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THE
CHILD'S MONTH OF MARY.



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THE
CHILD'S MONTH OF MARY.

Mary the Blessed Virgin
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Recommendation of the Most Rev. Dr. Moriarty.

"We earnestly recommend this little book, *The Child's Month of Mary*; and we wish it to be read at the May devotions for the children of the convent and other schools of this diocese. The lessons convey instruction peculiarly suited to the intelligence of children; and the prayers breathe a spirit of piety quite in accordance with the feelings of that tender age.

“✠ DAVID MORIARTY,

“*Bishop of Kerry.*

“*February 7th, 1866.*”

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THE
CHILD'S MONTH OF MARY.

I SUPPOSE you know, my dearest child, that the month of May is dedicated to Mary, and that Mary is the Mother of Jesus. You know who Jesus is. He is the second Person of the ever-blessed Trinity, and He came down from heaven to be born a little Child for us. Jesus was always God, but He was not always Man. As He was God, and had all power, so that He could do whatever He pleased, He chose a Mother for Himself. As God hates sin, He could not choose any one to be His Mother who had ever committed the least sin; and so the Church teaches us that the Mother of Jesus never committed even the very least sin. We can never understand perfectly how pure and holy Mary was in the sight of God. The Church teaches us when we pray to her to call her Mother most pure and

Mother most chaste, and one of the things that we must try to do during this month is to imitate her holy example. You know, my child, that we were all born in sin ; that is, we were born in original sin—guilty in the sight of God of the sin which our first parents committed. But Mary was not born with this stain of sin, because, as I have said, Jesus hates sin, and He would not have had any one for His Mother who had the least stain of sin upon her soul. But there is another kind of sin, actual sin, the sin we commit by our own act. Our Blessed Mother Mary never, never committed the least venial sin or even imperfection. You will say, then, perhaps, how can you be like her ? how can you imitate her example ? You can never be quite like Mary, for you can never be entirely free from sin as she was ; but you can try to be something like her, for the holier a child is, the more she is like Mary ; and this is why those who are called Saints, because they lived such holy lives, always loved our Blessed Mother so much. They loved her because they were more like her than others who were not so holy, and we always love those who are like ourselves. Good children love other good children, and like to walk with them and play with them. Naughty children like bad companions like themselves.

Now you see one of the things that you are to try to do during this Month of Mary. You are to try to become more like Mary by trying to imitate her example, and you will find some little instructions and a prayer for each day during the month which may help you to do this.

But there is another thing which you should do. You should try to imitate Jesus by honouring Mary. Oh, think what an honour Jesus did to Mary when He chose her for His Mother. Try to think what a great favour it was for Mary to be the Mother of God. Think how she carried the very God of heaven in her arms, and called Him her Son. Think how Jesus obeyed her and honoured her all His life. You have often been told all that God has said in the Holy Scriptures about children honouring and loving and obeying their parents. But no child ever honoured or loved or obeyed his parents as Jesus did Mary. We can never honour Mary enough, because we can never honour her as much as Jesus did. You know the first word a little child says when it begins to speak is to call its mother. The first person a child knows is its mother. You love your own dear mamma more than any one else in the whole world, and you ought to do so,—it is your duty; but you do not think about its being your

duty, because you cannot help loving her. Think, then, how much Jesus loved His Mother. He loved her far more than you can understand; and as you would be pleased with any one who was kind to your mother, so Jesus is also pleased with those who do all they can for His dear Mother. I know you wish to please Jesus. Well, then, try to please Him this month by imitating His Mother, by trying to be good and holy like her; and by honouring His Mother, try what you can do every day when you pray to her to bless and help you. And when you kneel before her altar, will you say one Hail Mary for me?

But Mary is your Mother also; so you see you must love and honour her, because she is your Mother as well as the Mother of Jesus. Yes, Mary loves every little Christian child. Jesus gave us all to her when He was dying, and asked her to be our Mother. He gave *you* to her, dear child; for though you were not alive then, Jesus knew all about you, and that you would live at the time fixed by His Providence; and He gave *you* to His Blessed Mother's care. Oh, how we ought to love Jesus for all He has done for us! So you see you are Mary's child. Now I am sure this will be another reason why you will try very earnestly to love and honour her

during this month. First, because she is the Mother of Jesus, and secondly, because she is your Mother. You will never know in this world all that this good Mother has done for you, nor all that she will yet do for you, if you will be a good and holy child. You cannot know until you are much older how important it is for you to have a great devotion to our Blessed Lady, and to love her and trust her with all your heart. Oh, do, do try to please her during this month. Do try to imitate her example and to honour her. I hope you have a little altar where you can say the prayers in this book every day; but if you have not, try to make one for yourself. You could make one by putting a picture of our Blessed Lady before you, and then kneeling before it and saying the prayers for each day. What pleases our heavenly Mother is our love, and a very poor child, who could have nothing better than a little picture with a few flowers before it in a broken cup, might please her more than one who could have a beautiful picture and a beautiful altar without any trouble. And those dear children who have all these helps to be good should try to think of the poor little ones who are tempted by hunger and want of every comfort to go to schools where they are taught bad things, where they never hear a word about our

Blessed Lady except when she is spoken evil of. Dear child, if you could only help one soul to escape from this danger, how happy it would be for you! If I were to tell you all I know about this, and how many poor children are tempted when they are very hungry to go where they will get bread, although that bread is given to them to make them almost hate the Mother of God, you would be so frightened. But I hope you will do something better than be frightened now. You will, perhaps, think it is very naughty of these poor children to go to those bad places. Were you ever very hungry? Were you ever very cold? Yes, perhaps you are hungry sometimes, and cold sometimes, but you can always get something to eat, and you have fire and warm clothes; but these poor children have no fire, no warm clothes, and very often they are days without more than a few mouthfuls of bread to eat. You find it very hard to be good sometimes, though you have kind friends to help you and teach you; so you cannot wonder that these poor little children go where they will get food when they are hungry, even though they know it is wrong.

You must try to do something for these little children during this month. If you can do nothing else, you can pray for them. But if you tried, you could do

more. Ask all the children you know to give you one penny, or even one halfpenny, for them; and ask your papa and mamma and all the kind friends you can to give you a penny also. No one could refuse to give a penny to a little child for such a good purpose; and then ask your mamma or some kind friend to send all your pennies to some Convent where orphans are taken care of by the nuns, and they will all be used to feed poor hungry children and to keep them from going to these bad places. If *every* child who uses this book tried to do this, how many little children might be saved from danger!

And now I have one word more to say, and that is, to advise you to offer the devotions you are going to practise every day for some particular intention. If you do not understand what I mean, ask some one to explain it to you. Shall I tell you what an intention is? When you say to your mamma, "I am hungry," you say it that you may get something to eat; that is the intention for which you say the words. If you had no intention or meaning in what you say, you would be talking nonsense. Every one has some meaning or intention in every word he says, except people who are foolish, or babies, who do not understand the words they use. Well, when we speak to God we should have

some intention. You say your morning prayers with the intention of getting help from God to be a good child all day. Now I want you to make an intention for all the prayers you will say to our Blessed Lady during this month. If you have not yet been confirmed or made your first Communion,* you might make it your intention to get the grace you need to receive these Sacraments worthily. If you have received them, you might offer your prayers in thanksgiving for this great grace. You might also offer them to obtain grace to help you to overcome whatever fault you most frequently commit. Ask your mamma, or the nun who teaches you, or the good priest who hears your confessions, to tell you what would be best for you.

