The Rector's Message

TRAVEL is nearly always a pleasant occupation. Certainly, many of us have enjoyed ourselves this summer away from home; but it is always good to be back again. We love St Mary's; and, though we are sometimes annoyed by all of its confusion and the summer heat, we also love the great metropolis in which we live. Now that we are all coming home again for the winter, let us all work together in the bond of a common purpose for a great year at St Mary's.

The first Sunday of October, which is also the first day of the month, will again be observed as our Dedication Festival. May I ask that our parishioners and friends all make a special effort to be present at the services on that day, and that all endeavour to receive the Blessed Sacrament with special intention for the parish at one of the Masses on October first? To begin the year thus, with a general communion of the parish, will be to begin it in the best possible way.

It is a pleasure to welcome as a new member of our staff Father Otis who has already endeared himself to many of you during his residence in the parish this summer.

Brother Herbert will be with us again this year, continuing his faithful and efficient work in the sacristy and about the altars. In
addition, two lay novices of the Society of St John the Evangelist will be in residence at St Mary's House this winter, studying at the General Theological Seminary and giving such assistance as they can in the work of the church. One of them is Brother Richard, who returns to us from Canada; the other is Brother David, from St Francis’ House, Cambridge.

Father Peabody, returning from France on the S.S. Majestic, will arrive in New York on October second and will receive a hearty welcome from all of us. And our good and faithful Sisters will all be back at the Mission House, with the exception of Sister Mary Louise, who returns to the Convent at Fond du Lac for other duty. Her place here will be taken by another Sister of the Community, and, although at this writing we are not certain of her identity, we are sure that she will be a welcome addition to our staff.

Sunday evening services have become a real problem in our modern American cities. Especially is this true in Catholic parishes where we are taught (and quite rightly) that it is ‘the Mass that matters,’ and from which we sometimes infer (and not rightly) that other Sunday services are of little or no account. Sunday, however, should be a day of real rest and recreation, after having consecrated it by offering ourselves to God in union with our Lord’s Sacrifice; and yet, how is it to be this if most of the day has to be spent in getting to and from the church? A mid-afternoon service makes impossible the social call, or a spin in the open air; and an evening service makes impossible the attendance at a concert, or the undisturbed rest at home which for many is not the least of Sunday’s attractiveness and which prepares us for the work of the following day.

For many years at St Mary’s, Sunday Vespers were sung at four o’clock, but, as it became evident that modern developments made that hour rather impossible, eight o’clock was tried. While that led to some improvement in attendance, it was not as great as I had hoped for. Accordingly, this year we shall try a bold experiment and have our Sunday evening service at six o’clock—not too early to break up our afternoon, not too late to disrupt our evening. And I hope that a good-sized congregation will be on hand. Sundays will be happiest if we give God his due.

Now concerning the character of the service, we have decided upon a simple form of Evening Prayer in which the congregation can (and must) take an active part, enlivened by the singing of popular and well-beloved hymns. There will be a brief instruction of about ten minutes upon some matter connected with our holy religion; and the whole will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the hymns being sung in English to fixed and familiar settings. The whole service will not exceed one hour in length.

Will you not plan to come to this service each Sunday and bring along some friends? Mass in the morning, Evensong at six. Come to both!

ON October 1, our summer régime will be at an end and we shall resume our regular schedule of church services and guild meetings. The hours for week-day Masses will now be 7, 8 and 9.30; and for Sunday, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Hereafter, the nine o’clock Mass on Sundays will be sung to a simple and familiar plainsong setting such as the Missa de Angelis or the Missa Marialis, which the children already know. At this Mass each Sunday the Father Rector will preach a five-minute sermon, usually on the gospel for the day. Holy Communion will be given at this Mass as at the other earlier Masses on Sunday.
The public recitation of Matins at 9 a.m. and Evensong at 6 p.m. will be resumed on Saturday, September 30. These services will be held, as usual, in the Lady Chapel.

AFTER two years' experience in holding the monthly Holy Hour in the church on the Thursday before the first Friday, it has been decided to return to the former custom of having it in the Lady Chapel weekly, on Saturdays, from 5 to 6 p.m. This will begin on Saturday, September 30, the Eve of the Feast of the Dedication. Devotions will be conducted by one of the Fathers each week, and the Exposition will conclude with Benediction at 5.45 p.m.

