

INTERCOLONIAL

His Eminence Cardinal Moran blessed and opened a new convent school at Lithgow on Sunday, February 26. The school cost over £600, and is conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Very Rev. T. Lynch, P.P., Very Rev. Archbishop Kennedy, P.P., and Rev. D. B. Nolan were fellow-passengers on the 'Mongolia' to Europe with the Very Rev. Dean Phean.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Sullivan, who had been parish priest at Gunnedah for about fifteen years, died at the presbytery on February 27 after a severe and protracted illness.

His Lordship Bishop Dunne laid the foundation stone of a new church in Portland on Sunday, February 26. During his discourse his Lordship made eloquent reference to the zeal and self-sacrifice of the worthy pastor, the Rev. E. J. Flanagan, for the people under his care.

For the first time in Australian history a foreigner has been appointed to a judicial seat in the person of the Hon. Robert Homburg (late Attorney-General), who has just been appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia in succession to Mr. Justice Boucaut, retired. The new Judge, a native of Germany, went as a young man to South Australia, where he has won a good legal practice.

Gerald Patrick O'Day, a student of St. Patrick's College, Ballarat, was the winner of an exhibition of £200, tenable for four or five years at the Melbourne University or any of the technical schools, at the December examinations. This brilliant pupil of the Christian Brothers is a son of Councillor O'Day, of Bungaree, and is fifteen years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Redmond will visit Broken Hill towards the end of April. A reception, a banquet, and a public meeting are arranged. Mr. Redmond stated that he had an invitation from the Broken Hill P.L.I., but had replied that as his visit was for the benefit of his health and of a private character, he could only accept an invitation from his countrymen.

Miss Eileen Castles, sister of Amy and Dolly (says the 'Catholic Press'), inherits the family gift of song, and is to join Mr. Williamson's Opera Company. In appearance and voice she resembles Amy, and Mr. Williamson is confident that she will have a distinguished career. She will travel with her sister Dolly, to whom she will probably act as understudy.

The death is reported from Adelaide of Sister Philomena Fitzpatrick, of the Convent of Mercy. She was a niece of the Rev. Mother Mary Evangelista Fitzpatrick, foundress of the Order of Mercy in South Australia, and of the Rev. Father Fitzpatrick, who did wonderful work on the mission in India. She was also a niece of the Rev. Brother Fitzpatrick, who founded the Order of the Christian Brothers in America. She was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and was educated in one of the principal training colleges in England. She was the first subject received in Adelaide in 1882, and made her profession in 1885.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran has made arrangements to fill the parish of Wollongong. The Rev. Father Phil Walsh, of St. Francis' (Haymarket), and the Rev. Father John Byrne, of Wollongong, exchange places. The Rev. Father Gibbing, who has just returned from a trip to Europe, goes back to his old parish of Cooma. The Rev. Father Hogan, of Manly College, has been appointed to assist at Mount Carmel. The Rev. Father O'Gorman, of Cooma, is in very delicate health, and will probably require a trip to recuperate. The Rev. Father Byrne, assistant at Mount Carmel, is at present on a holiday.

Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., received a very enthusiastic reception on his visit to Brisbane. On crossing the border he was provided with a special car and a free pass over the State railways by the Queensland Government. At Toowoomba, Warwick, and Ipswich he was greeted with addresses of welcome by leading representatives of the Irish community in Queensland. On the arrival of the train in Brisbane there was a great crowd, representing the Hibernian and Gaelic Societies, and the Home Rule Association. The Exhibition Building was the scene of a most enthusiastic meeting on Monday evening, February 27, when Mr. Redmond spoke on Home Rule. The Hon. T. O'Sullivan, M.L.C., presided, many members of Parliament and other prominent citizens filling the platform, including Messrs. Kidston, Airey, and Kerr, M's.P. Mr. Redmond had a magnificent reception, the large assemblage standing and cheering again and again.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- March 19, Sunday.—Second Sunday in Lent. St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 20, Monday.—St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor
- „ 21, Tuesday.—St. Benedict, Abbot.
- „ 22, Wednesday.—St. Frigidian, Bishop and Confessor.
- „ 23, Thursday.—The Lance and Nails.
- „ 24, Friday.—The Holy Winding Sheet of Our Lord.
- „ 25, Saturday.—The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Joseph was chosen by God to watch over the infancy of Christ, to be a protector of Mary's chastity, and to secure her from calumnies in the birth of her Divine Son. So great a dignity, such familiar intercourse, with the Deity, required a sanctity far above the common. That St. Joseph possessed this, we know from the inspired word of God. He is styled in the New Testament 'a just man,' one, namely, endowed with all the virtues. From the fact that no mention is made of him after the finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, we conclude that he must have died before the beginning of Our Lord's public ministry. We cannot doubt that he was comforted and assisted in his last moments by Jesus and Mary. Hence his intercession is sought particularly to obtain the grace of a happy death.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem.

St. Cyril, a Father of the Church, was born at, or near, Jerusalem, about the year 315. He was ordained priest in 315 by Bishop Maximus, who also entrusted him with the charge of the Catechumens, and in his stead appointed him preacher to the people. In 350, Cyril succeeded Maximus in the see of Jerusalem, and was consecrated by Acacius of Caesarea. This Acacius, a bitter Arian, soon became a severe enemy and persecutor of Cyril, and in 358, procured his deposition and exile, from Jerusalem. Cyril was restored by the Council of Seleucia, in 359, but, at the instigation of Acacius, he was banished again, the next year by Constantius. On the accession of Julian, Cyril returned to Jerusalem. The Emperor Valens, in 377, again banished Cyril from his see, and only after eleven years was he allowed to return. In 381, he assisted at the Second General Council of Constantinople. He died in 386, after a troubled episcopate of thirty-five years, sixteen of which were spent in exile.

St. Benedict, Abbot

St. Benedict, founder of Monachism in the West, was born in 480 at Nursia, in Umbria, of noble parents, and at the age of fourteen withdrew into the wilds of Subiaco, in the Apennines. Here he lived for three years in a deep and almost inaccessible cavern. His reputation for sanctity and his miracles soon gathered a number of disciples around him, for whom he erected two monasteries. In 529, he retired with a few monks to Monte Cassino, where, on the site of an ancient temple of Apollo, he founded a monastery, which became the glorious monastic centre of the West. Several other monasteries were also founded by St. Benedict; among these, one for women, which he placed under the direction of his sister St. Scholastica. St. Benedict, who is called the patriarch of the Western Monks, died, in 543.

St. Frigidian, Bishop and Confessor.

St. Frigidian was a native of Ireland, or at least of Irish extraction. Travelling in Italy to improve himself in knowledge, he was chosen Bishop of Lucca. He died in 578, after having, by his piety and zeal for souls, added new lustre to the episcopal office.

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The institution of this feast dates back to the first centuries of Christianity. St. Athanasius mentions it in one of his sermons. For a long time they commenced the civil year with the feast of the Annunciation. The custom of commencing the year on the 1st of January was introduced in France in 1564, in Scotland in 1579, in England in 1752.