APRIL 31st.

EVE OF THE MONTH OF MARY.

TO-DAY all good Catholics are preparing to keep the month of May in honour of our Blessed Lady. This is a devotion in which every little child should try to join; for every

* A child's book of preparation for Confirmation, and another for First Communion, will be published soon.

child knows he should honour and love his parents, and above all his mother. Well, Mary is our Mother in heaven, and loves us far more even than the best and kindest mother on earth. Our Blessed Mother Mary loves little children very dearly. If they are good children, they remind her of the Holy Child Jesus, and she loves them because they are trying to be like Him. If they are naughty, she loves them also, because a mother loves even her naughty child, and hopes one day that it will be good. So Mary loves you, my dear child, whoever you may be. It does not matter to her whether you are rich or poor, or whether you are clever or dull. It is your soul Mary loves, and all little children have souls—souls that will certainly be either for ever with God and the bright angels, or with the devil and the wicked angels. Now, try to think what you ought to ask our Blessed Mother Mary to do for you during this month,* and say the following prayer :

* Children who use this book by themselves should fix a certain time every day at which they will go to their altar of Mary, and read over the reflection and say the prayers. They ought to keep very regularly to the time they have chosen. It will not take any child more than five minutes to do this. If the prayers are said by a mother with her children, or by a nun with her class, they might alter the words "child" to "children," &c., in the prayers, and make a pause at

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus, and my Mother, look with pity and love upon a child who wishes to honour you during the coming month. Oh, help me to spend it in the way that will be most pleasing to you, and then I may be sure I shall be pleasing your divine Son. I humbly ask you, O Blessed Lady, to be my Mother, and to take me for your own child. I desire to consecrate myself entirely to you, I put my whole life under your special protection ; watch over me, guard me, pray for me, love me, O dear Mother Mary, from this moment until my dying hour, and then present me safely to Jesus. I offer you all the good and holy words and works that will be done in your honour during this month of May ; and I offer you the prayers which I hope to say every day that I may obtain [*here name your intention*], and also in thanksgiving for [*here mention what you wish to thank God for*] ; I also offer all the indulgences that I may gain by these prayers for the souls in purgatory for whom you wish me to pray. O Mother of Jesus, bless and help your poor child now and for ever. Amen.

Then say three times, Sweet Heart of Mary,

the intention, so that each child could say her own privately.

be my salvation,—as there are three hundred days' indulgence for each time you say it. If you have time, you might also say a part of the Rosary, or at least one Our Father and ten Hail Marys.

MAY 1ST.

MARY IS CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN.

THERE is nothing which God hates so much as sin. Perhaps you may remember reading in the Bible about lepers—you know they were afflicted with a most frightful disease, so horrible and so loathsome that no one could bear to look at them; they were obliged to live in a place by themselves, separate from every one else. No one could even go near them, partly because they were such dreadful objects, and partly because people feared to take the infection. Sin is like this disease. But sin is far, far more horrible and loathsome in the sight of God than leprosy. This, then, is the reason why the Mother of Jesus was conceived without sin. She is the only creature who was always free from sin, and therefore it is that God loves her so much. Therefore it is that Jesus could make her His Mother, because He never saw even the least spot or stain in her. Dear child, you

know that you were born with this awful stain on you ; but when you were baptised, it was washed away, and you were pure and clean in the sight of God. Oh, pray to Him now to keep you from staining yourself with this leprosy, which He hates so much. You would not like God to be obliged to turn away from you; but He must do so, if you are covered with sin.

Prayer.

O holy Mary, conceived without sin, pray for me, a poor sinful child. Alas! I fear I must have lost that pure white robe of innocence which was given me at my baptism, or if I have not altogether lost it, I have stained it many times. But help me, dear Mother Mary, help me that I may not stain it any more. Help me that I may wash out the stains I have put on it, by a sincere sorrow for all my sins. Obtain for me also [*here name the grace you wish for*]. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Yes, our Blessed Mother, you are our hope. You know how much sin offends our good God ; pray for us, that we may never grieve Him again.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times ; 300 days' indulgence*).

MAY 2D.

MARY LOVES GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS.

THE fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. We must learn to fear God, we must learn to fear offending Him—but we must fear Him because we love Him. A good child fears to do what will displease his parents or his teachers, not because he is afraid that he will be punished if he does wrong, but because he loves his parents and teachers so much that he fears to give them pain. When our Blessed Mother Mary was a child like you, she loved God so much that she would rather have suffered the most cruel torture than have committed the least imperfection. We can never understand how much Mary loved God, or how much God loved Mary. Try, try, my dear child, during this month, to love God more; if you do, you will certainly be a happier and a holier child. Try to imitate your Blessed Mother Mary, and ask her to help you to do so. You must try to imitate her holiness. It is true you cannot appear pure and sinless in the sight of God as she did, but you *can* try to keep the white robe of your baptism without stain. Oh, how happy you will be when you come to die if you have tried to do this from the time you were

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a child! No one but God and the Angels could tell you what a blessing it would be for you.

Prayer.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for me, a poor sinful child; pray for me that I may begin to love and serve God with my whole heart and soul and strength. I wish to give Him my heart. I wish to keep myself free from every stain of sin. O Mary, O my Mother, help me. You know how blessed it will be for me if I am a holy child, if I try to be better each day I live; and you know also how the devil tempts me to sin. Help me, O Help of Christians! and especially I beseech you to obtain for me the grace of [*here mention your intention*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 3D.

HOW THE HOLY ANGELS LOVED MARY WHEN SHE WAS
A CHILD.

EVERY child has a Guardian Angel. When God gave you a soul, He gave you also a Guardian Angel to take care of that soul. Have you ever thanked God for this great favour? Every one has a Guardian Angel—

one of God's bright, beautiful angels, whose only occupation it is to take care of that soul. But some children never think about their Angels, and never pray to them. This makes the Angels very sad. They do not care for themselves, because they are always happy, for they always see God; but they care for the souls of little children, for they know how much God loves their souls. They are so sorry to see that these children are not thankful to the good God for His great love to them. How happy the Guardian Angel of Mary must have been! She knew all that God had done for her in giving her this blessed spirit to watch over her, and she well repaid all his care. Try to imitate Mary during this month in your love and devotion to your Angel Guardian. No one knows until he tries all that the Angels will do for us if we ask them. You should pray to your holy Angel Guardian every morning and evening, and ask him to bless and help you. And if you do so already, you must try now to say that prayer with greater attention and fervour. Our Blessed Mother Mary is called the Queen of Angels, because she reigns over them all. The Angels all love her and obey her, and if your Blessed Angel sees that you love her also, he will be still more anxious to help and bless you.

Prayer.