It is suggested that the several devotional guilds connected with St Mary's each take one Saturday in the month for attendance at the Holy Hour. The prayers and intercessions would then be centered round the object to which the Guild is devoted. We should like to try out the following scheme this coming month, and we ask for the coöperation of the members of these guilds:

October 14. The Living Rosary. The Parish.

BEGINNING October 1, the Church School for the children of the parish will have two sessions each week—at the 9 o'clock Mass on Sundays, and at the 9.30 Mass on Saturdays—and both of these will be sung Masses. For the Saturday Mass we shall use the children's altar in the church. It will be the only Mass at that hour, and grown-ups will please feel welcome to attend it and to make their communions at it, but they are asked not to occupy the seats in front which are reserved for the children of the Catechism.

The Father Rector, who feels that the Church School is a very important part of the parish work, has decided that he will himself take charge of the Catechism this year, and the other Fathers and the Brothers will assist in the catechizing and singing. The Sulpician Method will be used. We shall endeavour to give our children and young people some very definite instruction in faith and morals. The fathers and mothers of families are urged to coöperate with us by seeing that their children get to the 9 o'clock Mass on Sundays and the 9.30 on Saturdays.

THE Friday Evenings in St Joseph's Hall will be resumed on October 6, when the Father Rector will tell us of some of his experiences in England this summer at the centenary celebrations of the Oxford Movement and of how it felt to preach outdoors to over seventeen thousand persons. There will be pictures on the screen, too.

These Friday Evenings, begun three years ago when the Fathers came to St Mary's, have lost nothing of their power to charm. At a quarter after eight we begin with a hymn and a few devotions or intercessions. Then a lecture lasting half an hour or more. Another hymn is followed by conversation for another half hour, during which coffee and cakes are handed round by some of our young people. At nine-thirty we all make a visit to the church for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
'If after the kirk you bide a wee,  
There's some wad like to speak to ye.  
If after the kirk you rise and flee,  
We'll all seem cold and stiff to ye.  
The one that's in the seat wi' ye  
Is stranger here than you, maybe;  
All here hae got their fears and cares:  
'Add you your soul unto your prayers;  
Be you our angel unawares.'

We may not engage in social converse in the church after High Mass, for 'My House shall be called a House of Prayer,' but full opportunity for friendly converse with each other and with the Fathers and Brothers and Sisters is to be had in St Joseph's Hall at the Friday Evenings.

ILLUSTRATED travel lectures will be given by the Father Rector and Father Dale on the remaining Friday evenings of October and in November and December. The first series will be concerned with some very interesting and remarkable places which the Fathers visited in Provence this summer. The subjects for October will be as follows:

October 13. Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, Aiguesmortes and the Camargue.
October 20. Nîmes and the Pont du Gard.
October 27. Arles, Montmajour and Les Baux.

ST Mary's Guild will resume its regular meetings on Wednesday, October 11. On that day there will be a corporate communion at the 9.30 Mass and a business meeting at 10.30 in St Joseph's Hall, after which the active members meet for work in the guild room. It is hoped that there will be a full attendance of both active and associate members at this first meeting of the year, to hear the plans for the winter's work.

The Guild will welcome most cordially new members of either class, at this meeting or at any time. Meetings are held on each Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many members stay throughout the day, while others come either for the morning or the afternoon.

For those who do not care to sew, the Guild offers an opportunity for service in the laundering of the small pieces of linen used at the altar. During the year several of the members who have been responsible for this work have had to give it up, and we are anxious to obtain others to take their places. If anyone interested in this or in any other part of the Guild's work will write to Miss Helena D. Appleton, 11 East 75th Street, New York City, a member of the Guild will gladly call on her and explain the work.

Besides welcoming new workers, we should be glad to receive contributions of money, as our funds are particularly low at this time. One of the special pieces of work planned for this winter is the relining and repairing of many of the vestments belonging to our own parish which, after many years of use, now show signs of wear. But, in order to do this work, a considerable sum of money is needed. If some of our friends who have been so generous in the past can help us now, we shall be more than grateful to them. Our Treasurer is Mrs. Newbury Frost Read, 57 West 52nd Street, New York City.

