

Second Sunday in Lent. (MARCH 17.)

Infidelity and Irreligion.

Passage—Joshua x. Text—Deuteronomy vi. 4, 5.

A. The first four Commandments.

I. The Catechism explains these Commandments as follows—

- The First.—'To believe in HRM, to fear HRM, and to love HRM—with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength;
 The Second.—'To worship HRM, to give HRM thanks, to put my whole trust in HRM, to call upon HRM;
 The Third.—'To honour HRM's Holy Name and HRM's Word;
 The Fourth.—'And to serve HRM truly all the days of my life.'

- II. My spirit is made up of (1) 'heart'—with its affections.
 (2) 'mind'—with its thoughts.
 (3) 'soul'—with its intentions.
 (4) 'strength'—with its actions.

- III. 'Infidelity' (= unbelief in God) is forbidden by the First Commandment.
 'Irreligion' (= neglect of God) is forbidden by the Second, Third and Fourth Commandments.

B. 1st. The Collect proclaims our powerlessness without God. The Epistle warns against sins which especially offend God. The Gospel gives an example of true faith in God.

2nd. The First Lessons—

- Morning, Genesis xxvii. 31.—Esau represents the profane person who has lost his Heavenly Birthright.
 Afternoon, Genesis xxviii. 13.—Jacob—the son of God, who shall inherit all things.
 Evening, Genesis xxxii. 28.—Israel—who has power with God, and with men (e.g. his profane brother Esau).

C. My Duty towards God—

First—*Faith*.—Hebrews xi. 6.

I must convince the Infidel—

- (1) from Creation.—Romans i. 20.
 (2) from Revelation.—Hebrews i. 1, 2.
 (3) from Conscience.—Acts xxiv. 25.

Second—*Works*.—S. James ii. 17.

I must lead the Irreligious—

- (a) to worship.—1 Corinthians xiv. 24, 25.
 (b) to honour.—S. Luke xxiii. 40, 41.
 (c) to serve.—S. Luke v. 29.

Third Sunday in Lent. (MARCH 24.)

Disobedience.

Passage—1 Samuel iii.; Proverbs i. 8.

A. The Fifth Commandment. (See Ephesians vi. 1.)

- I. My Parents at Home—(1) 'love'—with heart; (2) 'honour'—with lips; (3) 'succour'—with hands.
 II. My Parents in the State—(1) 'the Queen'—(2) 'all in authority under her.'
 III. My Parents—(1) in the world—'Governours'; (2) in School—'Teachers'; (3) in the Church—'Spiritual Pastors'; (4) at work—'Masters.'
 IV. My Parents everywhere—'all my betters.'

B. 1st.—Collect. We have no right to expect ALMIGHTY God to defend us unless we are obedient.

Epistle. A warning for 'the children of disobedience.'

Gospel. If the spirit of disobedience once re-enters the heart after Holy Baptism, he will bring w. him seven other spirits.

First Lessons—

- Morning, Genesis xxxvii.—Joseph the dutiful child.
 Afternoon, Genesis xxxix.—His obedience to his earthly and heavenly masters.
 Evening, Genesis xl.—The submission and graciousness of Joseph even in an unjust captivity.

C. Holy Obedience—

- First.—In deed—actively (S. Matthew xxi. 31).
 Second.—In word—truthfully (Joshua xxiv. 24).
 Third.—In will—heartily (S. Matthew xviii. 35).