Queen of Angels, hear the prayer of a poor child who begs your blessing and your help. My good Mother, you know all the dangers and temptations to which I am exposed far better than I know them myself, and you know how much I need the help of my holy Angel. Obtain for me the grace of a great devotion to my blessed Guardian. For your sake, dear Mother, he will pardon my past neglect, and assist me more and more for the rest of my life. And when I die, may he conduct me to your presence, that you may bring me to your Son Jesus! I beseech of you, also, most Blessed Mother, to obtain for me [*here name your request*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 4TH.**HOW MARY LIVED IN THE TEMPLE.**

WHEN our Blessed Mother Mary was a very little child, she was taken to live in the Temple. Perhaps she did not like leaving home and her kind parents; but Mary was a holy child, and she never thought about what she liked to do, or what would please herself. Mary had only one thought and one wish, and that was to do what pleased God. She knew that if she

did what her parents wished, she would be quite sure of pleasing God. Are you like Mary, my dear child? Do you always try to do what your parents wish, whether you like it or not? Perhaps you do not like to go to school when they send you; perhaps, if you live at home, you do not like to learn your lessons when they wish you to do so. But now you will try to be like Mary; you will not think what you like, but what God likes. You know you cannot be good yourself,—you must ask God's help; and if you ask it, you will be sure to get it. When we are tempted to do wrong, if we ask God to help us, He puts strength into our hearts to make us able to do right. You know that God loves Mary so much that He will not refuse her any thing she asks, so you should ask her to get you the grace to resist temptation, and to conquer all your faults. You must also try yourself to overcome them. It would be no use for you to ask for bread when you were hungry, if you did not eat it when you got it; so it is no use for you to pray to God for help to be good, if you do not try to use the help when He gives it to you.

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus, help me to imitate your holy example in every circumstance of my

life. Obtain for me the grace to resist every temptation to sin, and to try with all my strength to conquer every evil passion. You know, my Blessed Mother, how hard it is for a little child to be good ; you know how the devil tries to tempt me : but I put myself into your care ; so do not let him do me any harm. How can he touch me, if I belong to you ! Obtain for me also the grace of [*here name what you wish to ask*], and bless me now and for ever. Amen.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 5TH.

MARY WAS ALWAYS OBEDIENT.

TO-DAY you must think about the obedience of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She obeyed every one who was placed over her. Her parents sent her to the Temple, as you read yesterday ; and there she was taught all that it was necessary for her to know. No little child ever learned so humbly and obediently as Mary did. There were some holy women in the Temple who lived like nuns. They taught the little children who were put under their care. But no child ever came there who was so good and so holy as Mary. Perhaps some of the children were not good, and they tried to make Mary naughty. Even in

a convent-school there are sometimes bad children. But Mary would not be naughty. She loved God too much to commit the least sin. I am sure she prayed for the naughty children, and tried to keep away from them as much as possible. This is what you must do. If you are obedient, you will be always sure to do right. Disobedience was the first sin, the sin of Adam and Eve; and God hates that sin. It brought ruin and misery on the whole world. Oh, do try to be an obedient child, like the Blessed Mother of Jesus; and ask her to help you.

Prayer.

O Mother of Jesus, you werè once a child like me; but you were a holy and an obedient child—I am sometimes disobedient: but I am truly sorry for all my sins, and I beg God's pardon, and yours, my Blessed Mother. But now I wish to be good. I will try above all things to be very obedient: ask the good God to send me grace to help me to be an obedient, holy child. He will not refuse you whatever you ask, and you will not refuse me, though I am only a little child, because you are my Mother. I also beg of you to obtain for me [*here name the grace you want*], and to bless me, and keep me from all harm.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 6TH.

HOW HUMBLE MARY WAS.

No one likes a proud person, and yet people who are proud wish every one to like them. Our Blessed Mother was never proud; and yet if any one had a right to be proud, she had. But no one has a right to be proud, not even Mary. God gave Mary all the graces she had; and Mary knew this, and so she was not proud. We are not proud of what we get in charity. A beggar is not proud of getting an alms; he is more likely to be ashamed of it. Some poor people are ashamed to be seen begging, and would rather starve. This is not right; we should not be ashamed of any thing but sin; and there is no sin in being poor. We should not be proud of any thing. If we are rich, God gave us our riches; so we are like the beggars, only we get our money from God, and they get it from their fellow-creatures. If we are clever, we have no right to be proud; it was God who gave us our cleverness. My dear child, do try and pray to be humble. Think how much you would dislike any one who was proud and haughty to you, and always boasting of what you gave him, as if it had always belonged to him. So God will hate you if you

are proud, even in the very least thing, because you have nothing except what God has given you. The devil tries very much to tempt us to be proud, because he knows how much God hates it, and he wishes to make God angry with us. Oh, pray to your Blessed Mother to obtain for you the grace of true humility.

Prayer.

Mother most humble! ask for me, from the Heart of your divine Son, the grace of true and deep humility. I do not wish to be a proud or vain child, for I know that if I am, the humble Jesus will not love me. But you know, my Blessed Mother, how often I am tempted to be proud; oh, help me to conquer all proud thoughts! Help me to know and see when I am proud, so that I may not commit sin in my ignorance! Bless me, holy Mother! pray for me, Mother most humble! and obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 7TH.

HOW GENTLE MARY WAS.

A HOLY child will always be a gentle child, so we may be sure that our dear Blessed Mother Mary was full of gentleness when she was a child. A gentle child always speaks kindly and politely to others; and if she should offend any of her little companions, she goes to them and tells them how sorry she is for having offended them. She does not wait to think whether she is to blame or not; because she wishes to be like holy Mary, who would most willingly have asked pardon even of those who only fancied she had injured them. A gentle child is never rough or rude in her play; and she is always willing to give up to others. If they wish her to do any thing that is not wrong, she is quite willing to do it, even if she does not like it herself. Are you a gentle child? If you are not, I hope you will try very earnestly during this month to become so. If you are naturally quiet, and are not easily inclined to be vexed or angry, you must think if you have not some other fault, which may be quite as bad as anger, and which you may not so easily see. Try to live in peace and love with your sisters and brothers and your companions, as Mary

would have lived. Oh, how happy is that child who is constantly trying to be like Mary! That good Mother will watch over her so tenderly, and Jesus will love her so dearly!

Prayer.

O Mother of Jesus, ask Jesus to make me meek and gentle, even as you were when a child! Ask Him to give me grace to imitate His own blessed example, when He was treated cruelly by wicked men. I know that Jesus loves a gentle child, and I wish to be very gentle, that He may love me. Pray for me, help me, bless me, O my good Mother! and obtain for me the grace to become all that you desire your child should be. I also beg of you to ask for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 8TH.

MARY LEAVES THE TEMPLE, AND GOES TO LIVE IN
THE WORLD.