BEGINNING on the first Sunday in October, we shall have before the eleven o'clock High Mass the Procession and sprinkling of blessed water or, as it is commonly called, the Asperses. This is a Christian custom, dating from at least the eighth century and adopted by the whole East and West, that,
before the principal Mass or Liturgy on Sunday, water should be solemnly blessed and the priest, altar and people aspersed or sprinkled with it. It is perhaps one of the most beautiful and touching of all ancient ceremonies, reminding us of our Baptism and the robe of innocence which is necessary for all who come together on the Lord’s Day to plead the Eternal Sacrifice. Here is a beautiful, helpful, elevating teaching, a most symbolical and Christian ceremony, a practical reminder to us every Sunday that those who come to the Holy Mysteries must first be washed from their sins that they may adore God with a quiet mind.

The name of the ceremony of the Asperges is taken from the first word of the seventh verse of Psalm 51: Asperges me hyssopo et mundabor, etc. (‘Thou shalt purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean.’), which is intoned by the celebrant of the Mass and continued by the choir during the sprinkling. Then the first verse of the Miserere is sung with the Gloria Patri, and the antiphon repeated. When the celebrant and the sacred ministers return to the altar after the sprinkling of the congregation, he sings some short versicles and the following collect:

Graciously hear us, O Lord holy, Father almighty, everlasting God: and vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven, to guard and cherish, protect, visit and defend all who are assembled in this thy holy temple. Through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

During Eastertide the antiphon Asperges me is replaced by the antiphon Vidi aquam (I saw water which proceeded from the temple, on the right side thereof, alleluia) and the first verse of Psalm 118.

CORPORATE Communions during October are announced for the following times.

Sunday, October 1. General Communion of the Parish.
Saturday, October 7. The Living Rosary of Our Lady and St Dominic. 8 a.m.

Thursday, October 5. The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. 8 a.m.
Wednesday, October 11. St Mary’s Guild. 9.30 a.m.
Tuesday, October 10. Guild of All Souls. 8 a.m.
Friday, October 13. Woman’s Auxiliary. 9.30 a.m.
Monday, October 23. Guild of Help. 9.30 a.m.

THE monthly business meetings of St Mary’s Guild, the Woman’s Auxiliary and the Guild of Help will be held in St Joseph’s Hall at 10.30 a.m., on their respective corporate communion days.

WE are glad to be able to announce that Mr Ernest White is to give another series of recitals on the organ this fall. The first of them will be given on the evening of All Saints’ Day, November 1, at 8.30 o’clock and will be followed by three other recitals on the following Wednesdays. Further announcements concerning these recitals will appear in the November number of AVE.

THE autumn number of The Cowley Quarterly, which will appear on October 1, will contain the sermon which the Father Rector preached in London on July 9 at the great outdoor Evensong held at the White City Stadium. Cowley may be obtained at our church book-stall, or from the Parish Secretary. Single copies, twenty-five cents, post free. Annual subscription, one dollar.

SO now we have the Dean of the Cathedral of St John the Divine warmly recommending the use of the Rosary. Good for the Dean! We heartily agree with him that it is an excellent and helpful method of prayer for everyone. Perhaps we shall now be
able to say our beads in the cathedral without interruption. The last time we ventured to use our Rosary in one of the unfrequented chapels behind the high altar, a verger quickly approached and asked if we had seen the lacquer cupboards which the King of Siam had given to the cathedral. We felt duly rebuked for our excess of devotion.

A HOUSE of Prayer is what a real Catholic church always is. Some churches have about them the subtle atmosphere of a museum. They are dead. You know it as soon as you open the door. There is a smell of spiritual decay. A weary old woman or a maudlin old man looks at you resentfully and dusts drearily. Nobody goes there to pray during the week, and there seems to be no reason why any one should.

If a church has a praying priest and a praying people, the atmosphere of the church will be felt to be prayerful. The very roof and walls drip with prayer. A true Catholic church is always open; clearly used and frequented; homely,—with shrines and corners where poor people and silly sinners and children can pray. There will be votive candle stands and candles ready to be lighted, and confessionals ready for use, and a sort of general expectation that all sorts of people, good and bad, will come in and PRAY at any moment.

