THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

PRECARIOUS is a word with a strange history. Derived originally from the Latin word for prayer, it has now come to mean, according to the dictionaries, uncertain or perilous. If its present meaning is any indication, Christian opinion can value prayer but little. Precarious, — dependent on prayer, — and therefore, uncertain? Precarious, — dependent on prayer, — and therefore perilous? Banish the thought! When a thing really gets into a precarious condition — dependent on prayer — then it ought to be in the safest possible condition, provided our prayers are faithful enough.

In this latter sense of the word only, St Mary's is in a precarious condition. We must, at once, raise a large sum of money to pay our debts and to avoid incurring further deficits. Because our condition is thus precarious, we ask, and count upon your fervent prayers for the parish, and for the finding of the means to carry on. For our Lord has assured us, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you."

If we can add to our prayers some donation — no matter how small — so much the better. Send it to the Treasurer at once please. But we can all pray even if we cannot give. And we can all do something else. We can accept cheerfully such measures of economy as must be put into operation at once in order to "go over the top." With courage, and prayer, and giving as we are able
we shall find St Mary's precarious condition a good condition after all.

As an immediate measure of economy our Summer choir will be reduced to a group of four male cantors who will sing simple Plain Song Masses on Sundays at eleven o'clock. And we shall not publish our usual Sunday service leaflets during the Summer. Further, the Church will be closed at one p.m. on Sundays and at 6 p.m. on Weekdays — which will help to cut light bills. Further economies may be demanded later. But we shall carry on triumphantly — with God’s help, and yours.

One place we shall not economize, — at present. That is in the operation of our Summer Home. As long as we are able to do so we shall try to continue to provide a summer outing for our less-fortunate parishioners. We hope you will agree with us in this determination, and, if possible, send something for our Summer Home.

A Happy Summer to you all.

Affectionately your Rector,

[Signature]

O ur summer schedule begins on Wednesday, June the first, and continues until September the thirtieth, inclusive. During this period, Matins and Evensong are no longer said publicly in the Church; Sunday Vespers is omitted, and there are only three Masses on Sundays — Low Masses at seven and nine, and a Sung Mass with sermon at eleven. — On Whitsunday, however, there will be a Sung Mass at nine in addition to the High Mass.

Trinity Sunday and the following Sunday will also have High Mass at eleven.

SUNDAYS

Low Masses: 7 and 9 a.m.
Sung Mass with sermon: 11 a.m.
Vespers: Omitted.

WEEKDAYS

Masses, daily: 7 and 8 a.m.
Thursdays (and greater Holy Days, as announced): 7, 8 and 9.30 a.m.
Matins and Vespers: Omitted.

CONFESSIONS

Thursdays: 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 2:30, 5 and 8 p.m.

At the hours for confession mentioned above, there will always be at least one priest in attendance. He will remain there as long as there are people desiring to make their confessions, but he will not stay on after this as in the case of the winter schedule. Confessions will also be heard at other times, by appointment.

The Father Rector will be in residence during most of July, assisted by Father Peabody and Father Lightfoot. Father Hoffman will be in charge during August and September, assisted by Father Peabody, and, on Sundays, by Father Lightfoot.

The Rector’s Office will be closed during the month of July, and also on Saturdays in June and August and on the first Saturday of September. At times when the office is closed, the clergy can usually be reached at St Mary’s House, which has the same telephone number — BRyant 9-0962. When the Secretary is on duty, the office hours are 9.15 to 1 and 2 to 5.
The corporate communion for the Associates of St Mary is held on the second Wednesday of each month at eight o'clock during the summer months.

On Friday, June the third, there will be a requiem at nine-thirty in the Chantry for the repose of the soul of Dr Barry, distinguished and beloved rector of this parish for many years.

Whitsunday, or Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit, falls on Sunday, June the fifth. This year we are to have as our special preacher on that day The Reverend Spence Burton, Superior of the American Congregation of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist.

“Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.” We are commissioned by the Holy Spirit of God to bear witness to the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. And apparently our Lord felt that all the mighty works of the Spirit up to and including His own Incarnation would be nothing compared to what would happen when the Spirit was finally given in fulness. St John has the astonishing phrase: “The Spirit was not yet.” That is why, from a human standpoint, Christ’s most conspicuous work was the training of a little band of disciples, an inner circle, those who should after His ascension become the nucleus of His Spirit-guided Church, witnessing, with power, to the glorious truths of the Gospel.

And how wonderfully that promise was fulfilled! There never was a book written which moved with the tempo of the Acts of the Apostles! Spirit-guided men seems a weak word to describe those early missionaries. Spirit-driven men would be better! On every page you feel the burning energy of those tongues of fire; you feel the sweep and power of a rushing, mighty wind.