WHEN Mary was grown old enough, she left the Temple, where she had lived since she was a little child. I am sure she was very sorry to leave that holy place, where she could spend so much time in prayer and good

works, and where she had such kind friends. But our Blessed Mother Mary never thought of what she liked, but only of what God liked. She went to the Temple because it was God's will ; and she left it because it was His will. You, my dear child, must try to imitate Mary in this. You must not be anxious to leave school, or to be taken from the care of those who teach you, until it is God's will, and you must try to prepare yourself for the time when it may be God's will you should do so. You do not know now how much you will regret it if you waste your time while you are at school, if you do not profit by all the instructions you get. The time will never come back again. Oh, do pray to our Blessed Mother to help you to use it well ! and ask her to prepare you for all the dangers and temptations to which you will be exposed when you are older.

Prayer.

My blessed and kind Mother Mary, I wish to put all my studies under your particular protection. Help me to learn with steadiness, and to receive instruction with docility. Obtain for me the great grace of preparing myself well now for the station in life which God intends I should occupy hereafter, if I live ; and if I die young, oh, may I be better pre-

pared every day for that awful moment! Help me to be obedient and loving to those who instruct me, and enable me to profit by all their care. I also beseech of you to obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 9TH.

THE VISIT OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY.

I SUPPOSE you know the meaning of the word Annunciation. It means *telling*. When we say the Angel announced to Mary, we mean that he told her something. He told her that she was to be the Mother of Jesus. God's angels are always helping us, though we do not see them. God has allowed some very holy persons to see their Angel Guardians, and they have said these Angels were so beautiful that no human words could tell us what they are like. One of these beautiful Angels is standing near you now. Ask him to help you to love Mary more every day. The Angels are God's messengers. He sends them wherever He wishes; and the Angels love God so much, that they are full of joy when He commands them to do any thing, however difficult. The angel who came to Mary was called Gabriel.

We ought to love that blessed Angel very much. It was a happy day for us when he brought that message to Mary. Whenever we say the *Angelus*, we should think of this, and say it very reverently. Let us ask God to send His holy Angels to us to whisper good thoughts into our hearts, and to keep away the evil spirits.

Prayer.

My Blessed Mother Mary, I thank God with all my heart for His great love in sending the beautiful Angel Gabriel to visit you. I thank God, also, for the message he brought you; and I thank you, O my Mother, my dear Mother Mary, for the meekness, the love, and the obedience with which you received that message. I beseech of you to obtain for me the grace of always listening to and obeying all the messages which God sends me by my holy Angel Guardian; and I beg of you to obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 10TH.

WHAT THE ANGEL GABRIEL SAID TO MARY.

How full of joy the Angel Gabriel must have been when God gave him the message to take to Mary! We read in the Old Testament that the Angels were often sent by God as His messengers to holy people. But no angel ever brought such a blessed message as this. Let us learn, from the way in which the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary, how we should address her; for we cannot do better than follow the example of the holy Angels in all things. The Angel said to her: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women" (St. Luke i. 28). This is what you say when you repeat the Hail Mary; but I am afraid you do not say it with as much reverence and respect as the holy Angel Gabriel. Try, my child, during this month to say the Hail Mary with greater reverence and devotion; remember you are saying the very words that God Himself sent the Angel to say to Mary. How good it was of God to send this message to Mary! The Angel then told her that she was to be the Mother of God. There are some unhappy people who do not believe what the Church teaches us; and though they profess to love God, and

to believe that the Bible is a holy book, yet they do not even believe what the Bible tells them. They wonder that Catholics honour Mary so much. But they would not wonder if they remembered how the Angel honoured her, and what he told her. No human words could tell how great an honour it was for Mary to be the Mother of God.

Prayer.

My good Mother Mary, I am truly sorry for having so often said the Hail Mary carelessly, and without thinking of what I was doing. But, with the help of God's grace, I hope to say it more reverently for the future. Pardon me, holy Mary, Mother of God, and obtain for me the great grace of a deep reverence for you, of a great trust in your goodness, and of a constant hope that you will assist me in all my little trials and difficulties. I now desire to say these three Hail Marys very reverently, in reparation for all the careless ones I have said. Obtain for me also, I humbly beseech you [*here name the grace*].

Then say three Hail Marys, and (*three times*) Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation.

MAY 11TH.

WHAT MARY SAID TO THE ANGEL.

AND Mary said : " Behold the handmaid of the Lord ; be it done to me according to Thy word " (St. Luke i. 38). There is a great lesson for little children in these words which our Blessed Mother Mary said. See how obedient she was. She did not say a word about the great honour that God had paid her ; no, for Mary was always humble. She only wished to do what God told her. This was how Mary helped to save the world. Eve would not do what God told her ; she chose to have her own way and to please herself : and, though it was only in a very little thing, God punished her and the whole world for it. Even now you and I are suffering for that little sin which Eve committed. But Mary, our Blessed Mother Mary, never thought of pleasing herself. She called herself God's handmaid, His servant, to show that she only thought it her duty to submit to whatever God wished, and she said : " be it done to me according to Thy word. " Whatever God said, that Mary wished to be done. And even as we suffer now for the sin which Eve committed, so we also, through God's great mercy, may be saved from many sufferings now, and

even from eternal suffering hereafter, by the one good act of Mary. If she had not been so good and holy, and obedient to God's will, Jesus could not have taken her for His Mother; and you know, if Jesus had not come into the world to suffer and die for us, we should have gone to hell as a punishment for our sins. How we should love and honour Mary for all she has done for us!

Prayer.

O Mother of Jesus, and my Mother! how can a poor child thank you for all your goodness, and for all you have done for us! At least I will try to love and serve you all my life; and I will try to induce others to do the same. Oh, how much I wish that I could really prove my love and gratitude by all my actions! But since I know that I can please you best by trying to please Jesus more, help me, my good Mother, to do this, and especially obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 12TH.

MARY'S CHARITY TO ST. ELIZABETH.

You know that our Blessed Lady had a cousin who was called St. Elizabeth. Her husband, whose name was Zachary, had also received a visit from the Angel Gabriel, and had been told that his wife Elizabeth should have a son, and that this child was to be called John; and the Angel foretold great things about this holy child. When the Angel came to our Blessed Lady, he told her about St. Elizabeth; and as soon as he went back to heaven, Mary set out on a long journey to see her cousin; and by this act of charity, she was the means of sanctifying St. John even before his birth. See how dearly Mary loves little children. The first miracle which Jesus performed was for this holy child St. John, and it was through Mary He performed it. This ought to give little children a great love for Mary, and great devotion to her. You must try to imitate the charity of Mary, by your kindness to other children. You can do so by being very gentle and affectionate towards them; and also, sometimes, perhaps, you could sit with them and amuse them when they are sick, even though it would please you more to go and play. You

should also try to do something for those poor children who have no one to care for them, and whose souls are in such great danger. Read over again what is said about them in the beginning of this little book; and see what you can do. You know, where there is a will there is a way.

Prayer.

My Blessed Mother Mary, help a little child to imitate your holy example in all things! Above all, I desire to imitate the example of your charity, and I offer these ten Hail Marys to-day for all those poor children who are in danger of losing their souls through the snares of wicked men. [*Then say ten Hail Marys.*] I beseech of you also, my good Mother, to grant me the favour I ask [*here name your request*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 13TH.

