

Pastoral Letter.

JOHN WALSH—*by the Grace of God and the appointment of the Holy See, Archbishop of Toronto.*

To the Clergy, Religious Communities and Faithful of the Archdiocese, Health and Benediction in the Lord.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—The holy season of Lent, now at hand, is a time which the Church specially consecrates to works of penance and mortification, to the moral reformation and amendment of life, and to greater fervour in prayer and in meditation on the great truths of religion. In this work-a-day world we are, like Martha, busy about many things and we give too little attention to the ONE THING NECESSARY. Yet this "one thing necessary" is the end and object of our existence here below, the purpose which God had in creating us, and which the Son of God had in redeeming us; and it should be the supreme and sovereign duty of our lives. We have been created for this end that we might know and serve God here, and afterwards love and enjoy him in Heaven. Our immortal souls are exiles here; their home is with God, and their country is heaven. We are, in the language of St. Peter, but strangers and pilgrims in this sad fallen world. We have not here a lasting city but look for one that is to come. Hence our Lord says to us, "Be not solicitous about what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, or where-with you shall be clothed, for after all these things the heathens seek. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew vi. : 31-33.)

Now the one great obstacle that blocks our way to the Kingdom of God is sin. This is the one intrinsic, essential evil that