

THE CROSS.

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal.vi. 14.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR.

- April 9. Palm Sunday.
10. Monday in Holy Week.
11. Tuesday in Holy Week.
12. Spy Wednesday. The Office of Tenebræ is said on this and the following evenings.
13. Maundy Thursday. Institution of the blessed Eucharist.
14. Good Friday.
15. Holy Saturday.

HOLY WEEK.

THE Holiest Week of the entire year is now approaching—the Week in which our ransom was paid—the Week in which so many mysteries were accomplished, so many prophecies fulfilled, so many triumphs achieved, so many torments endured and so many lessons of patience delivered by the meek and suffering Jesus. During this week He fully accomplishes the will of His Heavenly Father. He is betrayed, denied, abandoned by his disciples—his soul is sorrowful even unto death—his agony expresses from every pore of his body a perspiration of blood. He bears upon himself the iniquities of us all—he bends beneath the accumulated guilt of ages both past and future. He is betrayed by a traitor's kiss, he is hurried as a malefactor before unjust tribunals—he

is mocked, scourged, spit upon, derided as a fool, delivered up to the fury of a barbarous soldiery, and the blood-thirsty rage of a still more barbarous rabble. He slowly and painfully drags his heavy Cross along the dolorous way that leads to Calvary, and on that place of skulls, that mount of Death, his innocent flesh is nailed to the Altar of his Great Sacrifice, and amidst the shouts and imprecations of his enemies he is raised aloft between Heaven and Earth a naked, bleeding and mangled victim. His piercing Crown of Thorns is on his head and over him is written the titles of his royalty, the cause of his death. For this kingly dignity he was born, for this he came into the world, and after three hours of intense agony during which he attracts the love of his faithful subjects, and establishes his absolute dominion in their hearts, he dies the King of Love, and in his death perpetuates the reign and triumph of his love on earth while time shall last.

In this week he enters the royal city as a King and is received with hosannas. Alas! in five short days those fickle Jews will change them into crucifixes. When he beholds Jerusalem at a distance he sheds over it tears of love: Happy city over which Jesus wept!