

The Apostles' Creed.

ARRANGED IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM ADVENT TO TRINITY.

By REV. D. ELSDALE, Rector of MOULSOE.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (FEBRUARY 14).

—Of The Virgin Mary—*The Mother of GOD*.—S. John ii. 1-13; S. John xix. 25, 26, 27.

A. I. Honour paid to The Virgin Mary:—

1. By GOD THE FATHER—in choosing her out of all women to be the Mother of His Son.
2. By GOD THE HOLY GHOST—in sanctifying her for her high Vocation.
3. By GOD THE SON—in submitting to her, as her Child.
4. By the Angel Gabriel—'Hail, thou that art highly favoured.'
5. By all generations—who call her 'Blessed.'

II. Dishonour paid to her:—

1. Through *neglect*—in not recognising her as 'Blessed among women.'
2. Through *worship*—in not magnifying her 'lowliness' as 'The Handmaid of the Lord.'

B. Imitate the Character of The Blessed Virgin:—

- I. *Purity*.—S. Luke i. 27.—'Blessed are the pure in heart.'
- II. *Humility*.—S. Luke i. 29.—'Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord.'
- III. *Faith*.—S. Luke i. 38.—'Blessed are they that wait for Him.'
- IV. *Charity*.—S. Luke i. 39, 40.—'Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy.'
- V. *Contentment*.—S. Luke ii. 7.—'Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.'
- VI. *Thoughtfulness*.—S. Luke ii. 19, 51.—'Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.'
- VII. *Submission*.—S. John ii. 4, 5.—'Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.'
- VIII. *Fortitude*.—S. John xix. 25.—'Blessed is the man whose strength is in THEE.'

- C.**
1. Why is it necessary to call the Blessed Virgin—'the Mother of God'?—To proclaim the honour of her Son.
 2. Who, then, is her Son?—THE SON OF GOD.
 3. What is This Son?—HE is One Divine Person with two Natures.
 4. What does Prophecy tell us of the Mother of God?—'Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name—Immanuel.'
 5. What did the Angel call the Mother of Jesus?—'Highly favoured' and 'Blessed among women.'
 6. What does the name *Mary* mean?—The same as *Miriam* or *Marah*—i.e. 'Bitterness.'
 7. How many Marys can you find in Scripture?

Septuagesima Sunday (FEBRUARY 21).

'Suffered'—*The Passion of Jesus in His Infancy*.—S. Matt. ii. 12-23; S. Luke ii. 21.

A. Jesus 'suffered' from the Manger to the Cross. Consider His sufferings as an Infant:—

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| 1st. At Bethlehem—Pain in His Circumcision. | 4th. In Egypt—Hardships in His Flight. |
| 2nd. At Jerusalem—Humility in His Presentation. | 5th. At Nazareth—Poverty in His Bringing up. |
| 3rd. At Bethlehem—Danger in His Epiphany. | |

B. It was necessary that Christ should suffer:—

- First. Because HE was 'Very Man' (Job xiv. 1). ∴ believe in His Incarnation.
- Second. As a Satisfaction for sin (1 S. Peter iv. 1). ∴ accept His Merits.
- Third. To purchase the joys of Heaven for Himself and all mankind (Romans viii. 17). ∴ hope for His Salvation.
- Fourth. To learn Mercy for our Misery (Hebrews iv. 15). ∴ trust His Tenderness.
- Fifth. As our Example in our own sufferings (1 S. Peter ii. 21). ∴ imitate His Patience.
- Sixth. For His own Perfection (Hebrews ii. 10). ∴ glory in suffering.

- C.**
1. Was the first Adam ever an Infant?—No, he was made full-grown man.
 2. Why did the Second Adam grow from Infancy to Manhood?—That HE might give His Sympathy and His Example to every age of life.
 3. Why did Jesus suffer as an Infant?—For our sins.
 4. Why do our newborn babes suffer?—Because they are born in sin.
 5. Why should they be baptised?—To wash away the sin of Adam, in which we are all born.
 6. What becomes of a baptised babe if it should die?—It is 'undoubtedly saved.'
 7. Can you be as sure about yourself if you were to die?