

Through the merits of the Most Precious Blood and the intercession of the August Mother of God, may the souls of the faithful departed, this day triumphantly enter Sion. Amen.

PRAYER.

HOW AND FOR WHOM IT SHOULD BE OFFERED.

Saint Augustine says there are three kinds of people who pray and are not heard, and three ways in which they pray. Firstly, those who pray in a bad state—that is, a state of mortal sin. There is nothing which turns God from man so much as sin. Man should always have his soul pure. Secondly, those who pray badly, that is distractedly, with hearts disturbed by the turmoils and affairs of life. Lastly, those who ask for things which would be injurious to them. God sees what is invisible to mortals; He is all love and will not grant a petition which would perhaps lead to our destruction. The necessity, potency and grandeur of prayer were beautifully delineated in a discourse lately delivered by Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster.

His Eminence urged his hearers to pray without ceasing, to pray believing that they would be heard, to look upon prayer not as a task but as an honor, a privilege, a power which would rivet them to God Himself, which would make them like unto Jesus Christ. To give us an example He prayed; the whole night He was "in the prayer of God," so that we might see Him and learn from His example what we should do. He prayed for all, and so our prayers should be, not for ourselves alone, but should be directed to God for all our friends and acquaintance, for the whole of our nation, for the whole of our race. And while they were here occupied in the limited circle of their daily duties by prayer, their hearts should be embracing the whole globe, so that the pagan inhabitants of China, Africa, and Australia, they who have never heard of the name of Jesus Christ, should feel the effects of their prayers offered up on their behalf. We