AN HOUR OF PRAYER FOR THE CENTENARY

FIERY CROSS ASSOCIATION OF THE
ANGLO-CATHOLIC CONGRESS

238, Abbey House,
Victoria St., S.W.1.
PREFACE

The year 1933 will see the Centenary of the beginning of the Oxford Movement. Many churchpeople are already beginning to make their preparations to keep that Centenary well. This book of prayers, which comes as the sequel to the "Hour of the Fiery Cross" and the "Hour of Prayer for Lambeth," is designed to help such Christians in their preparation for the Centenary.

It consists of seven sections of thanksgiving and intercession, which may be used one on each day of the week, in public or in private. But it is also designed to provide a basis for an hour's continuous prayer for those keeping the Station Days of Prayer, as organised by the Fiery Cross Association of the Anglo-Catholic Congress.

The central idea underlying this scheme of thanksgiving and intercession is the recognition of what the Oxford Movement has already accomplished for the Anglican Communion, and of what work still remains to be done by the Movement, for there are many tasks still to be performed.

The texts of Scripture which preface each meditation and group of prayers are all taken from the second part of the Book of Isaiah. Most of these prophetic utterances were given to the Jewish people at a time when they were in captivity in Babylon, their country desolate, and their temple in ruins. Such confidence and hope in God as the
prophecies reveal is, therefore; all the more striking, in view of that misery and desolation.

The history of the restoration of the people Israel to its land and temple shows the reward which came to that faith and trust in God.

The spiritual situation confronting the Oxford reformers was very like that of Israel in bondage and desolation. And they, too, like the prophets, are beginning to see the fulfilment of their labours and the reward of their hopes. England is returning to its own promised land. Not all the people have returned, but the advance guard has come and the temple is beginning to be built.

Copies of this booklet may be obtained for 2d., postage 1d., from the Church Tract Library, 8, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Fiery Cross Association is prepared to make free grants to parishes holding Station Days, and giving the alms to the Association.
The Revival of Faith in Things Unseen

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountains; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold the Lord God will come as a mighty one, and his arms shall rule for him. Isaiah 40: 9, 10.

Consider—the wonder of the Catholic Faith revealed in Jesus Christ and the Church.

Give thanks to God:

for the restoration of faith in heavenly truths,
for Baptism as the beginning of a new supernatural life in Christ,
for renewed devotion to the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, for the increased use of Holy Communion for grace and for glory, for the recovery of the Eucharist as the great service of Sunday, for the comfort and grace of Absolution, for a renewed sense of the Communion of Saints, for the recovery of faith in the ministry of Angels, for the great increase in mystical prayer, for the faithful witness of all who have been firm under persecution for truth and righteousness’ sake.

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord; All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all Angels cry aloud, the Heavens and all the powers therein. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her time of service is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; that she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. Isaiah 40: 1, 2.

Pray for pardon:

for neglect of God’s revelation of heavenly things,
for compromise and want of clear thinking,
for unworthy and false belief about the
Sacraments and mysteries of God,
for narrow-mindedness and violence in controversy,
for shallow religion that cares only for words
and external observance.

Make me a clean heart, O God:
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence:
And take not thy holy spirit from me.

Pardon, O God, our misuse and neglect of thy
precious truth; and grant that through our fault
the faith of thy Church may never be betrayed, nor
souls repulsed from the glory and grace of thy
revelation in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Pray:

for a full restoration of the Eucharist as the
great act of worship,
for a love of God’s truth by all men,
for courage and spiritual energy to follow that
truth,
for the removal of obstacles to right belief,
for the taking away of bigotry.

Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright
beams of light upon thy Church, that it being
enlightened by the heavenly doctrine of thy Prophets
and Apostles may so walk in the light of thy truth,
that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting
life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Renewed Sense of Membership in the Catholic Church

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake as in the days of old, the generations of ancient times. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. Isaiah 51: 9, 11.

Consider—the enduring glory of the Catholic Church throughout the centuries, though nations rise and fall.

Give thanks to God:

for the preservation of our descent from the Apostles,
for the glory of the Martyrs and Confessors,
for the generations of noble men and women who have set forth Christ in word and deed, for repeated revivals of faith and love, for the reformers who have arisen when the Church was corrupt, for all who have asserted the spiritual independence of the Church.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee, The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.

We give thanks to thee, O God, for the glorious inheritance thou hast given us in the saints, and for the preserving of the apostolic ministry in our communion; and we beseech thee that we may live worthily of our part and lot in the Church apostolic, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Keep not back; Bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the end of the earth; every one that is called by my name and whom I have created for my glory. Isaiah 43: 5, 6, 7.

Consider—the vision of a Church reunited once more in faith and love, in outward communion and effort: one body and one spirit.

Pray:
for a renewed desire for unity,
for a better understanding of each other amongst all Christians,
for adherence to truth,
for allowance for liberty,
for God's over-ruling power in man's helplessness,
for recovery of her spiritual liberty by the Church of England.

The Holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;
The Father of an infinite majesty,
Thine honourable, true and only Son,
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Pray for pardon:
for an unthinking acceptance of past strife and division,
for complacency about our own Church,
for sectarian pride and jealousy,
for hasty judgment and narrow-mindedness,
for self-will and passion in controversy,
for all bitter things said about other churches.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Zion;
Build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness:
With the burnt offerings and oblations.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who saidst to thine Apostles, peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, regard not our sins but the faith of thy Church, and grant her that peace and unity which is agreeable to thy will; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.
TUESDAY

The Revival of Personal Religion

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. . . . Ye shall be named the priests of the Lord; men shall call you the ministers of our God. Isaiah 61: 4, 6.

Consider—that God has given the Catholic Faith to bring the souls of men to him.

Give thanks to God:

for the Evangelical revival which came before the Oxford Movement,
for the Bishops who have been true fathers in God,
for the better ideals of the priesthood,
for the faithful laymen and laywomen who have loved God,
for the revival of the sense of worship,
for the renewal of personal discipline and asceticism,
for the generous benefactions which have built noble churches,
for the movement for free and open churches,
for the present wealth of vocation to the priesthood.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death;
Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Pray:

for holiness and right zeal in all bishops and priests,
for repentance and reparation by all faithless and sinful priests,
for the perseverance of the faithful, especially the young,
for the return of the lapsed to religion.

Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, O Lord, to strengthen and confirm all thy faithful, and to lift them up more and more continually to heavenly desires; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. Isaiah 61: 1.

Give thanks to God:

for the new care for the poor and needy,
for the faithful ministry to souls and bodies in our slum parishes,
for the spirit of compassion in Rescue work,
for the making of Christian orphanages,
for the work of the Christian Social Union and other Catholic social guilds.

Pray:

for a further quickening of the social conscience,
for all who are trying to work out a Christian social doctrine,
for all Christian politicians and leaders of industry,
for the cause of world peace and a Catholic internationalism,
for deliverance from the spirit of Mammon and materialism,
for a cure for financial distress and unemployment.

Grant, O Lord we beseech thee, that all men may seek first thy kingdom and its righteousness so that thou mayest reign among us; and of thy mercy supply our daily needs and the necessities of all who are in particular want; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
The Revival of the Religious Life

The voice of one that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40: 3.

Consider—the religious life with its abandonment of all for God.

Give thanks to God:

for the founders of the great religious orders of old,
for the men and women who have re-founded the religious life in the Church of England,
for the witness of that life to the love of Christ,
for the stern example of simplicity and penance,
for the spiritual work of the fathers and sisters,
for the works of mercy of men and women religious,
for the wealth of prayer in the contemplative life.

Pray:

for more vocations to the religious life,
especially to the older communities,
for the founding of new congregations to meet new conditions, especially for a teaching order of men,
for the faithfulness and fervour of those already under vows,
for all religious, that they may be preserved from worldliness and the love of praise of men,
for all communities, that they may keep the freshness of their ideals and love of sacrifice,
for a better knowledge and understanding of the religious life among church-people.

Look favourably, O Lord, on all who have given themselves to thee in the bond of poverty, chastity, and obedience; and grant that, having forsaken all, they may faithfully follow their master Christ in the spirit of detachment and oblation; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Even the youths shall be faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40: 30, 31.
Consider—the call to heroic sanctity, and the glory of those who have scaled the heights of the spiritual life.

Pray:
that God may make a new generation of Saints,
that the call to the ascetic life of mortification may be more generously answered,
that the vocation of reparation and suffering may be better understood,
that church-people may listen to the claims of other-worldliness,
that the heroic ideals of faithful marriage may be upheld,
that all who are called to take up the cross may bear it with courage and joy.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee help thy servants whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting.

Grant to us, Lord, the fire of thy Spirit that he may so illuminate our understanding, kindle our devotion and temper our will, that in all things we may fulfil the vocation wherewith we are called; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Need for Revival in the Home Mission

_Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee._ For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. Isaiah 60: 1, 2.

_Consider_—the duty of every Catholic to try to win his neighbour to the Faith he himself enjoys.

_Ask pardon of God:_

for the past corruption and sloth of the Church,
for the lack of sympathy which alienated the Methodist movement,
for failure to provide for the spiritual needs of the great cities as they grew up,
for our want of care for the outcast and poor,
for our deadening respectability,
for our neglect of real religion and our interest
in things that do not matter.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is
done amiss;
O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee;
Therefore shalt thou be feared.
I look for the Lord, my soul doth wait for him;
In his word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord;
Before the morning watch, I say, before the
morning watch.

Pardon, O Lord, our sins of lukewarmness and
self-satisfaction; and grant that we may be filled
with a new desire to win the brother for whom
Christ died; through the same Jesus Christ, our
Lord. Amen.

Pray:
for a new zeal for the spiritual feeding of the
multitude,
for priests to do the hard, painstaking work of
the Good Shepherd,
for writers and preachers with the gift of putting
things in simple language,
for the fire of the Spirit in all bishops and priests,
for more desire on the part of lay-people to be
missionaries to their neighbours,
for the work of the bishops in providing
churches for new areas,
for a radical reform in Church finance and
organisation.
O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage. 
   Govern them, and lift them up for ever. 
Day by day, we magnify thee; 
   And we worship thy name, ever world without end.