HOW THE SAINTS HONOUR MARY.

If you wish to be like the Saints, you will honour Mary. St. Elizabeth was the first Saint who honoured her. She was surprised that one so great as the very Mother of God would

condescend to visit her; and she exclaimed: "Whence is this to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" (St. Luke i. 43.) Let us imitate the example of St. Elizabeth. It is indeed wonderful that the great Mother of God, who is honoured and worshipped by all the Saints and the holy Angels, should condescend to listen to our prayers, and should be so kind and good in helping us. All the Saints loved and honoured Mary. St. Bernard, St. Aloysius, St. Stanislaus, St. Francis, St. Dominic, all honoured Mary—all prayed to her constantly and fervently. The most holy Saints, and the Saints who loved Jesus most, were always the most devout to Mary, because the more we love Jesus, the more we shall love His Mother.

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus, help me to love and honour you every day more and more. I humbly thank you for all your love and care of me. It is indeed a great condescension that you should listen to the prayers of a little child. Oh, help me to become less unworthy of all your goodness and your love. I beg the prayers and intercession of all those Saints who have loved you most, and especially of [*here name your patron Saint*], that I may obtain the grace of loving you more and more. I beseech of

you, my Blessed Mother, to obtain for me
[*here name your request*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 14TH.

MARY'S HYMN.

WHEN St. Elizabeth had told Mary how great an honour she had shown her in the words which the Holy Ghost inspired her to say, our Blessed Lady replied in that beautiful hymn which is called the *Magnificat*, from the first word in Latin: "My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Because he hath regarded the humility of His handmaid." See how truly humble our Blessed Mother is. Far from taking credit to herself, or being pleased at the great things St. Elizabeth said to her, she gives all the praise to God—she calls God her Saviour, as if she too had been a poor sinner like ourselves. Mary knew that what St. Elizabeth said was revealed to her by the Holy Spirit; but she knew also that she owed every thing to God, and that He was indeed her Saviour, for He alone could have saved her from all stain of sin, and bestowed on her all the favours of heaven. Try to

imitate the humility of Mary, and often sing this beautiful hymn in her praise, and to thank God for all that He has done for you.

Prayer.

Say this hymn in honour of the Mother of God, and to thank Him for all He has done for you through her intercession :

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Because He hath regarded the humility of His handmaid ; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. Because He that is mighty, hath done great things to me ; and holy is His name. And His mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear Him. He hath shewed might in His arm : He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble. He hath filled the hungry with good things ; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He hath received Israel His servant, being mindful of His mercy. As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever.

Glory be the Father, &c.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 15TH.

MARY'S PROPHECY—"ALL GENERATIONS SHALL CALL ME BLESSED."

TO-DAY we must think very carefully about these words. Remember that when Mary composed the *Magnificat* she was inspired by the Holy Ghost; it was the Holy Ghost, therefore, who made this prophecy for Mary: "Behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed!" Yes, we may well call Mary "blessed," when God Himself has declared that she is so. Who could be, or who ever can be, more blessed than the Mother of Jesus! You should learn from this what great honour you ought to pay to Mary. How reverently you should say the Hail Mary, because when you say it you are speaking to this great Queen! How careful you should be to show her honour by saying some prayers to her every day; and also by loving her, and trusting her in all your little trials! But there is another thing which you can do. You can try to induce others to honour her. If every child who reads this were to try and get some other child to do the same, and to use these devotions every day during the month of May, she would be trying to get others to honour her. You must surely know

some child who might not do this unless you asked her. If all the children in your own home, or at school with you, keep the month of May, there may still be others whom you may know who do not keep it. Try to find out some one. Oh, if children were only in earnest about doing all the good they can, how much they would please God! If you wanted a holiday, you would ask and ask until you got it. Try to be as anxious and as persevering in doing good.

Say nine Hail Marys, in reparation to our Blessed Lady for the sins of those who do not honour her.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 16TH.

MARY TELLS US WHAT GOD DOES FOR THOSE WHO
FEAR HIM.

LISTEN to what Mary says about the holy fear of God: "His mercy is from generation to generation to them that fear Him." Try to understand the meaning of this holy fear. If you feared God truly, you would never commit sin. Do you not know that He is the great almighty Creator of heaven and earth? Do you not know that He could

take your life from you in one moment as easily as He gave it to you? Do you not know that He always sees you? He sees you when you are alone; He sees you when it is quite dark; He sees you when you are in naughty tempers—when you are disobedient and sulky. Is it not a dreadful thing to think that the great God is always watching you! If you are good, it is a very happy thing to know that God is watching you, because He sees every little good action you perform, and He gets a reward ready for you in return. If God sees that you really fear to offend Him; if He hears you say, I must not commit this sin because God is looking at me, and He will not be pleased with me if I do it,—then God will love you—He will show you mercy. There is always a great blessing on families where God is feared. God blesses the children of those parents who fear Him. Pray now to your Blessed Mother Mary to obtain this grace for you.

Prayer.

My holy and Blessed Mother Mary, I implore you to obtain for me the grace of the holy fear of God. May I dread to offend Him, since He sees my every thought and word and action! May I dread to offend Him, not only because He can punish me for my sin,

but because He is so good and kind! Obtain for me, also, the grace of [*here name the grace you desire*]; and may the mercy of God be shown to me and to all whom I love, now and for ever! Amen.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 17TH.

MARY TELLS US HOW GOD FILLS THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS.

MARY said in that beautiful hymn: "He hath filled the hungry with good things." Perhaps you may have thought that these good things were food to eat. But Mary was not speaking about our bodies, or what we want for them. Jesus was often hungry when He was in the world. He came to suffer, and so He sometimes lets those whom He loves very much be hungry; because the more we suffer here, if we suffer patiently, the more we shall have to enjoy hereafter. But there is another kind of hunger. We should be hungry for food to feed our souls. Above all, we should hunger—that is, we should desire most earnestly—to receive the most Holy Sacrament, because that is the true food of our souls. Do you hunger for this, dear child? If you have not made your

first Communion, are you doing your best to prepare for It? and, if you have already had that great happiness, are you trying to prepare to receive the Holy Sacrament each time in better dispositions? This is the Food for which we should all hunger, and this is the Food which God will give us to keep our souls alive.

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus, I beseech you to obtain for me the grace of a great love of the most Holy Sacrament, the true Food of my soul. Oh, may I never be so unhappy as to prefer any thing in the world to this blessed Food! Oh, may I be each day better prepared to receive It! You know, my good Mother, what I most need to prepare my soul for this great favour—obtain for me this grace. I also beg of you to obtain for me [*here name your request*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 18TH.

MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM.

