

DEAR BRETHREN,—

How sad and sorrowful is the duty we are assembled to perform on this day. The Church mourns for the death of one of her most zealous and faithful priests ; we have lost a dear brother, a kind friend ; you, bereaved people, lament the sudden though not unexpected departure of a beloved and devoted father. Desolate parish, you have lost the good shepherd who, for nearly a quarter of a century, fed you as the lambs and sheep entrusted to his care by Divine Providence ; you have lost the good pastor who devoted himself entirely to the salvation of your immortal souls ; you have lost a father who preached more to you by example than by words. In the language of Saint Paul to the Corinthians he addresses you to-day from the tomb these parting words : ‘ You know that serving the Lord with humility and tears, how I have kept nothing back that was profitable to you, but I have preached to you and taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying penance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I know that all you, amongst whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.’ O ! what a painful separation ; what a sad farewell. May God give us, as he gave to the inconsolable people of Corinth, the strength to bear it with resignation. But, bereaved flock, surrounding the remains of your dear pastor, you are called upon to day to perform a duty of faith, a duty of love, a duty of gratitude. You are here to-day to pay a tribute of strict justice, as well as of piety and religion, to one who for so many years was responsible for your souls, and who, at the moment of his death, had not only to account for himself, but for each and every one of you as the flock entrusted to his pastoral care and solicitude. You are called to attest your love, by your ardent prayers and supplications to Heaven your gratitude, your veneration and undying affection to one, who, having by the gospel begotten you to Jesus Christ loved you so well ;