

INTERCOLONIAL

This month (April) sixty years ago the late Archbishop Polding visited Brisbane (says the 'Age'), and in a temporary chapel celebrated Mass. at which about 100 Catholics attended.

Cardinal Moran on Sunday, May 17, blessed and opened the new Convent of the Sisters of Charity at Paddington

At the competitions recently held in connection with the Kilmore branch of the A.N.A., the pupils from the convent schools, under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy were among the principal prize winners.

The Rev. Father Fitzpatrick, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, has been appointed to the parish of Bungendore to replace Father O'Driscoll, who has been called by cable to Ireland in consequence of the serious illness of his mother.

The Rev. Father Campion, who has been for over 12 years in charge of the Parkes district, was recently presented with an address and purse of sovereigns on his departure for a twelve months' trip to England. The Mayor presided on the occasion, and Archdeacon Neild (Anglican) and several prominent and influential gentlemen of all denominations were present.

Friday, May 15, was the centenary of the first Mass publicly celebrated in Sydney. The Mass was celebrated near Circular Quay on May 15, 1803, by the Rev. Thomas Dixon, the Prefect-Apostolic of New Holland, the first ecclesiastical appointment made by the Holy See for the Australian Church. On the following Sunday Mass was said for the first time at Parramatta.

The experiments which are being conducted by Dr. McCarthy, of Melbourne, to produce rain in drought districts are attracting attention. The method is to send up columns of gas obtained from chemicals, the nature of which is secret. If this is done continuously for 32 hours it will produce rain over a range of 90 miles. It is alleged that on an estate near Ingewood an inch fell as a result of the experiment

On Sunday afternoon, May 10, Cardinal Moran blessed and opened the recent additions to the Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, North Sydney. The convent, with its new additions, is now one of the finest buildings of its kind in the Commonwealth. The building, which stands on a hill, affords one of the finest views of Sydney which can be obtained from the northern side of the metropolis. Its purpose is that of a novitiate, and a retreat for the Sisters scattered throughout the various portions of the State, and is besides the Mother House of the Order, the residence of the foundress, Mother Mary. Accommodation has been provided for upwards of 550 Sisters. The total cost of the additions was £6250, of which amount a sum of £1250 has been subscribed

A very fine new convent of the Presentation Nuns was opened recently at Geraldton, Western Australia, by His Lordship Dr. Kelly, Bishop of the diocese. At a luncheon which followed Mr. Drew, M.L.C., spoke of the good work which had been done in Geraldton since Dr. Kelly was appointed to the diocese. He said the event of that afternoon furnished eloquent evidence of the enterprise and zeal of Dr. Kelly. The undertaking was a gigantic one. A convent had been erected which would not only be adequate to present needs, but which would be equal to all demands for many years to come. Even if Geraldton prospered as they all hoped it would do. But it was not the only proof of the Bishop's great enterprise. His Lordship had only been a little over four years in charge of the diocese of Geraldton, yet in that short space of time he had erected a magnificent palace, he had built schools and dwellings at Greenough, he had purchased a costly residence and grounds at Dongarra, he had built one of the largest churches in the State at Day Dawn, and he had established teaching Orders of nuns at Greenough, Dongarra, Que. Roehoume, and on the East Murchison fields. That was a record of which any administrator might well feel proud.

The report of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Waratah, N.S.W., for 1901-2 is just to hand, and a perusal of its contents gives us a good idea of the beneficent work carried on there by the Dominican Nuns. During the period which the report covers three boys and eight girls had been admitted into the institution, the total number of inmates being 35. The institution was founded in 1875, and since then 68 girls and 33 boys have been admitted, these coming from all parts of the Commonwealth and New Zealand. The system of instruction is what is known as the combined, and by this every degree of intellect can be reached by making use of the method best suited to the capacity and special need of the pupils. A full account of the splendid work which is being done at Waratah by the Sisters of St. Dominic appeared in the 'N.Z. Tablet' two and a half years ago. The institution, which was founded by the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of Maitland, is dependent almost entirely on the charity of the public, having no government grant. Notwithstanding that the institution is burdened with a heavy debt it is doing a splendid work, and the Dominican Nuns deserve well of the Catholics of Australasia.

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Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- May 31, Sunday.—Feast of Pentecost.
- June 1, Monday.—Whit Monday.
- „ 2, Tuesday.—Whit Tuesday (St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, Virgin).
- „ 3, Wednesday.—Ember Day (St. Francis Corraciolo, Confessor).
- „ 4, Thursday.—Fifth day in Octave (St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr).
- „ 5, Friday.—Ember Day (St. Norbert, Bishop and Confessor).
- „ 6, Saturday.—Ember Day (St. Augustine, Bishop and Confessor).

Feast of Pentecost.

Pentecost was the name given to the feast among the Jews held on the 50th 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 Catholic 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 always 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 devoutly 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.

St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi

St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi was born in Florence in 1566. She was of an illustrious family, which was allied to the Medicis. At the age of 16 she took the veil. She died in 1607, and was canonised in 1669.

St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Boniface, the Apostle of Germany, was born in 680 in Wessex. At an early age he showed a strong predilection for a monastic life, and at the age of 30 was ordained priest, being then noted for his ability and learning. Being imbued with the desire of spreading the Christian faith among the German people, he left London, accompanied by three other missionaries, for the coast of Friesland in 716. The disturbed state of the country compelled him to return to England, and two years later he went to Rome, and there obtained from Pope Gregory II an apostolic mission to Northern Germany. He began his apostolic career in Thuringia, in 719, where he labored reforming the clergy and instructing the people. From Thuringia he went to Hesse, where he made many converts. In 723 he was summoned to Rome, where he was consecrated regionary bishop by Pope Gregory II. Retaining to Germany, he continued his labors, and in 732 was made Vicar-Apostolic. Six years later he made another visit to Rome, and, returning with increased powers, he proceeded to settle the ecclesiastical divisions of Germany and held several synods. In 747 he was appointed Archbishop of Mentz, and Primate of Germany. After laboring for thirty years for the salvation of the German people, he resigned his archiepiscopal See in order to undertake the conversion of the Frisians. He had already converted several thousands of this nation when he was attacked and slain by a band of pagans in 755. The remains of the illustrious martyr were deposited in the monastery of Fulda.

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