SOME months after Mary's visit to St. Elizabeth she went to Bethlehem, and you know it was there that Jesus was born. The Roman

Emperor Cæsar Augustus had commanded that all the people whom he governed should have their names written down, and each person was obliged to go to his own city for this purpose. It was in the cold winter-time that St. Joseph and our Blessed Lady set out on their journey. But they did not think about that, for they knew they were doing God's will. The Roman emperor, if he had thought about them at all, or even known of their existence, would have supposed they were going to Bethlehem merely to obey his orders. But the orders of the Roman emperor had been foreseen and preordained by the King of kings, who willed that our dear Lord should be born at Bethlehem. Thus we may learn how God overrules every event, and orders all for His glory. And you see that wicked men may be made use of by God to fulfil His designs; and this should teach you to obey every one who is set over you. Even bad and wicked men should be obeyed if they are set over us—unless they command us to do something sinful; because we obey them to please God: but if they tell us to do what is wrong, then we must remember that God would not wish them to do that; and then we must disobey them. Dear child, try to understand this, for it is a lesson you may want to learn before you grow much older.

Prayer.

My Blessed Mother Mary, I beg you to obtain for me the grace of true obedience to all my superiors. I beg you to obtain for me that I may always know God's will, and that I may always do it. You know to what dangers I may be exposed hereafter; help me now to prepare for them by my fervent love and trust in you, my good Mother, the sure refuge in every necessity; and obtain for me, also [*here name your request*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 19TH.

JESUS IS BORN AT BETHLEHEM.

THE word Bethlehem means the house of bread. Jesus came down from heaven to be our true Food, and to keep our souls alive. Every time we receive the Holy Communion, Jesus comes to us again, and is, as it were, born anew in our hearts. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He had to go to a stable—the people would not let Him into the inn. They had no room there for the dear little Infant Jesus. Perhaps you may think that, if you had been in Bethlehem, you would have

given Jesus your own little bed, and your warm room. My child, I hope you would ; but I cannot feel sure. Perhaps I should have been unkind to Jesus myself if I had been there. I will tell you how you can know whether you would have made room for Jesus. If you make room for Him in your heart now, you may hope you would have made room for Him then. Perhaps you are not allowed to make your first Communion yet, because there is some naughty temper that you are keeping in your heart. If it is so, then you will not make room for Jesus ; you love that naughty temper more than Jesus. Perhaps you do not care as much about trying to please Jesus as you should do ; then I fear you would have sent Him to the stable. Dear child, none of us love Jesus enough—not even those who love Him most. Let us pray to our Blessed Mother for grace to love Him more.

Prayer.

My Blessed Mother Mary, I beseech you to obtain for me such a great love of your little Infant Jesus, that I may never send Him away from me. Help me to drive every thing out of my heart that would prevent His coming to it. You know, my good Mother, what grace I need most to prepare me for receiving my Jesus in the Holy Communion ;

obtain it for me, and also the grace of [*here name it*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 20TH.

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE KINGS COME TO SEE JESUS AND MARY.

THE shepherds were the first to come and visit Jesus and Mary. The Holy Scripture tells us they came "with haste." Poor people often make an excuse that they must mind their families and their children, and that they cannot give as much time to God as those who are rich, and have "nothing to do." But the shepherds teach them a great lesson. They minded God first, and God minded their sheep and lambs. I am sure they found every little lamb and sheep quite safe when they went back to the fields on Christmas morning. If you know any one who makes these excuses for staying from Mass, and for not going to instructions, tell them about the shepherds. God will take care of us, if we take care to serve Him. And the kings came also—they had a long way to come, but they did not make excuses. Rich people often make as many excuses as the poor. Every one makes

excuses, because the devil tries to tempt us all, whether we are rich or poor, whether we are young or old. The devil is very busy. But we must remember that God *must* be served before ourselves, or before the world, and that He will take no excuses. Pray to your Blessed Mother Mary to help you to imitate the example of the shepherds and the kings.

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus, I beseech you, by the great joy you felt when the shepherds and the kings came to visit Jesus, help me to be always faithful to my religious duties, and to think of them first. And when I grow older, and may be tempted by the cares or the pleasures of the world to neglect them, oh, then remember me—pray for me, protect me, and obtain for me all the grace I may need. Help me, my good Mother, to commence now to live such a holy life, and to think always about God first, and my pleasures, or any other duties, after, that I may have less temptation hereafter to neglect His service. Obtain for me, also [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 21ST.

THE INFANT SAVIOUR RECEIVES THE HOLY NAME OF
JESUS.

WHEN a little baby is baptised, it receives a name. This name is called its Christian name, because it is made a Christian when it is baptised. The Jewish children were circumcised, and by that rite they became Jews, and were made God's own chosen people. Any little child that was not circumcised could not have the privileges which God gave to His people, just as now any child who is not baptised has not the privileges of the Christian Church. When the dear Infant Jesus was eight days old He was circumcised, and received the holy name of Jesus. It was not necessary for our Blessed Lord to be circumcised, but He wished to give us an example, and show how important it is to obey every command of the Church. Perhaps our Blessed Lady herself told the priest the name that her Blessed Child was to be called. The Angel Gabriel told it to Mary. He said: "Thou shalt bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS" (St. Luke i. 31). Think how reverently Mary said that holy name. She knew that every knee should bow at the sound. She knew, also, that it meant Saviour.

Try to learn from Mary how to say the holy name of Jesus, and try during this month to imitate her example by saying it with great reverence.

Prayer.

My Blessed Mother Mary, obtain for me the grace of always saying the holy name of Jesus with the greatest reverence and love; obtain for me, also, that your dear Infant Jesus may indeed be my Saviour—that He may deliver me from all my sin—that He may deliver me in every temptation—and that I may try more and more to imitate His blessed example of obedience to all the commands of holy Church—and of obedience even to the least wish of all my superiors. I also beg of you, my good Mother, to obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 22D.

THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION
OF JESUS.

THE law which God gave to Moses, and which the Jews were obliged to obey, required that every male child should be presented to God in the Temple, and that an offering should be made to God for it. This offering was a lamb

and a young pigeon, or a dove ; but people who were very poor, and could not buy a little lamb, might give two doves and two pigeons. God is always so good and merciful, He never asks us to do any thing too hard for us. Mary was very poor, so she could only bring the two doves. But she knew that Jesus was the true Lamb of God, and He was there, the real Sacrifice for sin. It was a great joy to Mary to offer the Holy Child Jesus to God ; but it was also a great sorrow. There was a good old man called Simeon in the Temple, and he prophesied the great sorrows that Mary should bear. He told her that a sword should pierce her soul. Perhaps you have seen pictures of our Lady of Dolors with a sword, or sometimes seven swords, piercing her heart. These represent her sorrows ; for Simeon did not mean that a real sword should be thrust into her heart, but he meant that she should suffer great sorrows—sorrows that would be far worse than any pain of body. Pray to that Blessed Lady of Sorrows now, that she may obtain grace for you to bear all your little trials and sorrows as patiently as she bore her great ones.

Prayer.

Say seven Hail Marys, and after each Hail Mary say :

Holy Mother, pierce me through,
And in my heart each wound renew
Of my Saviour crucified.

(300 *days' indulgence.*)

MAY 23D.

MARY FLIES INTO EGYPT WITH THE INFANT JESUS.

