the wreck of the 'Aramac.' Mr. Brown's letter concludes as follows:—'I shall never forget your kindness, and recognise in it the true spirit of our one Lord. Pray accept my grateful regards.'

A presentation of 150 sovereigns, with an address, has been made to the Rev. D. Horan, of Bacchus Marsh, who is taking a holiday for nine months. During his stay of eighteen years at Bacchus Marsh the Rev. D. Horan has led the way in building a church, a presbytery, a convent, and a day school, and in extensively repairing another church. The presentation was made on behalf of the parish by Cr. T. Cain, J.P., who mentioned that some donations, unsolicited, had come from outside the denomination. The Rev. Father Hennessy, of Lilydale, accompanies Father Horan.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Higgins, Bishop of Rockhampton, has recovered sufficiently to attend his church duties. He was able to preside at the Holy Week ceremonies. It will also be heard with pleasure that he is regaining his usual strength, and that it is hoped he will soon be able to resume fully his episcopal work. The number of telegrams received in Rockhampton during Bishop Higgins' illness, making kind inquiries about the condition of his Lordship, was very large. They came from all parts of Australia, and from the highest dignitaries in Church and State. The Rev. Father Battle (Administrator of St. Joseph's Cathedral) had a busy time of it answering them.

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Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- May 1, Sunday.—Fourth Sunday after Easter. SS. Philip and James, Apostles.
- .. 2, Monday.—St. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
- .. 3, Tuesday.—The Finding of the Holy Cross.
- .. 4, Wednesday.—St. Monica, Widow.
- .. 5, Thursday.—St. Pius V., Pope and Confessor.
- .. 6, Friday.—St. John before the Latin Gate.
- .. 7, Saturday.—St. Benedict II., Pope and Confessor.

SS. Philip and James, Apostles.

St. Philip was a native of Bethsaida. After the descent of the Holy Ghost he preached in Scythia and Phrygia. He lived to an advanced age and received the crown of martyrdom in Phrygia. St. James the Less was a brother of the Apostle St. Jude. He was called to the Apostolate in the second year of our Lord's public ministry. He was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, and took a prominent part in the Councils of the Apostles held in that city in 51. He was stoned to death in 62.

St. Athanasius.

St. Athanasius, surnamed the Great, the greatest luminary among the Oriental Doctors, was the defender of the Church against the Arian heresy. He was born at Alexandria about the year 296, ordained deacon in 319, and was chosen by Alexander, his bishop, to accompany him to the Council of Nice. To his acuteness, learning, and eloquence in that Council was principally owing the condemnation of Arianism. On the death of Alexander in 328 Athanasius became Patriarch of Alexandria, and during 45 years he withstood, often almost alone, the whole brunt of the Arian assault. He stood unmoved against four Roman emperors, was banished five times, was the butt of every wrong and calumny the Arians could devise, and lived in constant peril of death. Firm and unbending in defence of the Catholic faith, he merited the honorable title of 'Father of Orthodoxy.' He closed his stormy life in peace in 373. With few exceptions, the numerous works of St. Athanasius have an apologetical and polemical tenor, having been written in defence of Catholicity against paganism and heresy. His dictation and style are clear, full of deep sense, strength, and solid reasoning. The first of his works are his two discourses, 'Against the Gentiles' and 'On the Incarnation,' which form one work addressed to a convert from heathenism, and which were written before the Arian controversy had broken out. Most of his other works have a direct bearing upon that heresy. St. Athanasius is, however, not the author of the famous Creed bearing his name, as it was compiled in Latin in the fifth or sixth century.

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, 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. Monica, Widow.

St. Monica was a native of Africa, and brought about the conversion of her husband, who was a pagan. Her son, the great St. Augustine, having been led in his youth to embrace the errors of the Manichean heretics, owed his subsequent conversion to her prayers. She died in Ostia, Italy, in 387.

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