

INTERCOLONIAL

Dr. De Lacy M'Carthy has again offered to produce a fall of two inches of rain at Ilkay, provided he be guaranteed the sum of £500 if successful.

The Right Rev. Dr. Olier, S.M., Coadjutor-Bishop of Central Oceania, has left Sydney for his island diocese, and was accompanied by the Rev. Father Piquet, S.M., who goes on a health trip.

A new parish, consisting of Cowper, Ulmarra, and Lawrence, is to be formed on the Middle Clarence. The Rev. Father Walsh, P.P., of Maclean, had charge of Lawrence for five years.

Dr. T. P. M'Inerney being the only candidate nominated for the vacant post of Warden of the Senate of Melbourne University, has been duly elected. The learned gentleman has had a walk-over for the past decade.

The foundation stone of the new presbytery was laid by Cardinal Moran at Parramatta a few Sundays ago. The cost of the building will be £1250, and the collection on the occasion amounted to the handsome sum of £570, which included a donation of £50 from the pastor, the Rev. T. O'Reilly.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Byrne, V.G., who has had charge of the Goodwood parish for the last seven years, is retiring from parochial duties. After a brief holiday in New South Wales he will take up his residence at the Goodwood Orphanage and fulfil the duties of chaplain to the institution. After nearly half a century's service in the cause of the Church in Australia he is well entitled to rest and ease in his old age. Monsignor Byrne, arrived in Adelaide on March 6, 1857, in company with the late Archbishop Reynolds, after an eventful voyage from Western Australia in the schooner *New Perseverance*, which is recorded in the Monsignor's excellent work, 'The History of the Catholic Church in South Australia.' Both were then young men. They had come to Western Australia in 1855 with a view of studying for the priesthood, and both were ordained in St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral on April 20, 1860, by Bishop Geoghegan, being the only priests he ever ordained. Monsignor Byrne has thus completed his 44th year in the priesthood. After his ordination he was actively engaged in mission work, principally at Kapunda. After some years in that parish Monsignor Byrne was appointed Vicar-General to the late Archbishop Reynolds, and in 1881 the Holy See conferred upon him the title of 'Doctor.' Upon the death of Archbishop Reynolds, Dr Byrne was appointed administrator of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, and he continued to hold this appointment until the appointment of Archbishop O'Reilly. He was then reappointed, in conjunction with the late Archdeacon Russell, Vicar-General of the Archdiocese. Prior to his retirement the parishioners of Goodwood presented Monsignor Byrne with an address and other marks of their esteem.

The Hon Hugh Mahon, the Federal Postmaster-General, was born 16 years ago in Tullamore, King's County, Ireland. In his early years (says the 'Freeman's Journal') Mr Mahon relinquished the drudgery of a farm to take up that of a provincial newspaper. The change was nevertheless advantageous, since it supplied opportunity for supplementing the merely elementary education then imparted by schools in remote parts of Ireland. In a few years, working by day and studying by night, Mr Mahon mastered the printing trade and became an expert stenographer. This latter acquirement secured him introduction to a higher grade of journalism, and thus he was privileged to record and take part in most of the great gatherings which followed the inception of the Irish Land League. Nobody could be neutral in those stirring days. Instinct, tradition, and associations brought Mr. Mahon to the popular side and kept him there. His activity quickly drew him under the notice of the agents of Dublin Castle, who, having locked up Mr. Parnell, Mr. Dillon, and other leaders, proceeded to denude the provinces of all who had taken a prominent part in the movement. Mr. Mahon was amongst the number; and without trial or even a charge laid against him he was imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol during the winter of 1881-2. On release, by medical advice, he came to Australia, securing an engagement on the Sydney press. From 1895 until his election in 1901, he resided on the Western Goldfields, having interests in newspapers at Menzies and Kalbarrie. He stood for the North Coolgardie seat in the Westralian Parliament in 1897, but the present Minister of Mines won the election by 60 votes. Mr Mahon has occupied several representative offices in Westralia, and has been a Justice of the Peace of that State for some years. His present constituency of Coolgardie is the largest in the Commonwealth, being in area equal to the whole State of Queensland.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- May 22, Sunday.—Pentecost Sunday.
- „ 23, Monday.—Of the Octave.
- „ 24, Tuesday.—Of the Octave.
- „ 25, Wednesday.—Of the Octave. Ember Day.
- „ 26, Thursday.—Of the Octave.
- „ 27, Friday.—Of the Octave. Ember Day.
- „ 28, Saturday.—Of the Octave. Ember Day.

Pentecost.

Pentecost was the name given to the feast among the Jews, held on the fiftieth day after the Passover, in celebration of the 'ingathering,' and in thanksgiving for the harvest. From the Jewish use, it was introduced into the Christian, and with special solemnity, as being the day of the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles, and of the first solemn preaching of the Christian religion. From early times Pentecost has been regarded as one of the great festivals of the Christian year, and it was chosen as one of the times for the solemn administration of Baptism. The English name of the festival, Whit-Sunday, is derived from the white robes in which the newly baptised were clad. It is regarded as especially sacred to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, in whose honor the services of the day are directly addressed.

Ember Days.

The Ember Days are the first Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of each of the four seasons of the year, set apart as fast days by the Church. According to the testimony of Pope Leo, they originated in the time of the Apostles, who were inspired by the Holy Ghost to dedicate each season of the year to God by a few days of penance; or, as it were, to pay three days' interest, every three months, on the graces received from God. The Church also commanded the Faithful to fast at the beginning of each of the four seasons of the year, because it is at this time that she ordains the priests and other servants of the Church, which even the Apostles did with much prayer and fasting. Thus she desires that during the Ember Days Christians should fervently ask of God by prayer, fasting, and other good works, for worthy pastors and servants, on whom depends the welfare of the whole Christian flock; she also desires that in the spring Ember Days we should ask God's blessing for the fertility of the earth; in summer for the preservation of the fruits of the field; in autumn when the harvest is ripe, and in winter when it is sheltered, that we should offer to God, by fasting and prayer, a sacrifice of thanks, petitioning Him to assist us, that we may not use His gifts for our soul's detriment, but refer all praise to Him, the fountain of all good, and assist our neighbor according to our means.

The Rev. Dr Burke, of Manly College, Sydney, has been appointed assistant to Rev. M. Rohan, at St. Augustine's, Balmain East. The Rev. John Rohan, of St. Augustine's, has been appointed to a vacancy at St. Mary's Cathedral, created by the appointment of Rev P. C. Cregan to a professorship at St. Patrick's College.

In a letter to a priest in Sydney his Lordship the Bishop of Rockhampton states that he is almost as well as ever, and hopes to be able to labor for the Church for many years to come. Bishop Higgins says he is deeply grateful for the many kind enquiries about his health made by his friends in Sydney and elsewhere.

St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, has secured a minute fragment of radium for scientific demonstrations.

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