Behold, O God our Defender, and look upon the face of thine Anointed; and grant that from the rising of the sun even unto the going down thereof, thy name may be great in our country, and in every place a pure offering may be offered unto thy name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the work of religious education:
   that God may guide each nation aright as to its day schools,
   that the work of Sunday schools and catechisms may grow and prosper,
   that there may be better religious teaching in secondary and public schools,
   that the Church training colleges for teachers may be blessed in their task,
   that church-people may learn the spirit of sacrifice in providing for religious education,
   that means for teaching religion to grown-up people may be found.

O Lord, who hast made thy Son to be the way, the truth and the life, grant that all may be so instructed in that way that they may possess the truth and the life in this world, and in the world to come; through the same, thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Theological and Liturgical Revival

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth. The voice of thy watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord returneth to Zion. Isaiah 52: 7, 8.

Consider—the power of the Catholic Faith to satisfy intellectual needs and to give abundant life.

Give thanks to God:

for the re-discovery of the faith of the Saints,
for the fine harmony of the ancient faith and modern knowledge in English theology,
for theologians in their patient search for truth,
for the great orators who have set forth the faith persuasively,
for the improvement in the theological training of the clergy.

We praise thee, we bless thee;
We worship thee, we glorify thee;
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

Pray:
for a new defence of the old religion by the learned,
for writers to produce popular books commending the Faith,
for the work of the religious Press and publishing houses,
for the religious teaching in the universities and theological colleges,
for the conversion of influential opponents of the Faith,
for a new conviction that only in Christ can all things be reconciled.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the brightness of thy glory may shine upon us; and may the illumination of thy light, shed abroad by thy holy Spirit, fill the hearts of those who by thy grace have been born again; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man passed through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. . . . For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron. Isaiah 60: 15, 17.

Give thanks to God:

for the new sense of decency and order in public worship,
for the new use of beauty in church building and adornment,
for the improvement of taste in church music,
for the poets, painters and writers of the Oxford revival,
for the writers, translators and musical composers of our hymns.

Pray:

that church art and ceremonial may not become debased,
that church-building and restoration may be marked by beauty and dignity,
that wealthy congregations may remember the needs of poor churches,
that the appeal of beauty may not divert the heart from the love of God and inward religion.

We give thanks to thee, O God, for those who have made beautiful the place of thy sanctuary; and we beseech thee to grant that we may ever offer to thee the sacrifice of a contrite spirit and a broken heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
The Revival of Zeal for Missions

The strangers that join themselves to the Lord, to minister unto him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, everyone that keepeth the Sabbath from profaning it, and holdeth fast by my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Isaiah 56: 6, 7.

Picture—Jesus Christ receiving the nations of the world at his throne of glory.

Give thanks to God:

for the enterprise and courage of our pioneer missionaries in Africa and the Far East,
for the founding of the great missionary societies and their bold policies,
for the thousands of missionaries who have gone forth as ambassadors of Christ,
for the many missionaries who have sacrificed
life or health in foreign lands,
for the missionary martyrs,
for all the money given for the cause of foreign
missions,
for the work of the translation of the Scriptures,
for the establishment of new native churches,
for all enlightened rulers and governors who
have encouraged missions,
for the great increase in prayer for foreign
missions.

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the
world,
Receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
Have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
Art most high in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Ask pardon of God:
for our imperfect gratitude to those who
brought the Gospel to us,
for our want of conviction and zeal for missions,
for our failure to seize the opportunities God
has made,
for our selfish, irreligious exploitation of
undeveloped countries,
for the sins of Christians towards members of
other races.

I will acknowledge my sin unto thee,
And mine unrighteousness have I not hid.
I said I will confess my sin unto the Lord;
And so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.
Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion,
For it is time that thou have mercy upon her;
yea, the time is come.

Pardon, O Lord, our sins of sloth and selfishness;
put in us a new heart of love towards thee and the
heathen for whom Christ died, that we may give
of our best for the spread of thy kingdom; through
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pray:
for new missionary volunteers to fill vacant
places and sustain the present work,
for increased financial support,
for men and women of ability to fill leading
positions in the missionary dioceses,
for native Christians, that they may be steadfast
and full of apostolic zeal,
for the native priesthood and episcopate,
for the growth of public Christian sentiment in
heathen lands,
for unwearying prayer for the spread of the
Kingdom.

O God, our heavenly Father, who didst manifest
thy love by sending thine only begotten Son to
redeem mankind, pour thy Spirit upon thy Church
that it may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel
unto all nations; send forth, we pray thee, more
labourers into thy harvest; defend them in all
dangers and trials; and hasten the time when the
fulness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in; through
the same, thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, look upon
thine everlasting covenant, and cause the captivity
of Judah and Israel to cease, that all who love
Jerusalem and mourn for her may rejoice with her;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.