

PASTORAL LETTER.

JAMES ROGERS, BY THE FAVOR OF GOD AND OF THE APOSTOLIC
SEE, BISHOP OF CHATHAM, ETC. ETC.

*To our dearly beloved Brethren in Christ, the Clergy, Religious,
and Laity of our Diocese,*

HEALTH AND BENEDICTION.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:

The authoritative voice of the Sovereign Pontiff, Christ's Vicar on Earth and Supreme Visible Head of the Church, again invites the members of his numerous flock to unite prayer, fasting and alms-deeds with the worthy reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion—the usual conditions for gaining a Plenary Indulgence—while he, on his part, employs the POWER OF THE KEYS entrusted to him, to unlock the Spiritual Treasury of the Church—THE MERITS OF CHRIST and of his Saints—by granting the Indulgence of a Jubilee to all the Faithful who comply with the prescribed conditions.

The holy Word of God teaches us that "Man's life on Earth is a warfare."—(Job vii. 1.) "The kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence and it is only the violent that bear it away."—(Matt. xi. 12.) "Your enemy the Devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, whom resist ye firm in faith."—(Pet. v. 8.)

The Christian's arms in this spiritual warfare are watching and prayer, fasting, alms-deeds and frequentation of the sacraments.

Christ our Master and model, in the commencement of his public life, immediately after his baptism by John, when in confirmation of John's testimony, the Holy Ghost, in the form of a dove, alighted on the head of Jesus and the Eternal Father proclaimed from the clouds: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," retired into the desert to fast and commune in prayer with his Heavenly Father during forty days, to prepare for his spiritual combat with the Tempter ere he commenced his public ministry.