It seems like an anti-climax to turn from those stirring records of the apostolic Church to consider the Christianity of our present times — the mystical Body of Christ split into fragments; the unity of the Spirit, which is the bond of peace, broken by uncharity and greed and self-seeking; the lamps of faith casting a dim and uncertain light; an atmosphere of quiet worldliness where there should be apostolic zeal and a reckless self-giving which counts all things but loss for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. And these things need not be! We are living in the same dispensation of the Spirit which rocked the world at Pentecost! In our baptism and confirmation, in every absolution and communion, we have received power from on high to witness to the things of God. The arm of the Lord is not shortened. More faithful than the stars in their courses are His promises and His decrees. And though individuals may cease to serve Him, though many souls may betray their Christian profession and fail to demonstrate by the witness of their lives the power of the indwelling Spirit, yet His Holy Church will never fail. Of His Church our Lord says: “The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Of Himself He says: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Of the Holy Spirit He says: “He, the Spirit of truth, will guide you into all truth; . . . He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” So, whether or not we do our Christian duty, and open our hearts to the divine Spirit to be driven forth as witnesses to God’s work of redemption — His Church will stand, forever.

Let us thank God for that!

This year the feast of Corpus Christi falls on Thursday, June the sixteenth. On that day there will be an extra Mass at nine-thirty, as on all double feasts during the summer. Inasmuch as a great many people cannot come to a festal High Mass on a
weekday, because of their business obligations, the solemnities of Corpus Christi are transferred to the Sunday in the Octave, June nineteenth. On that day there will be a Solemn High Mass at eleven, followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. This feast is one of the most impressive and beautiful of the Church year, and it is hoped that all our parishioners who are in town will come to do honour to our Lord in His eucharistic presence.

S announced last month in AVE, the Summer Home at Keyport will open for the season on July first. Notices will be sent to guests as formerly, and it is possible that buses will be used for transportation of our guests to the Summer Home, instead of the ferry boats of other days, provided the proper arrangements can be made. It is hoped that the new Lawrence dormitory will be dedicated on July fourth and the parishioners are invited to attend. Definite notice will be given later from the pulpit, and we might say that it would be in order to pray for fair weather! All communications for the Summer Home should be addressed to the Priest-in-charge, who for the present is Father Eckman. Contributions should also be sent to him directly, or to the Father Rector, or to the Treasurer.

IT WAS through the generous bequest of Sarah Louie Cook that the site on which our Church stands was purchased, and the present building erected. On Thursday, the twenty-first of July an anniversary requiem for the repose of her soul will be said in the Chantry at nine-thirty. May she rest in peace!

THE Parish excursion to Keyport took place on May fourteenth, at which time the new Ogden Playroom was dedicated and used officially for the first time. Perhaps much speculation has gone through the minds of many as to the result of that rainy afternoon. But if all of us could have seen the happy faces, and heard the gleeful noise of the excursionists as they journeyed home, there would be no doubt at all as to the result. Four chartered buses, and several private cars started upon the trip from St Mary's at 1:45 p.m. under a rather hazy sky. About half way to Keyport the rains began to descend, and kept on descending all afternoon and night! However, it was not enough to completely dampen the high spirits of over one hundred and fifty happy persons. It was necessary to begin the ceremonies of dedication long before the scheduled hour, in order that the crowd might be accommodated, and kept out of the rain. The people assembled in the chapel, and after some prayers the procession began to move to the playroom. It is indeed quite regrettable that we could not have a picture of the Father Rector vested in festive cope, and attended by acolytes bearing a sombre canopy. (It was an old umbrella found in the priest's house.) But merrily we proceeded, and after the ribbon across the entrance was drawn, the procession entered the playroom, and the blessing took place. We then proceeded to the beach to bless the new boat, (which already had a goodly supply of water in it) but nothing daunted, it was properly blessed and sprinkled with Holy Water. Later on we were served a goodly picnic supper, prepared by Mrs George Smith. Supper was literally served "all over the house". The meal was originally planned to have been served in the playroom, but the rain and dampness forced us to change plans. So the dining room was filled to capacity, some were standing in the hall, several persons sought the warmth of the kitchen, and the Sisters, braving the cool air, held forth on the porch with some friends. Who could feel gloomy with such a good spirit of fellowship! After supper the young people danced in the playroom, others amused themselves with singing in the house, and then at 8:25 p.m. the buses drove up, and even though it was still raining quite hard, we reluctantly gathered in, returning to St Mary's at 9:45. Laus Deo.
FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ."

April 16 — Anthony Leo Saint John Aquinas Hamilton (Adult)
April 24 — Adolphe Leslie Giousé Barreaux (Infant)

CONFIRMATIONS

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye were sealed unto the day of redemption."

April 3 — Ralph L. Yocom
April 3 — LeRoy Blackburn

BURIALS

"Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and may light perpetual shine upon them."

April 5 — Sarah Anna Muren
April 10 — Otis G. Bishop
April 18 — Frances Petty

The altar flowers during the months of June, July, August and September are given in memory of the following:

June 12 — Trinity Sunday. Ellen Knight.
June 19 — First Sunday after Trinity. In memory of departed members of the Guild of St Mary of the Cross.
June 24 — Nativity of St John Baptist. George W. Lewis.
June 26 — Second Sunday after Trinity. Elizabeth Sawyer.
July 2 — Feast of the Visitation. Emily Spence.
July 3 — Third Sunday after Trinity. Joshua Sims and Josephine Sims.
July 17 — Fifth Sunday after Trinity. John Perrin Appleton, Priest.
July 24 — Sixth Sunday after Trinity. Benedicta Carstens.
July 25 — St James. James Harvey Carll.
July 31 — Seventh Sunday after Trinity. Orpha P. Johnson.

