

1920

LORETO
INSTITUTE
OF THE
SACRAMENTS
IN AUSTRALIA



- LORETO ABBEY, Mary's Mount, Ballarat, Victoria.
- LORETO CONVENT, Dawson Street, Ballarat, Victoria.
- LORETO CONVENT, Portland, Vic.
- LORETO CONVENT, Albert Park, Melbourne.
- ST. MARY'S HALL, Parkville, Melbourne
- LORETO CONVENT, Hamilton, Vic.

- (a) LORETO CONVENT, Normanhurst, N.S.W.
- (b) LORETO CONVENT, North Sydney.
- (a) LORETO CONVENT, Claremont, W.A.
- (b) LORETO CONVENT, Adelaide Terrace, W.A.
- LORETO CONVENT, Norwood, Adelaide S.A.





Sketch of the History
OF
The Institute of The Blessed Virgin Mary

"The historic Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary through all vicissitudes has remained true to its original vocation, the higher education of Catholic girls, and side by side with this work, the education of the children of the masses in Elementary schools. Furthermore it has kept always well abreast of the successive developments of educational progress."—*Hedden*.

THE Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary is of ancient and honorable origin . . . devoted to the instruction of youth for close on three centuries. "It is," in the words of the first Irish Cardinal, "at once interesting and venerable—for exile, because of faith, was the very occasion of its institution. It is one of the first religious congregations founded, expressly and exclusively, for the great work of education; and in pursuing this high vocation it has been blessed—so as to increase and spread unto the ends of the earth." In order to understand the necessity which compelled ladies of noble birth to leave their home and country to be able to practise their religion and teach it to youth, we must look back some three hundred years and try to realize the difficulties and sufferings of our Catholic ancestors. Those were times of fierce persecution, with penal laws in full force. An immense number of Catholics of all ranks and degrees, were persecuted and suffered the

extreme penalty of the law. In every part of the British dominions, the Catholic Religion was proscribed. Priests, concealed in the houses of Catholics, ventured at the peril of their lives to administer the sacraments, and if discovered, as often happened, they were taken prisoners and executed; while those who had sheltered them suffered fines, confiscation, imprisonment and sometimes death. When this storm of persecution was raging in England in the seventeenth century and Catholics from the highest rank to the humblest had to suffer for the faith, several English ladies of noble birth sought refuge in Germany, there to devote themselves as religious to the education of girls. The Prince Elector of Bavaria, Maxmilian I., and his family, kindly received these "Exiles of the Faith," "amongst whom were some whose fidelity to the Catholic religion reflected more honor on their names than did even the illustrious deeds of their ancestors."

The leader of the band was Mary Ward, daughter of a noble and very virtuous old family whose ancestors were amongst the "Equites Aurati" of William the Conqueror. Her father owned the Manors of Gwendale, Newby and Mulwith in Yorkshire and it was at the last named place Mary was born on 23rd January, 1585.

Among the early members of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we meet the names of Barbara, Mary Anne Barbara, and Agnes Babthorpe; Anne, Countess of Chester; Adelaide, Countess of Stanga; Bridget Talbot, a member of the Shrewsbury family; Josephine, Baroness of Manstorff; Mary Poyntz, cousin to the Marquis of Worcester; Helen Catesby; Barbara Constable, several of the Bedingfields of Oxborough.

The lineal successors of Mary's first companions and fellow laborers carried on the great work of Education and many of the houses founded by them still exist.



FIRST EFFORTS IN THE
CAUSE OF EDUCATION

The first members of the Institute fully understood the immense importance of Religious Education, especially in such troubled times. From the very first they applied themselves to teaching the young girls, whose parents contrived to have them sent to the schools in Germany, where they were brought up and trained to meet the many difficulties and dangers which they would be sure to encounter on their return. In many instances the Catholic religion was kept from dying out in families by the zeal and piety of these early pupils of the Institute. We must

remember, too, that usually all this education and care on part of the religious was given quite gratuitously; for though these young lady boarders were daughters of noble houses, Catholic parents were so impoverished by fines and confiscations that they were unable to pay for their children's Catholic education abroad and it was impossible to obtain it at home. God so blessed the labors of those zealous exiled ladies, and so increased their numbers, that in the year 1680 they were able to send from the mother house at Munich a colony of their sisters, who established themselves at Augsburg, under the protection of that See. About this time, some, with admirable courage and devotion, ventured to settle in England, and founded the famous houses of York and Hammersmith.

