

TWELVE MYSTERIES OF THE SACRED INFANCY OF JESUS.

In order that Christians may often meditate on the Incarnation and Birth of our divine Redeemer, and on the other mysteries, which regard his sacred infancy, and that they may render him devout thanksgiving, and imitate the virtues which this divine Infant has taught us by his example, Pius VII. by a Decree of the 23d, November, 1819, granted for ever a plenary Indulgence on the 23d day of every month, to those who with sincere repentance confess, and communicate, and assist in some church or public oratory, where the pious exercises in honour of the Infant Jesus, are performed, provided they recite, in memory of the twelve mysteries of his sacred infancy, the following devotions, and pray according to the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff.

He granted likewise, a perpetual indulgence of 300 days, which may be gained once a day by those, who in private, devoutly and with contrite heart, perform this pious exercise. These indulgences are applicable by way of suffrage to the holy souls detained in Purgatory.

V. O God, come to my aid. R. O Lord make haste to help me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. R. As it was in the beginning, is now and for ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

First Mystery.—The Incarnation.

O Jesus, sweetest Infant, who for our salvation, didst descend from the bosom of the Father into the womb of the Virgin Mary, where, conceived of the Holy Ghost, thou the Incarnate Word, didst take the form of a servant. Have mercy on us.

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord have mercy on us. Hail Mary, &c.

Second Mystery.—The Visitation.

O Jesus, sweetest Infant, who by means of the Virgin Mother, didst visit Saint Elizabeth, and, fulfilling St. John, the Baptist, thy precursor, with the Holy Ghost, didst sanctify him in the womb of his Mother, have mercy on us.

R. Have Mercy on us, O Lord have mercy on us. Hail Mary, &c.

Third Mystery.—The expectation of his Birth.

O Jesus, sweetest Infant, who for 9 months confined in thy Mother's womb; didst wait for the time of thy birth, and didst inflame the heart of the Virgin Mary and of St. Joseph, with the most ardent desire for that happy moment, and who was offered by God the Father, for the salvation of the world, have mercy on us.

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord have mercy on us. Hail Mary, &c.

Fourth Mystery.—The Nativity.

O Jesus, sweetest Infant, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, wrapped up in swathing clothes, laid in a manger, announced and glorified by Angels, and visited by shepherds, have mercy on us.

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord have mercy on us. Hail Mary &c.

To thee, O Jesus, be glory given,

Who wast of a Virgin born,

To the Father and Holy Ghost the

same,

For all eternity. Amen.

V. O Jesus is nigh unto us. R. come let us adore him. &c.

Fifth Mystery.—The Circumcision.

O Jesus, sweetest Infant, circumcised when eight days old, and called by the