THE little Infant Jesus was always suffering, and all that He suffered was suffered also by His Blessed Mother. A good mother would rather suffer herself than see her child suffering, and Mary was the best of mothers; so you may imagine what she suffered for and with Jesus. There was a wicked king called Herod, who was afraid that the Infant Jesus would take his kingdom from him; and as he could not find out where Jesus was, he determined to have all the young children killed. Like many cruel and wicked people, he did not succeed in doing what he wished. The children who were killed went to heaven, and after one little moment's pain they were happier than my poor words could tell. But Jesus escaped. An Angel came in the night to St. Joseph, and told him to fly into Egypt with Jesus and Mary; and that very night the Holy Family set out on their journey.

Now, God could have saved Jesus without giving this trial to our Lady and St. Joseph ; but God knows what is best for us. Jesus came to suffer, and to teach us to love suffering ; so that even little children must learn to bear suffering patiently, and try to be like the Holy Child Jesus. I wonder if you would have been patient if you were called up in the night and taken a long journey in the cold and darkness? Perhaps sometimes you think it very hard to get up at once when you are called in the morning after a good night's rest.

Prayer.

My good Mother Mary, I wish very much to be like Jesus ; but you know I do not like to bear the least suffering or pain. Oh, help me to become a very patient child, and to bear all my little trials like the Holy Child Jesus. Help me to be willing to give up my rest or pleasure whenever it is God's will that I should do so ; and whenever it is necessary for me to bear any great pain or suffering, obtain for me the grace to be really patient. I beg of you also to obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 24TH.

MARY LOSES JESUS, AND FINDS HIM IN THE TEMPLE.

AFTER the death of the cruel Herod, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph returned to live in the land of Israel. They came to a city called Nazareth, and there the Holy Family remained for many years. Dear children, every Christian family should try to live as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in the holy house at Nazareth. There were no quarrels there. There was no disobedience there. There were no angry or unkind words. All was peace and love and harmony. Every year the Holy Family went up to Jerusalem to worship God according to the commands of the Church; just as every Christian is obliged now by the Holy Catholic Church to receive the Sacraments at Easter. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up as usual; but when His parents returned, they could not find Him. For three days they looked for Him every where. They went to all their friends, but Jesus could not be found. At last they went to the Temple, and there indeed they found the Holy Child. He was sitting in the midst of the doctors—that is, those who taught the people the law—and He was asking them questions and listening to their instructions. O my dearest child, this

is a great lesson for you. I hope you will try to think about it very often. A good child is always ready to go to Catechism ; but, alas, how many children there are who would rather play, who would rather do any thing else ! Oh, do try to be like the Holy Child Jesus ; try to love instructions, and to profit by them. Try to love to go to church, even when you are not obliged, and to make little visits to the Blessed Sacrament. I know a great many children who go to school close to a church : and they always go and make a little visit before they go to school and after they come out from it. No one ever told them to do this ; but I suppose two or three good children began to do it, and then others followed their example. I have seen babies only two years old kneeling with their little hands folded so still, and their eyes shut ; in a few minutes they would go out quietly, and then run off to play. They were too young to say any prayers ; but they liked to go, and I am sure Jesus was pleased to see them.

Prayer. .

My Blessed Mother, obtain for me the great grace of loving instruction, and of being very regular and attentive at Catechism. Help me to profit by what I learn and by what I am taught. Ask the Holy Child Jesus to pardon

me for all the faults I have committed, either by staying away from Catechism, or by not being attentive when I was present at it. Obtain for me also [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 25TH.

HOW OBEDIENT JESUS WAS TO MARY.

JESUS went home with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth, and we are told in the Holy Bible that "He was subject to them," and that "He advanced in wisdom and age, and grace with God and men" (St. Luke ii. 50, 51). Here is another beautiful example for children. Jesus loved to be in the Temple, because it was God's house; but when His blessed Mother and St. Joseph came for Him, He went with them at once. You see, if you are even doing what is good and right, you must be ready to leave it at once if you are called by your parents or teachers. "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age, and grace with God and men." My dearest child, I hope you wish and try to be better every day you live. It is sad to see a child grow older and yet not grow better. It is advancing in age, but not in wisdom. The only true wisdom is to love and serve God,

and to prepare ourselves for heaven. You might be very clever, and not be very wise; you might know a great deal about the things of this world, and know very little about the next. Jesus also advanced in grace and favour with God and man. God loves a child when He sees it trying to please Him, trying to be good and holy. And a good child will also be loved by others. No one cares for a passionate, selfish child. No one cares for a child who is always giving trouble. If you wish to be loved by others, you will try to be good, though this must not be your first wish: your first wish should be to be loved by God.

Prayer.

O Mother of Jesus, help me to be like Jesus. By the great honour which Jesus paid you when He obeyed you in the holy house of Nazareth, obtain for me the grace of being a very obedient child. Help me to overcome my self-will and all my self-love. Ask my good Angel to help me also, and pray for me that I may become wiser and better every day. Obtain for me also [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 26TH.

JESUS LEAVES HIS BLESSED MOTHER, AND GOES TO
PREACH AND TEACH.

WHEN Jesus was thirty years old, He went to fulfil the mission which God had given Him. This mission was to preach the Gospel and to heal the sick. You might have supposed that when God Himself spoke, every one would have listened to Him; that when He cured the blind and healed the lame, every one would have loved Him and thanked Him. But it was not so. A few people listened to our dear Lord, and did what He told them; but there were hundreds and thousands who listened to him, but did not obey Him. Once, while He was preaching, the people tried to stone Him; and another time, they tried to throw Him down a hill. All this grieved Jesus very much. Another time some good people brought little children to Him, that He might bless them. His disciples were angry with them; they thought little children were not worth the notice of the great God. But Jesus would not let the dear children be sent away: He even took them up in His arms. Only think of that! How happy you would be if Jesus took you up in His blessed arms, even for one moment! My child, Jesus does more than

this for children now : He comes into their very hearts. When you receive the Holy Communion, it is Jesus Himself who comes into your heart, and He will stay there if you will only allow Him. Our Blessed Mother Mary was so much grieved when she saw the way people treated Jesus, and she is grieved now—more grieved than I can tell—when children do not receive Holy Communion with great reverence and love.

Prayer.

O holy Mother of God, I beg your help most earnestly that I may never grieve my good and kind Jesus by receiving the Holy Communion without proper reverence and devotion. Help me, holy Mother of God ; help me to receive Jesus as you received Him when he came to you in the most Holy Sacrament, and obtain for me the grace of living more and more to please Him. I humbly beg of you also to obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 27TH.

OUR DEAR MOTHER MARY MEETS JESUS CARRYING
THE CROSS.

AFTER Jesus had done all He could for His people, they condemned Him to die. Jesus wished to die, because that was the way in which He could best show His love for us ; but this did not make it less wicked or less cruel in those who killed Him. You know that Jesus was crucified ; and when a person was condemned to this death, he was obliged to carry his cross to the place of execution. Jesus carried His cross very willingly ; but He was so weak from all He had suffered, that He fell down three times, and each time the soldiers beat Him and made Him get up again. Our Blessed Lady saw all this. She met Jesus carrying the cross. No one can *ever* know all she suffered. No one ever had to bear such suffering as this ; but we all have some little trials, and our good kind Jesus bore His cross to give us grace to bear our trials. I wonder what your cross is ? Even little children may have crosses to bear. Perhaps you have to learn some lesson you do not like,—that is your cross. Perhaps some other child has lost her good mother,—that is her cross. Perhaps you are sick sometimes,

and cannot play about like other children,—that is another cross. Ask our dear Mother Mary to help you to bear your little trials patiently, whatever they may be.