In the latter place, which was in London, and near the Court, they were encouraged to settle by the presence and patronage of Catherine of Braganza, Queen Consort of Charles II. When this Princess returned to Portugal, and James II., with his Queen, Mary Beatrice, who was so greatly attached to the Institute, fled to France on the accession of William of Orange and Mary, the members of the Institute withdrew from Hammersmith, and migrated to

YORKSHIRE,

where they had to suffer much persecution. No amount of persecution or suffering was able to prevent the brave nuns from carrying on the great work of education to which they devoted their lives.

In her "Life of Mother Xaveria Fallon," Katherine Tyrnan tell us that "in those days of death for Catholics "the Bar," as the old York Convent is

affectionately called, was perhaps the only place within our islands where Catholics of position could send their daughters to school and not endanger a more precious possession than learning. The effects of this little centre of illumination in a night of darkness are inestimable."

In 1880 the second centenary of the house was celebrated with great rejoicing, and the number of distinguished visitors who were present shows the esteem in which this ancient and venerable monastery is held. On that occasion the youngest house of the Institute, Mary's Mount, Ballarat, sent to the house at York, not only affectionate and sisterly congratulations, but some presents of Australian curiosities; and to show how united they are in spirit, though 10,000 miles apart, every member of the Ballarat Community sent a wax candle, handsomely painted, with her name inscribed. These lights were placed on the altar of the Blessed Virgin during the celebrations. "Among all the beautiful histories of olden time, which are yet to be revealed to the English and the Irish Catholics of our day, none will be more consoling than the annals of the Convent at Mickle-Gate Bar, which has been for so long, and which still remains one of the loveliest fruits of English Catholicism.

Amongst the many remarkable pupils educated within these hallowed walls, was a young Irish girl, Frances Ball, who was destined to do a great work for God. Some time after her return to her native land she felt herself called to consecrate her life to God in the religious state; and her spiritual director, Dr. Murray, who saw in her a fit instrument for carrying out his great design of establishing a Convent of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ireland,

advised her to enter the novitiate of the Institute at St. Mary's, York. This she did on the 11th June, 1814; and received the religious habit 8th September, assuming with it the name of Mary Teresa. She was professed a member of the Institute 9th September, 1816. She bade farewell to York in 1821, and took possession of a house in Rathfarnham, County Dublin, in 1822. Rev. Mother Mary Teresa called this first Irish foundation "Loreto" out of devotion to the Holy House of Nazareth, now at Loreto, in Italy. She also wished this to remind her children that they were to model their lives on that of the Holy Family. Hence all filiations from the Irish Mother House have carried the name and its signification into every quarter of the globe, so that the religious of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary are, except in Germany, better known as "Loreto Nuns" than by any other name. The Institute at once took deep root in Ireland, and if the "holy and severe traditions of the English Virgins have done much to secure to the religious of the Institute the inestimable blessings of sound and solid spiritual formation, the genial, loving, impulsive Irish character has also had its essential part in producing the great fruits which have come from the works of Frances Ball."

Missions from Rathfarnham have been sent out, not only over Ireland, but to India, Spain, Mauritius, North America, England, Australia, and South and East Africa.

Whilst the Irish Branch was thus sending out new filiations, the older German portion of the Institute was not idle. In the beginning of the last century the houses in Bavaria and Austria were comparatively few; and there was in England only the Convent at York.

Since the year 1847 the Institute has made wonderful progress in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Italy. The German houses, in 1885, numbered 69, among the filials being a large settlement at Bucharest, where a very extensive work is carried on for its mixed population, in which all nations and all religions are to be found. There are several houses in India. The Austrian dependencies are thirteen in number and include houses in Italy.

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INSTITUTE OF THE B.V.M.
IN AUSTRALIA

In 1875, at the invitation of the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, first Bishop of Ballarat, and with a special blessing from His Holiness, Pius IX., of happy memory, seven choir sisters, one lay sister, and two postulants, left their Convent-home, Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, Ireland, and sailed for Australia 24th May, Feast of "Our Lady Help of Christians," and landed in Melbourne, 19th July, Feast of St. Vincent de Paul.

