

The Eucharist and the Rosary.

Third Sorrowful Mystery.

The Crowning with Thorns.

Blasphemies and Irreverences

“AND plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand” Matt. 27.

We close our tearful eyes in pity as Jesus passes on to His next torment, the Crowning. We see the tottering steps, the painful movements as He tries to advance under the rude treatment of the soldiers. They push Him on to the barrack yard where they are going to have some sport by dressing Him up as a King, and giving Him mock homage. They roughly pull off His tunic—His own dear Mother wove it and even she, with her delicate handling of it, could not have removed it without exquisite torture.

They plait the crown, put it on His head, and beat it down with the reed. We see the blood trickling through His hair, disfiguring His face, filling and blinding His dear eyes. Then begins the mockery, the sarcastic “Hail, king of the Jews” as they bend the knee. Think what Jesus must have felt in that tender sensitive Heart of His!

And think, too, of the long prologue of blasphemies which Christ, annihilated in the Eucharist must hear and endure during His stay through the centuries!

First of all, the blasphemies of the pagans whose evil curiosity gains against the jealous care with which the first Christians hid their treasures and their mysteries and who transformed by their calumnies, the sacrament of love into a cannibalistic festival.

Secondly we hear of the blasphemies of heretics who twist the word of God into contrary meanings and turn it against the dogma of the Eucharist and who pretend to substitute in the name of the same God a frail and impotent figure for the august and fruitful reality.