

Ordination Vows.

"Thy vows are upon me, O God."

Psalm LVI—12.

We are met together, my brethren, this morning to take our part as members of the one Holy Catholic Church in that solemn service by which, and in which, age after age, the grace of Holy Orders is handed on by the Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has called to the sacred office of deacon or priest in that Divine Society which He Himself has founded for the express purpose of carrying on His work and perpetuating His Ministry even unto the end of the world.

Whilst it is to the Bishop, and the Bishop alone, that the actual power of conferring the grace of Holy Orders pertains, whilst He is the member of the body of Christ through which the body ordains, and whilst without him it would be as incapable of ordaining as the human body would be incapable of seeing without the eye or hearing without the ear, yet those of us who are here assembled with him, whether priests, deacons or lay members, are assembled, not as idle spectators, but as part of Christ's mystical body, the Church, to sanction that which shall be done, and to assist by our prayers and, as in the case of those of us who are priests, by the imposition of our hands in the bestowal of that Divine gift of the Holy Spirit, by whose power alone the minister of Christ can carry the burden and perform the task which is assigned to him. An, my brethren, these young soldiers who to-day kneel before the great Captain of their Salvation to receive their commissions as officers in his army have need of all the strength that God can give to them for the tremendous task they are about to accept.