The present Convent, Mary's Mount, Wendouree, was purchased and possession taken 24th September, 1875—the Feast of our Lady of Mercy—on which occasion the Bishop celebrated the first Mass, and preached a beautiful and touching sermon to the community. The Boarding School opened on the Feast of the great Archangel St. Michael, under the patronage of our Immaculate Mother, Queen of Angels.

The solitary Convent of 1875 is now the Mother House of the Australian Province, and counts as its filials ten flourishing foundations, viz :

1. **Loreto Convent, Dawson Street, Ballarat**—A Day School and two Primary Schools—St. Joseph's and St. Aloysius', Redan.

2. **Loreto Convent, Portland**—A Boarding School, primarily for Juniors, and adjacent College for small boys, and a Primary School, All Saints.

3. **Loreto Convent, Albert Park, Melbourne**—A Day School and a large Primary School, SS. Peter and Paul's. Here, also, is the important Central Catholic Training College, established 1906 at the request of the Archbishops and Bishops of Victoria and Tasmania, to equip efficient Catholic Teachers, than which no greater work exists in the cause of Catholicity in Victoria.

4. **St. Mary's Hall, Parkville, Melb.**—Affiliated to the University of Melbourne and equipped as a Hostel for girl students attending the said University. This work, like that of the Training College, was undertaken by the I.B.V.M. at the request of the Archbishop of Melbourne.

5. **Loreto Convent, Hamilton**—(Western District) A Day School and large Primary School, St. Michael's.

6 & 7 In New South Wales—(a) **Loreto Convent, Normanhurst**—A Boarding School. (b) **Loreto Convent, North Sydney**—Boarding and Day School.

8 & 9. (a) **Loreto Convent, Claremont**—Boarding School. (b) **Loreto Convent, Adelaide Terrace**—Day School.

10. In South Australia—**Loreto Convent, Norwood, Adelaide**—Boarding and Day School.

Truly, God has signally blessed the work of Our Lady's Institute in the Land of the Southern Cross.

LORETO ABBEY, MARY'S MOUNT

A Boarding School for young ladies, founded 1875, situated on the borders of Lake Wendouree facing Victoria Park, occupies one of the healthiest positions in the State. The grounds extend over seven acres. The school buildings contain fine Dormitories, Study Hall, Concert Hall, Class Rooms, Laboratory, Model Kitchen, . . . Etc . . .



THE CONVENT CHURCH

A Gem of picturesqueness, built by the munificence of Elizabeth, Countess Wolff-Metternich, 1903.



THE SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

Head of the School for 1920 (Lorna Dureau) and the five councillors, Marjory Hayden, Edith Hore, Mary Mooney, Kathleen Hussey, and Dollie Purcell. These constitute the governing body among the girls and are valuable allies in the maintenance of discipline. They owe their position to the votes of their companions, sanctioned by Superiors. The system of autonomy works nowhere better than in a school, fostering as it does loyalty and self-reliance among the councillors themselves, and a generous spirit of submission to lawful authority throughout the school. Loreto girls are notable for their *esprit de corps* and ready initiative, and these qualities are undoubtedly developed by their school's system of self-government.



