WEEKLY CALENDAR.

May 21. Sunday V. after Easter. Rogation Sunday. On the three following days the Litanies of the Saints are recited.

22. Monday, S. Paschal Baylon Conf.

23. Tuesday, S. Julius I. Pope and Conf. (from April 12.)

24. Wednesday, Vigil of Ascension. Feast of B. V. M. under the title of 'Help of Christians.'

25. Ascension Thursday. Holyday of obligation.

26. Friday, S. Philip Neri. Conf.

27. Saturday, S. John I. Pope and Mart.

Paschal Tide.

ROGATION SUNDAY.

The fifth Sunday after Easter is so called because in this week occur the three Rogation Days, which are the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before the great Festival of the Ascension.

The Rogation Days are days of public and solemn prayer, accompanied by processions, and have been for a long time observed as days of abstinence.

On these days the Church offers a holy violence to heaven by her repeated supplications to God for mercy. She also prays him ' to avert his indignation from us' to preserve us from all public calamities, and to pour down on the fruits of the earth the fertile dew of his heavenly benediction. The Rogations were first established by St. Mammertus, Bishop of Vienne, in France, about the year 469.

For many years that part of Gaul and Savoy had been afflicted by various calamities. Not only were the people scourged by earthquakes and conflagrations, but the whole country was also ravaged by multitudes of wild beasts who destroyed every thing they met, and in their fury rushed into the very streets and public places of the unfortunate city itself. According to the historians of the time every day brought some fresh proof of the divine indignation.*

* Sidonius Apollinaris, Bishop of Auvergne, a contemporary of St. Mammertus, Avitus Alcianus, one of his successors in Vienne, St. Gregory of Tours.