

privileged, for apart from any revelation which has not been approved, the priest who celebrates a mass there for a soul in Purgatory can at most gain for this soul a plenary indulgence, which God applies according to His merciful wisdom.

*Has this devotion been approved by the Church ?*

The Holy Congregation of Indulgences, when interrogated on this subject, replied on March 15th 1886 ; 1st That the confidence of the faithful regarding the celebration of the thirty Gregorian Masses as specially efficacious for the deliverance of a soul in Purgatory, is pious and reasonable, and that the custom of celebrating these masses is approved by the Church . 2ndly. That the same thing must be said of the masses offered on the altar of St Gregory and on those of *ad instar*.

*What are the conditions requisite to profit by the privilege of the Gregorian Masses ?*

The thirty masses ought to be celebrated for only one soul in Purgatory. The particular efficacy of these masses does not exist, if they are offered for living persons.

The masses ought to be celebrated during thirty consecutive days ; they need not be said by the same priest, nor on the same altar ; neither is it requisite that they should be celebrated in honor of St Gregory, or that a commemoration should be made of the saint.

Benedict XIV has furthermore declared, that if in the course of these thirty days the three last days of Holy Week occur, during which private masses cannot be celebrated, they can be continued afterward.

The masses should be said with black vestments, whenever rubrics permit, but this is not absolutely necessary.

The masses celebrated on the altar of St Gregory, or on an altar *ad instar* must be offered only for one soul.

We trust that these few lines will satisfy the legitimate curiosity of our readers and above all procure for the Faithful Departed the abundant suffrages for their relief and deliverance.

Rev. J. GUERRET.