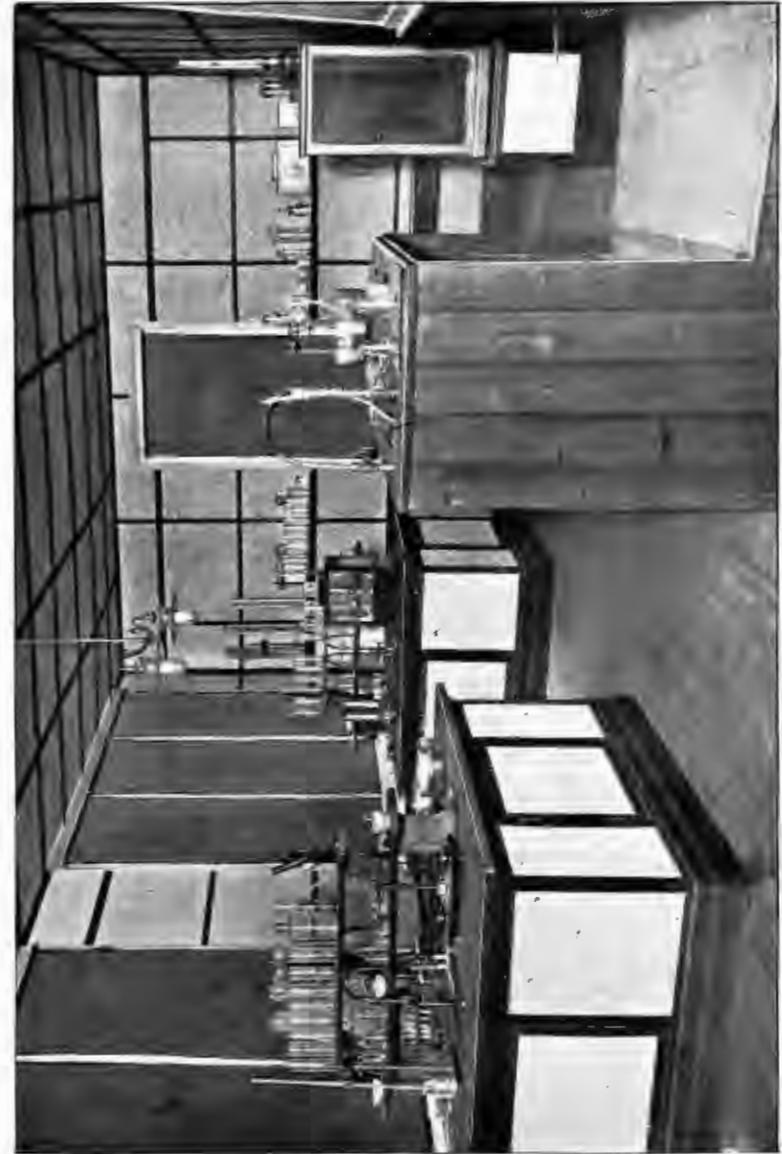
THE STUDY HALL

This room, spacious, well-lighted, and airy, is conducive to pleasure in earnest work. It is redolent of happy memories to many a generation of students.



THE LABORATORY

Here, Physics and Chemistry lessons are given, and students prepared for examinations in these interesting branches of science.



ST. CECILIA'S HALL

This imposing apartment is, throughout the school year, the scene of many and varied activities: Dancing Lessons given by Monsieur Bibron; Physical Culture taught by the Bjelke-Petersen Instructors; and occasionally, Concerts, Tableaux Vivants, or Amateur Theatricals—the last named being merely Domestic Entertainments, not designed for the general public. The next page gives a glimpse of some of the young performers.



“THE MIKADO”

Some of the Dramatis Personae in Gilbert and Sullivan's Opera “The Mikado” which was very artistically rendered for the entertainment of the Mary's Mount household on a school holiday in November, 1920.

At Soirées of a semi-literary character, Shakespearian Scenes or Standard poems are often tastefully dramatised, and these have undoubtedly great educative value, and interest for lovers of the beautiful.



Nos. 1 & 2 BASKET BALL TEAMS

This game affords a constant source of health-giving amusement, and the generous emulation between Reds and Blues adds zest to the sport. Besides its intrinsic interest, the game is notably full of hygienic value to growing girls.



THE FIRST TENNIS FOUR

The first Tennis four, Champions, December, 1920, among the Secondary Girls' Schools in Ballarat. The "sporting spirit" acquired by friendly competition with girls of other schools is not to be despised.



OUR JUNIORS, 1920

These children follow a different régime from the rest of the school. School hours and play, Programme of Studies, etc., are all adapted to their years. A happier and healthier group than this, it would be hard to find.



THE KITCHEN

Where the Cookery Classes are held

Now, more than ever, it is necessary that girls should be fitted to take their share in domestic duties, hence a course of lessons in the useful arts is given yearly, viz.: Cookery, the tasteful serving of meals at table; Laundry work; Dressmaking, mending and making of useful garments—all are taught.





MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
Conducted by Mr. Walter Gude of Ballarat



MEMBERS OF THE CHORAL CLASS
Taught by Mr. Haydn West of Ballarat



DANCING CLASS

Flashlight Photo of Dancing Class taught by Monsieur Bibron of Melbourne