W E are sometimes asked about books on the Rosary. It is one of the special merits of the Rosary that it is a method of prolonged prayer and meditation which requires no book and no printed directions. The small amount of direction which is indispensable for one who wants to learn how to use a Rosary must be given VIVA VOCE. Beyond this, it may be a good thing to print some leaflets with a list of the 'Mysteries' for the use of beginners; but, if we allow such printed matter to grow into something more than a list, it will at once become complicated enough to defeat the very end which the Rosary is intended to secure.

There are more kinds of Rosary than one; the Servite Order, for example, has quite a different Rosary from the one which is most familiar to us; it has an entirely different set of Mysteries and a different arrangement of beads; but the Rosary of the fifteen Mysteries, divided into three sets of five, which is in the most common use amongst Catholics, is the one which is ordinarily meant when we speak of the 'Rosary.'

We very much dislike any of the published attempts to change this valued and widely recognized devotion by small alterations or attempted adaptations to a more distinctive Anglican temper of devotional practice. It is a calamity for learners to be taught different Mysteries or any other order of the Mysteries than those which have the sanction of common Catholic use. To invent supposed improvements, or to make Protestant adaptations of the Rosary naturally excites irritation in the minds of those who love this great Catholic prayer; and a person who has adopted such new methods will be exposed sooner or later to the pain and inconvenience of having to learn to do correctly something which he has before learned to do incorrectly.

Books on the Mysteries of the Rosary, containing descriptions of the events and suggestions for meditation may be very useful for people to read; and such reading may prove to have been profitable when the reader comes to say the Rosary; but it seems to be a mistake to put books into people’s hands when they are actually using the Rosary. Beads are used instead of a book. If we attempt to use beads and a book at the same time, we are likely to fall into just that embarrassing elaborateness of devotion from which the Rosary is designed to afford an escape.
WE call attention in this place to the fact that there is no subscription price for AVE. We are glad to send it gratis to every family in the parish and to individual supporters and friends of St Mary's. There is considerable expense connected with the printing and mailing of the magazine, yet we feel justified in continuing it since it keeps us in touch with a widely scattered parish and serves as a medium of information concerning parochial events which we could not get before all of our people in any other way. That many of its readers appreciate AVE is evidenced by the way in which they so generously support it. In 1932 all of the expenses of the little magazine were met by voluntary contributions, and we hope that will be done in 1933 also. We acknowledge with thanks the following contributions received during the summer: Mrs Stuart Crockett, $5; Miss Mary Dryer, $1; Miss Grace Fanning, $1; Miss Louise Picton, $1; and Mr Charles Spooner, $10.

* 

THE CENTENARY OF THE CATHOLIC REVIVAL
1833-1933

The American Celebrations will take place in Philadelphia from October 22 to 26.

How many plan to go from this parish? Please send in your names to Father Dale.

Music List for October

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<tr>
<th>OCTOBER 1.—THE FEAST OF THE DEDICATION.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mass in B flat (with orchestra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motet, &quot;How Lovely is thy Dwelling-place&quot;</td>
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<td>Schubert</td>
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<td>Brahms</td>
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<th>OCTOBER 8.—SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.</th>
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<td>Mass, &quot;Neunte-Messe&quot;</td>
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<td>Motet, &quot;Ave verum&quot;</td>
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<td>Faist</td>
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<th>OCTOBER 15.—EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mass, &quot;Missa Misericordias Domini&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motet, &quot;Ave verum&quot;</td>
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<td>Rheinberger</td>
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<td>Paladilhe</td>
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<th>OCTOBER 22.—NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.</th>
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<td>Mass in D</td>
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<td>Motet, &quot;A Prayer to Jesus&quot;</td>
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<td>Henschel</td>
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<td>Terry</td>
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<th>OCTOBER 29.—THE FEAST OF CHRIST the KING.</th>
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<td>Mass, &quot;Missa II bianco e dolce cigno&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motet, &quot;Tantum ergo&quot;</td>
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<td>Bernardo</td>
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<td>Franck</td>
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The Altar Flowers


October 15. Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. In memory of Thomas Coit Fanning and Cornelia Lane Fanning.


October 22. Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity. In memory of Elliot Daingerfield.

