

NOTES FOR SUNDAY LESSONS.

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THE CHURCH CATECHISM.

ARRANGED IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM ADVENT TO TRINITY.

The Christian Covenant treated during ADVENT.

"	"	<i>Faith</i>	"	"	CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY.
"	"	<i>Duty</i>	"	"	LENT.
"	"	<i>Grace</i>	"	"	from PALM SUNDAY to TRINITY.

NOTE.—Each Instruction will be arranged under three heads:—

- A. *Expository*—explaining the words of that part of the Catechism which is assigned to each Sunday.
- B. *Harmonistic*—showing how the Services appointed for that particular Sunday (the Collect, the Epistle, and Gospel, the Proper Psalms, the Lessons, &c.) illustrate that part of the Catechism.
- C. *Practical*—drawing, from what has been thus explained and illustrated, moral and spiritual lessons for the Christian's life.

NOTE.—We would suggest that, in delivering these Instructions, the Passage from the Old Testament should be studied *last*, since it forms an illustration, not a foundation, for the whole lesson. It will therefore follow more suitably, after the Gospel facts or doctrines have been fixed on the mind, as prophetic or typical of the truth that has been already accepted. The Text should be repeated first of all, as giving the key-note of the entire subject.

First Sunday in Lent. (MARCH 10.)

Actual Sin.

Passage—Exodus xix. Text—Exodus xxxi. 18.

A. *The Ten Commandments* = (Greek) Decalogue = (in Scripture) 'THE LAW.' See Romans ii. 14.

I. 'Sin' is—the *transgression of the law* (1 S. John iii. 4). 'Original Sin' (remember the Instruction for Advent Sunday) is—the *infection of Adam in which we are all born* (Romans v. 12). 'Actual Sin' is—*doing wrong willingly, knowing it to be wrong* (S. Luke xv. 13).

II. The first four Commandments teach us our 'Duty towards God.'—S. Matthew xxii. 37. The last six—our 'Duty towards our Neighbour.'—S. Matthew xxii. 39.

III. 'Law' without 'Love' is *emptiness*.—Romans xiii. 8.

B. 1st. *Collect* prays for the Grace of Abstinence—to subdue 'Actual Sin.'

Epistle tells of S. Paul's sufferings for Ministry against 'Actual Sin.'

Gospel narrates our SAVIOUR'S victory over the three forms of 'Actual Sin.'

2nd. *First Lessons*—

Morning, Genesis xix.—Sodom destroyed for Actual Sin.

Afternoon, Genesis xxii.—The Sacrifice of Isaac typical of that of CHRIST for all sin, Original as well as Actual.

Evening, Genesis xxxiii.—The death of the Saints puts a stop to the committing of Actual Sin in them

C. Find out our own Actual Sins—

First.—By Prayer to God.—Psalms cxxxix. 23.

Second.—By Self-examination.—2 Corinthians xiii. 5.

Third.—By Counsel from a faithful friend.—2 Samuel xii. 1; 1 Kings xxi. 20.