

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

REV. F. P. HICKEY, O. S. B. PALM SUNDAY

THE MERCY OF GOD, AND HOW IT WAS RECEIVED

It will reverence My Son.—(Matt. xxi. 57) It is fitting in Holy Week to meditate on God's mercy and how it is received.

See how everything in His coming spoke of mercy. His very Name, foretold by the angel, is the Name of mercy—Jesus the Saviour.

His words, words of mercy. When the Baptist sent his disciples to Him, He said: Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen.

His actions were in accord with His words. The examples course through your memory. The many blind whom, at their entreaty, He touched, and they went away rejoicing.

There is one momentous question to ask ourselves—is it now as it was then? God's mercy is the same; the same Jesus here; the same sacred Name we invoke and reverence.

But is it received now as then? Is it outraged now? We are indignant at the Jews: are we any better ourselves? Look and find yourselves—either in the synagogue at Nazareth, grumbling against God, rejecting some truth, unwilling to accept His mercy.

By a good Confession and Communion let us give God's mercy a true welcome; let us promise Him fidelity and loyalty, and choose Him now King of our hearts.

TEMPERANCE

ALCOHOL A DANGEROUS TOXIN

The world is convinced that alcohol is a dangerous toxin, says The Missionary. The medical profession has repudiated it, even as a drug, except in some few rare cases.

Every nation needs the best that is in its citizens. Alcohol lowers vitality and lessens efficiency.

Although it has been worldly prudence which, for the most part, has inspired the stopping of the manufacture of whisky in the United States and the prohibition of all alcoholic beverages in many States.

But let facts answer how God's mercy was received. He was all the Way and the Truth and the Life dwelt at Nazareth many years.

How was God's mercy received there? St. Luke will tell us. Our Lord rose up to read in their synagogue.

And He added: "This day is fulfilled this Scripture in your ears."

And what did His friends and kinsfolk do? "They were filled with anger. And they rose up and thrust Him out of the city, and brought Him to the brow of the hill."

And there's the place where crime is seen: Show me the place your presence blights, And there's the place for brawls and fights.

Go see the graves that you have filled, Go see the blood that you have spilled, Then tell me that there is a place, Where you should show your demon face.

Go ask the drunkard's wretched wife What's been the terror of her life; What turned her raven locks to snow, And laid her wretched husband low.

See how he looks by man forsaken; See her, by want and sorrow shaken; See her hide in deep disgrace, Then say no more about your place.

Go hear the orphan's cry for bread, Go hear the widow mourn her dead, Go see the drunkard's haggard face, And ask them, where is thy place?

Ask the pumper at the porchouse door, What makes his heavy heart so sore; He'll say while tears run down his face, Because he had for you a place.

Go see the place where demons lurk, Go watch them in their devilish chase, As they with knives, each other chase, And there, vile whiskey, is thy place, There's where the gallows finds its food, There's where the prison gets its brood.

There's where crime and poverty embrace, While rushing on their heaving race. —L. HAWKINS

THE SORROWFUL TREE

There is a tree in Persia to which the name "the sorrowful tree" is given. Perhaps because it blossoms only in the evening.

On the approach of dawn, when the brilliancy of the stars gradually fades in the light of day, the sorrowful tree closes its flowers, and ere the sun is fully risen not a single blossom is visible.

INDIGESTION AND CONSTIPATION

Quickly Relieved By "Fruit-a-tives"

"I suffered for many years with terrible indigestion and constipation. A neighbor advised me to try 'Fruit-a-tives'." I did so and to the surprise of my doctor, I began to improve and he advised me to go on with 'Fruit-a-tives'.

THE ANNUNCIATION

The Feast of the Annunciation is not only the one great day for man, but it is a great day for the Almighty God. On this day the Divine Word was made Flesh in the womb of a virgin and dwelt amongst us.

A tradition which comes down to us from apostolic times says that the great Mystery of the Incarnation was achieved on the 25th day of March.

But, above all, Catholics should remember during Holy Week that Easter morning crowns and interprets the whole history of the Passion.

Even those who will not be called upon to face a trial like this can learn during Holy Week the lesson of renunciation, of vicarious penance and willing acceptance of all that comes from the hand of God.

Two kinds of peace: Rome and Stockholm have each outlined a basis for world peace. The peace formulated at Stockholm is a Socialist peace.

The searching lessons of Holy Week will be borne in upon us more completely this year perhaps than any time in our lives.

Christians had its beginnings in a communistic state of society. In the catacombs the early converts were "brethren."

It is not astonishing that the Holy Father, lifted above the noise and the strife of world politics, has constantly and consistently worked for a just and enduring peace.

Ship your RAW FURS to John Hallam Limited

THE LESSONS OF HOLY WEEK

The Church of Christ alone has the balm that will soothe these aching hearts. The Church alone can dispel the sorrow which has fallen upon the land.

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RENNIE'S War Time Production Seeds THERE must be no "slackers" this year, either among the seeds or the growers.