

NOTES FOR SUNDAY LESSONS.

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THE CHURCH CATECHISM.

ARRANGED IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM ADVENT TO TRINITY.

<i>The Christian Covenant treated during ADVENT.</i>					
"	"	<i>Faith</i>	"	"	CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY.
"	"	<i>Duty</i>	"	"	LENT.
"	"	<i>Grace</i>	"	from	PALM SUNDAY to TRINITY.

NOTE.—Each Instruction will be arranged under three heads:—

- A. *Expository*—explaining the words of that part of the Catechism which is assigned to each Sunday.
- B. *Harmonistic*—showing how the Services appointed for that particular Sunday (the Collect, the Epistle, and Gospel, the Proper Psalms, the Lessons, &c.) illustrate that part of the Catechism.
- C. *Practical*—drawing, from what has been thus explained and illustrated, moral and spiritual lessons for the Christian's life.

First Sunday after Epiphany. (JANUARY 13.)

The Hidden Life of Jesus.

Passage (to be read)—Judges vi. Text (to be learnt)—Isaiah xlv. 15.

A. EXPOSITORY—'Conceived by THE HOLY GHOST, Born of the Virgin Mary.'

- I. The SON OF GOD was 'Conceived' at the Incarnation on Lady Day.
- II. God was "hidden"—
 - 1st. In the Virgin's Womb.
 - 2nd. In the Stable—the Manger—the Swaddling Clothes.
 - 3rd. In Egypt.
 - 4th. In His obscure Life in a carpenter's shop.

B. HARMONISTIC—

- 1st. *Collect*.—God's People need to 'perceive and know what things they ought to do'—things *hidden* from the world shall be *manifested* to us.

Epistle.—'Be not conformed to this world,' but lead a simple, hidden life.

Gospel.—See Jesus hidden from—

- (1) His Parents, who 'understood not.'
- (2) The Doctors, who 'were astonished.'
- (3) The whole world—in the subjection of the carpenter's shop—for 30 years.

- 2nd. The *First Lessons*.—Morning—Isaiah li.—The open prosperity of God's people so long hidden in adversity.

Afternoon—Isaiah liii. The profound mystery of the Passion.

Evening—Isaiah liv. The manifestation of the Church.

C. PRACTICAL—

- First.—Do not be offended at the Hidden Life of Jesus. S. Mark vi. 3.
- Second.—Choose a retired life—if you may. S. John vii. 10, Col. iii. 3.
- Third.—If in a busy life:—
 - 1. Sometimes go into retirement. S. Mark vi. 31.
 - 2. Always do good works quietly. S. Matthew vi.

Second Sunday after Epiphany. (JANUARY 20.)

The Mortified Life.

Passage—Genesis xxxvii. Text—Isaiah liii.

A. 'Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was Crucified, Dead, and Buried. He Descended into hell.'

- I. Our Lord's Life of *Action* ('going about doing good') omitted—that we may contemplate the Incarnation and the Redemption—the Birth of God, and the Death of God in the Nature of Man—one after another.

II. Compare the Nicene Creed.

III. Pilate's name gibbeted in the Creeds to fix the date of the Crucifixion.