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Lenten Letter.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS,—

At the approach of Lent let me write a few words to help you to spend the solemn season profitably. The real use of Lent is to draw us all nearer to God: to set us thinking what we were made for, why we are here in this world, what we have done with our life, what we are doing with it, whether we have lived for God or are living for Him, or whether we have fallen away from Him, whether the business and pleasure of this life have shut Him out of our hearts, whether our chief aim has been to please Him or please ourselves, whether our sins, past or present, have separated us from God, or whether we are living in a real and blessed union with Him through His dear SON. We came from God. We belong to God. And at this season of Lent the voice of God calls as the voice of our most tender Father, "My children what have I been to you and what have you been to Me? I have loved you with an everlasting love. Do you indeed love Me? What are you doing with your time, your thoughts, your affections, your money, your influence, your powers? Have you not too much in these forgotten Me? Turn ye then even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning, and rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil." Here is God's call to us. And the Church has appointed the season of Lent that we may have a settled time in which more especially to consider this call. I make a few suggestions by which, if you carry them out, you will get good for your souls.

1. Begin Lent well by coming with special earnestness to the services on Ash Wednesday.

2. Settle beforehand what special services you will attend, and try to come regularly and perseveringly to those services. Let every household make arrangements for all members of it to come to one or other of the special services.

3. Enter on Lent as a penitent. Think of what God has been to you and of what you have been to Him, and you must feel what reason you have to be ashamed and humbled and grieved, and how ready you ought to be to accept any cross which God will let you bear. Think of David's words "my sin is ever before me."

4. Give up going to places of amusement and to entertainments. Keep your heart and mind free for God as much as you can.

5. Pray earnestly, frequently. Remember the Church is always open for private devotion. Pray for true penitence, for real love of God, for