August 7 — Eighth Sunday after Trinity. Anna B. Appleton.
August 14 — Ninth Sunday after Trinity. Andrew Pfau.
August 21 — Tenth Sunday after Trinity. Peter S. Mattison and Angelina B. Mattison.
September 4 — Twelfth Sunday after Trinity. Lillian T. Blackford.
September 8 — Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Glover Crane Arnold.
September 18 — Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity. Harry B. Livingston.
September 25 — Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity. Mary Fell Pfau.

The following contributions towards the expense of printing and mailing AVE are gratefully acknowledged: Anonymous, $1; $5; $5; Mr Mills W. Baker, $2; Miss Emily E. Briggs, $2; Mr F. S. E. Drury, $5; Reverend F. Kellow, $1.25; Miss Sara S. Lawrence, $5; Mrs H. B. Livingston, $1; Mrs L. W. Menocal, $1; Miss Helen Morgan, $2; Miss Edith Saunders, $2.

AVE is published monthly (July, August and September excepted) and is sent gratis to communicants and supporters of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

It would be a great help if readers who value AVE would send an annual contribution towards the expense of its printing and circulation.

Inquiries concerning AVE should be sent to the Editor, The Reverend Father Hoffman, S.S.J.E., 144 West 47th Street, New York.

To insure delivery of AVE, the Parish Secretary should be notified promptly of any permanent change of address.
KALENDAR FOR JUNE

1. W. In Octave of Ascension.
5. Su. WHITSUNDAY. Masses, 7, 9 (Sung Mass) and 11 (High Mass).
12. Su. TRINITY SUNDAY. Masses, 7, 9 and 11 (High Mass).
14. Tu. St Basil the Great, B.C.D.
17. F. In Octave. Abstinence.
20. M. In Octave.
27. M. In Octave St John Baptist.

KALENDAR FOR JULY

3. Su. TRINITY III.Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
10. Su. TRINITY IV. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
12. Tu. Feria.
17. Su. TRINITY V. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
19. Tu. St Vincent de Paul, C.
20. W. St Margaret, V.M.
24. Su. TRINITY VI. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
KALENDAR FOR AUGUST

12. F. St Clare, V. Abstinence.
14. Su. TRINITY IX. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
17. W. In Octave.
29. M. BEHEADING OF ST JOHN BAPTIST. Extra Mass, 9.30
31. W. St Aidan, B.C.

KALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

2. F. Feria. Abstinence.
4. Su. TRINITY XII. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
11. Su. TRINITY XIII. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
18. Su. TRINITY XIV. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
19. M. St Theodore of Tarsus, B.C.
25. Su. TRINITY XV. Masses, 7, 9 and 11.
26. M. St Cyprian, B.M.
27. Tu. SS Cosmas and Damian, MM.

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.
SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNNAYS

LOW MASS .......................... 7 and 9 a.m.
Sung Mass, with sermon .............. 11 a.m.

WEEK DAYS

Mass, daily .......................... 7 and 8 a.m.
Also on Thursdays (and greater Holy Days) 9.30 a.m.

Other Services during the Week, and on Festivals,
as announced on the preceding Sunday.

The Church is open daily from 6:30 a.m. till 6 p.m.

CONFessions

Thursdays, 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30, 5 and 8 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 appli-
cation 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.

The Parish Secretary's office is open at the following times:
Mondays to Fridays . . . 9:15 to 1 and 2 to 5
Closed on legal holidays and Saturdays (June 1 to September 3).

O world thou choosest not the better part.
It is not wisdom to be only wise,
And on the inward vision close the eyes,
But it is wisdom to believe the heart.
Columbus found a world and had no chart,
Save one that faith deciphered in the skies;
To trust the soul's invincible surmise
Was all his science and his only art.

Our knowledge is a torch of smoky pine
That lights the pathway but one step ahead
Across the void of mystery and dread.
Bid, then, the tender light of faith to shine
By which alone the mortal heart is led
Unto the thinking of the thought divine.

SANTAYANA.

DIRECTORY

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144 West 47th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962

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The Rev. Father Hoffman, S.S.J.E.
The Rev. Father Eckman, S.S.J.E.

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133 West 46th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-3232

The Sister Ruth Mary, S.H.N., Sister-in-Charge
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The Sister Mary Constance, S.H.N.
The Sister Sheila Raphael, S.H.N.

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Mr Philip C. Bardes, Undertaker. Telephone: STillwell 4-2357

MR NEWBURY FROST READ, Parish Treasurer
373 Fifth 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 Evensong on Sundays, or to communicate with the Parish Secretary, Rector's Office, 145 West 46th Street.