

Maryvale

Upper Hawthorn

Melbourne.

Fest. Corpus Christi 1886

Dear Father Julian,

Welcome — welcome — back to Australia from us all.

The Palmerston correspondent of the Argus this morning says you are going home.

We hope you will not pass Victoria without coming to stay with us. Besides our new Archbishopⁱ may wish to keep you here altogether.

I am working steadily with the microscope on living forms especially. I hope you have some treasures for me among your thousand and one specimens of natural history.

I should like to have material for a resume article on your labours for publication here in Melbourne.

Send me a budget of facts as a herald of your coming in person shortly after.

How I long for the *Noctes Catholicae et Scientiaⁱⁱ* that you have in store for us.

I am ever dear Father Julian

Yours sincerely

W.H. Archer

ⁱ This was the Archbishop Thomas Joseph Carr (1829-1917). Ordained priest in 1866, Carr worked briefly as a parish curate and then as Professor of Dogmatic Theology (later Vice-President) at Maynooth (Irish College for the training of priests) before his arrival in Melbourne as its Catholic Archbishop in 1887. His name had been put forward in 1885 as a possible co-adjutor to the ailing Archbishop Goold and after Goold's death in June, 1886, Carr was appointed directly to the Archbisopric on 29th September. (So, when writing this letter, Archer would not have known for certain who the new Archbishop would be.) During his episcopate, Carr promoted the Catholic school system and "supported child endowment, housing policies for the masses, the development of educational facilities for women and assistance for Aboriginals." His charity was active and practical and he maintained friendly and peaceful relations with all sections of the community. (A.D.B., Vol. 7, pp. 569-70)

ⁱⁱ "Catholic and Scientific Evenings".