October 29. St Simon and St Jude. In memory of Jane and Margaret Wilson.

October 29. Feast of Christ the King. In memory of Augustus and Christina and of August and Rose.
Kalendar for October

1. Su. DEDICATION OF CHURCH. Com. of Trinity XVI and St Remigius, Bp of Rheims. C. (c.532).
3. Tu. Ferria. Votive Mass of St Thérèse of Lisieux, V. (1897), 8 a.m.
5. Th. Ferria. Votive Mass of the Blessed Sacrament, 8 a.m.

7. Sa. Of St Mary on Saturday.

9. M. St Denys (Bp) and Companions, MM. at Paris. (c.286).
10. Tu. Ferria. Chantry Mass, 7 and 8 a.m.

15. Su. TRINITY XVIII. Com. of St Teresa of Avila, V., Carmelite (1582).
18. W. ST LUKE, EVANGELIST.
19. Th. St Frideswide, V., Abbess at Oxford (c.735).
20. F. Ferria. Votive Mass for the Sick, 7 and 9:30 a.m. Abstinence.
22. Su. TRINITY XIX.
23. M. Ferria.
24. Tu. Ferria. Chantry Mass, 7 and 9:30 a.m.
25. W. St Crispin and St Crispinian, MM. at Soissons (c.285).
27. F. Vigil. Abstinence.
28. Sa. ST SIMON AND ST JUDE, APOSTLES.
29. Su. OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING. Com. of Trinity XX.
31. Tu. Vigil of All Saints.

Days indicated by ☒ are days of precept, with an obligation of attendance at Mass. Days on which votive and requiem Masses may be said are printed in italics.
Sacraments and Other Rites

Confessions

Father Williams, S.S.J.E., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
Father Dale, S.S.J.E., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
Father Otis, S.S.J.E., Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m., and Fridays, 7 to 8 p.m.
Father Peabody, Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
A Priest can always be seen daily at 7.30 a.m., upon application.

Baptisms.—Sundays at 3 p.m., by arrangement with the clergy.
Proper sponsors should be chosen, and the mother should be churched.

Marriages are solemnized only after arrangement with the clergy and after three days' notice has been given. A certificate of Baptism should be produced by both parties. Those to be married should, if confirmed, receive Holy Communion. A nuptial Mass is suggested. It is against God's law to marry anyone divorced, as long as the other partner is living. Marriages are not solemnized during Lent, nor on Sundays or Christmas Day.

Sick Calls, Holy Unction and Communion of the Sick, on application to the clergy; in person, by telephone, or by post.

Burials.—The clergy should always be consulted before any arrangements are made. The bodies of baptized persons may be brought to the Chantry of the Church at any time before the day of the funeral. It is the usual custom at St Mary's to have the funeral service a requiem Mass.

Music.—Arrangements for music at weddings or funerals should be made directly with Mr Nold, the Director of Music.

Directory

Church of St Mary the Virgin, 139 West 46th St.

St Mary's House, Society of St John the Evangelist
144 West 47th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
The Rev. Father Williams, S.S.J.E., Superior.
The Rev. Father Dale, S.S.J.E., Assistant Superior.
The Rev. Father Otis, S.S.J.E.
Brother Herbert Francis, S.S.J.E.
Brother Richard, Nov., S.S.J.E.
Brother David, Nov., S.S.J.E.

The Mission House, Sisters of the Holy Nativity
133 West 46th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-3232
The Sister Mary Virginia, S.H.N., Sister-in-Charge.
The Sister Mary Constance, S.H.N.
The Sister Bernardine, S.H.N.
The Sister Hildegarde, S.H.N.

The Parish House, 145 West 46th Street
The Rector's Office. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
Miss Elizabeth Doremus, Secretary. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
The Rev. Father Peabody. Telephone: BRyant 9-8858
Mr Raymond Nold. Telephone: BRyant 9-5913

Mr Howard I. Dohrman, Parish Treasurer
1 Madison Avenue, New York

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is supported largely by voluntary offerings through the use of weekly envelopes. Persons desiring the Duplex Envelopes for the support of the Parish and Missions are requested to apply to one of the clergy after High Mass or Vespers on Sundays, or to communicate with the Parish Secretary, Rector's Office, 145 West 46th Street.