

prayers of the just on earth before the altar of incense above. The saints too know our frailty. They know the terrible enemies with which we have to contend in this place of trial. If it was lawful to ask their prayers whilst they were on earth, and their eternal lot unknown, surely it cannot be improper to do so now when they are confirmed in grace and glory. If their love for their neighbour induced them when living, to pray for his spiritual welfare, would it not be impious to suppose that their charity has cooled since they have been translated to its source? Oh no! those who would deprive us of a communion with the Saints of God who compose the Church Triumphant, would inflict a great injury on the members of the Church Militant. We want to look up to them both as models and intercessors. God has crowned in them his own gifts, and in celebrating *their* virtues we publish *his* glories. In them, says an ancient Father, he has afforded us both an example and a protection.

The venerable usages of the Rogation week are now consecrated by antiquity. They have been observed for nearly 1400 years. With what pious fidelity our holy Church

has always treasured up those ancient rites! Even in the fourth century St. John Chrysostom had his solemn processions in Constantinople, at which the cross was borne between lighted torches, and public prayers were offered up to God for the conversion of sinners, and the wants of the faithful.

Saint Ambrose and St. Augustine speak of the Processions at Milan. The memorable Processions of St. Gregory the Great at Rome are well known, and the venerable Bede writing on the Processions of the Rogation Days alludes to the custom of bearing the relics of the saints in them, as one long established in the Church.

This, therefore, is by preeminence a week of prayer, and of more austerity than any any other in the Paschal days that have gone by. The fast has been abolished because it was not the spirit of the church to impose a general fast during the joyful days of the Paschal season. But the spirit of penance which she inculcates is still the same; and it is our duty to pray this week with more than usual assiduity and fervour, to assist, if we possibly can, at the public devotions of the church, to recite the Litanies, Rosaries, or