Prayer.

O Mother of Jesus and Mother of sorrows, have mercy upon all those who are in sorrow or trouble of any kind, and help them to bear their trials with patience and resignation to the will of God. Help me too, my good Mother, in all my little crosses, that I may try to be a patient child, and be willing to suffer whatever trials God may send me now or at any future time. Obtain for me also [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 28TH.

MARY STANDS BY THE CROSS WHILE JESUS DIES.

THIS was the greatest of all our dear Lady's sorrows. She saw her only Child dying upon the cross, and she could do nothing to help Him. She could not even give Him a drink of water, or wipe the great drops of Blood from His face. For three hours the

Mother of Jesus stood watching Jesus dying. Mary would have died of grief and anguish, only that God kept her alive. Try to think, dear child, about the dreadful agony that your dear Mother felt. She loves those who are sorry for what she suffered. You would love any one who was very kind to you when you were in pain. The only way we have now of being kind to Mary in her sufferings is to think of them and to be sorry for them. The reason Mary likes us to be sorry is, because that sorrow does us good. It was our sins that made Jesus and Mary suffer. Oh, how sorry we ought to be for this! Remember also that you must die some day. I knew a little child only three years old who was quite well a few days ago, and now she is dead and buried. She was a dear child, and every one loved her. She is with God now, a beautiful little angel. So, you see, even little children may die. Ask our Blessed Mother Mary to help you to die a good and holy death by the pain she suffered when she stood by the cross of Jesus for three hours.

Prayer.

My Blessed Mother Mary, I know that I must die some day, though I am now but a child. Help me to prepare for that dreadful moment. It will not be dreadful if you come

for me, and take me to Jesus. Oh, do come for me, my dear, good Mother! Ask Jesus to forgive me all my sins, and to make me fit to live with you and the holy Angels for ever. Obtain for me also [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 29TH.

JESUS GIVES US MARY TO BE OUR MOTHER.

WHEN Jesus was dying, He was still thinking what He could do for others. When we are sick or in pain, we never think of any one but ourselves; but Jesus thought of every one. He thought even of His murderers, and asked God to forgive them, and made excuses for their crime. He thought of His Blessed Mother; and He knew how her poor heart would be broken with sorrow when He died: so He told St. John, the disciple whom He loved most, that he was to take care of our blessed Lady, as if she were his own Mother. And then our dear Lord thought of St. John, who loved Him so much, perhaps more than any one had loved Him except Mary, and He told Mary to take St. John for her son. Oh, how good, how kind Jesus is! And when Jesus did that, He intended that we should all

take Mary for our Mother, as St. John did ; that we should love her and take care of her ; and that Mary should also take us for her children. Jesus thought of you then, my dear child ; for He knew the past and the future as well as the present, because He is God. Thank our dear Lord for His great love, and try to do what He wished. Try to love Mary as your own best of mothers, and ask Mary to love you and care for you as her own dear child.

Prayer.

O Blessed Mother of Jesus, our dear Lord gave you to me to be my Mother, and He gave me to you that I might be your child. I take you this day and for evermore for my Mother ; and I beg of you to let me be your child. I promise you, with the help of God's grace, to try to be good and obedient, and do every thing that I think you would like me to do ; and if I fail sometimes, my Blessed Mother, forgive me : help me to be truly sorry, and to begin again to do right. I also beg of you to obtain for me [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

MAY 30TH.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST.

AFTER Jesus went up to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to His Mother and His disciples. You know that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the ever-blessed Trinity. The Holy Spirit helps us to do right. He teaches us what we ought to do, and He gives us strength to do it. The Holy Spirit loved Mary with an eternal love. He came to her when Jesus was incarnate; and now He came to her again, to make her, if possible, more holy than before. You know, when children are confirmed, they receive the Holy Ghost. Oh, what a careful preparation they should make for this great favour! How earnestly they ought to pray to our Blessed Mother to help them! But we need the help of the Holy Spirit every day and moment of our lives, and we ought to pray every day that He may come to us. I wish all the children who read this little book would say even one Hail Mary at their morning prayers, every day of their lives, to ask our Lady to obtain for them the grace of the Holy Ghost. When you are older, or even now if you have time and inclination, you might say the hymn of the Holy Ghost,

or seven Hail Marys, to obtain His seven-fold gifts.

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus and Spouse of the Holy Ghost, hear the prayer of a child who desires to be guided and taught by this Blessed Spirit. Oh, obtain for me this grace! Obtain for me that I may every day increase in heavenly wisdom and holy love, that all my thoughts, words, and actions may be guided and governed by the Spirit of God; so shall I be certain to please my Jesus more and more, so shall I become dearer to you, my Blessed Mother, and less unworthy to be your child. Obtain for me also [*here name the grace*].

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (*three times*).

MAY 31ST.

OUR BLESSED LADY IS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN, AND CROWNED.

EVERY thing temporal must have an end. This is the last day of May; and perhaps you think the month has passed very quickly. So it is with life; when you come to die, even should you live till you are very old, you will say: How quickly my life has passed away! Dear child, there is a life that will never pass

away : are you trying earnestly to prepare for that life ? Our Blessed Lady knew that life was the only thing worth thinking about or caring for. She had a long life in this world, but it was all full of suffering. What does she think of it now ? Ah, it seems nothing to her in comparison with the joys she now possesses. When Mary died, the Angels came to take her up to heaven. Even her body was taken up there ; and there God Himself crowned her. She was crowned Queen of Angels and of men. You know that those who are to rule over others as kings and queens are crowned : and those who have done some good action or won some victory are also crowned. Perhaps you have got a crown at school, sometimes. But the great day will come when God will crown or condemn every creature. Every one who has lived or who will yet live will either be crowned in heaven for the good they have done on earth, or punished in hell for the evil. You will be either crowned or punished. It depends on yourself which it shall be. Pray to our Blessed Mother Mary to help you to get a crown in heaven, and a very bright crown. There will be different kinds of crowns there. Some will be much brighter and more beautiful than others. There will be no crown like Mary's, because no one ever loved or served

God as she did. Oh, try very, very earnestly to get a bright crown. Try every day, every hour. God sees all you do; and every little action, every little word, may help you to get a crown, and help to make it more beautiful.

Prayer.

Mother of Jesus, behold me now at the end of this happy month, praying to you to help me to get a bright, beautiful crown in heaven. I offer you all the Masses, Communions, Benedictions, Rosaries, Processions, and Prayers that have been said in your honour, and I wish I could add thousands to the number of each. Bless me, O my Mother, bless me this day; and help me to be a holier child before the next month of May, if I live to see it.

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation
(*three times*).

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