

INTERCOLONIAL

The Very Rev. Dean Phelan is expected to reach Melbourne about February 23. Preparations are on foot to give the Dean a hearty welcome home.

At an Irish concert in Sydney Town Hall recently one of the features of the programme was the singing of an ancient Irish melody in the original Gaelic by Miss Mabel Ward.

The station that now enjoys the distinction of being the largest in area in Australia—it is probably the largest cattle run in the world—is Victoria Downs in Western Queensland. It is 11,200 square miles in extent and is carrying 53,000 head of cattle.

The Rev. Father James Meany has been transferred from Concord to St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of the Rev. Father J. M. Kelly to the charge of Rydalmere. The Rev. Father W. Stevens, who was recently ordained, goes to Concord as assistant to the Rev. Father Peter Byrne, P.P.

By the death of Sister Mary Agnes Doyle, which took place on January 28 at the Mother House, Monte Sant' Angelo, North Sydney, the Sisters of Mercy have lost a devoted member, who spent 27 of the 45 years of her life as a religious. The late Sister Mary Agnes was the daughter of Mr. John Doyle, of Campbelltown, and most of her religious life was passed at St. Patrick's Convent, Church Hill, of which she was in charge for a time some years ago.

The annual Communion of the members of the Catholic Young Men's Societies' Union was held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on Sunday morning, January 28, when about 400 young men approached the altars at the 8 o'clock Mass. In preparation for the Communion, a three-days' retreat, conducted by his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, was given in the Cathedral, which was largely attended, and the eloquent and instructive lectures of his Grace were interestingly followed.

His Lordship the Bishop of Goulburn has announced the following clerical changes in his diocese: Rev. Father Cahill takes charge of Tumut parish, with Rev. Father McDwyer (Grenfell) as assistant; Rev. Fathers Cleary and O'Reilly (formerly of Gundagai) go from Burrowa to Yass; and Rev. Father J. J. Fogarty, of Tasmania, but formerly of Tumburumba and other neighboring towns, takes charge of Burrowa, with the Rev. Father J. Sharkey, of Gundagai, as assistant. The Rev. Father J. O'Dowd, of Wyalong, succeeds Father Sharkey at Gundagai.

His Lordship Dr. Dunne, Bishop of Bathurst, who left last week for Rome, was not allowed to depart without signal demonstrations of the love and veneration of his priests and people. The first of a series of presentations took place in St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, immediately after the Diocesan Synod, when an address and a substantial monetary gift were handed to Dr. Dunne from the clergy of his diocese. In the course of a speech on the occasion the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Donovan said that no priest or Bishop in this hemisphere deserved a holiday better—and not for a year, but for two years if necessary—than his Lordship the Bishop of Bathurst. Looking at the diocese, they found it dotted over with churches and schools. There was no diocese better equipped for religious and educational purposes, and much of this was due to the energy of Dr. Dunne during the last five years.

Senator Dawson, whose Home Rule motion was passed by the Senate last session, has written to the Prime Minister in the following terms:—'I notice with some surprise your hurried rush to rescue Messrs. Langley, Snowball, and Co from the constitutional difficulty in which they find themselves. From first to last the organisers of the anti-Home Rule petition have derided Parliament, insulted you as Prime Minister, and flouted the constitution. I have no objection to the precious petition being forwarded to his Majesty the King by you or any other responsible person, but I do enter an emphatic protest against its being sent as a free expression of opinion by the signatories, or that it is in any way representative of the people of Australia. In no sense have the anti-Home Rulers met the public openly. The alleged public meetings are shameless frauds, intimidation of a disgraceful character has been resorted to, and the daily press is gagged. You know this as well as I do, and accompanying the petition there should be a statement of these facts. It is as well to know that a certain noisy section, which occasionally disturbs the serene atmosphere of the Commonwealth, has neither a monopoly of loyalty nor the sole proprietary right to the Governor-General.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- February 18, Sunday.—Sexagesima Sunday.
- „ 19, Monday.—St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor.
- „ 20, Tuesday.—Commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord.
- „ 21, Wednesday.—St. Paul, the First Hermit.
- „ 22, Thursday.—The Chair of St. Peter at Antioch.
- „ 23, Friday.—St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
- „ 24, Saturday.—St. Mathias, Apostle.

St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor.

St. Titus was a Greek by birth, and the son of a Gentile father and a Jewish mother. He accompanied St. Paul to Jerusalem to the Council, and on his various extensive journeys, and was finally established by him Bishop of Crete, about the year 62. He died about 105, at the advanced age of 94 years. St. Paul wrote an Epistle to him, which contains instructions for his disciple.

Commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord.

There is no practice more constantly or more earnestly recommended by spiritual writers as a means of awakening in our hearts a tender love for the Son of God than meditation on His sufferings and death, which can best be done by making the Way of the Cross.

St. Paul, the First Hermit.

St. Paul, the first hermit and surnamed the 'Father of Hermits,' was born at Thebes in Upper Egypt in 228. During the Decian persecution he fled into the desert of the Thebaid, and lived there in a cave to the great age of 113 years, practising austere penance and occupied in prayer and contemplation.

Chair of St. Peter at Antioch.

On this day we commemorate the establishment by St. Peter of his Episcopal See at Antioch, where for seven years he ruled the Church as Universal Pastor, before finally fixing the seat of his spiritual government at Rome.

St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.

St. Peter was born at Ravenna, in the north of Italy, about 988. After a youth of hardship, he entered a Benedictine monastery at the foot of the Apennines, where for many years he led a life of austerity, prayer, and study. His great piety and learning having brought him under the notice of his ecclesiastical superiors, he was employed by more than one Pope in important affairs, and displayed great zeal and prudence. In 1057 he was created Cardinal and Bishop of Ostia, but, five years later, he succeeded in obtaining permission to resign his bishopric and return to his monastery. His death occurred in 1072.

St. Mathias, Apostle.

After the ascension of Our Lord, St. Mathias was chosen by lot to fill the place which the treachery and suicide of Judas had left vacant. Tradition assigns as the place of his labors and martyrdom Cappadocia and the countries bordering on the Black and Caspian Seas.

The Rev. Fathers J. H. O'Goiman and F. McDermott, who left on a trip to Ireland some time ago, have returned to Sydney.

There was a large exodus of ecclesiastics by the Orient R.M.S. 'Ortona,' which left Sydney on Saturday last for Europe. The Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor (Bishop of Armidale), the Right Rev. Dr. Dunne (Bishop of Bathurst), the Rev. Fathers T. O'Reilly, P.P. (Parramatta), James Dunne, P.P. (Campbelltown), S. H. M'Gee (Bathurst), who intends entering the Jesuit Order, T. Hayes (Brisbane), J. Sheridan, J. J. O'Donohue, Adm. (Hamilton), M. J. Shanahan (Ballarat), and J. F. Marshall (Maryborough, Vic.) are passengers. The Hon. John Meagher, K.C.S.G., M.L.C., Mr. James Dalton (Orange), the Misses Dalton (3), and Miss Craven (Waverley) were also passengers by the same steamer.

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