

**BEFORE THE ALTAR. THE DEVOUT
CHRISTIAN'S MANUAL FOR
ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNION
AT THE HOLY EUCHARIST,
SACRIFICE, AND SACRAMENT**

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Before the Altar. The Devout Christian's Manual for Attendance and Communion at the Holy Eucharist, Sacrifice, and Sacrament by Various

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VARIOUS

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Before the Altar.

THE DEVOUT CHRISTIAN'S MANUAL

*FOR ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNION AT
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, SACRIFICE,
AND SACRAMENT.*

Devotions adapted for the use of the
English Church.

WITH
A SUMMARY OF FAITH, INSTRUCTIONS,
MORNING AND NIGHT PRAYERS,
AND
QUESTIONS FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

SEVENTH EDITION.

OXFORD AND LONDON:
A. R. MOWBRAY & CO
1885.

143 + 1. 4. 5



THE plan of this book, and many of the prayers, are taken from the well-known Manual of Dr. Challoner. It seemed to the Compiler a pity that no adaptation for English Churchmen should exist.

The Compiler asks those who use the Manual not to forget him in their prayers before the Altar.

If there be any doctrinal error in the book, he would wish it withdrawn at once.



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Summary of Faith.

1. GOD.—Every Christian must believe that there is one God, and no more than one God ; that this God is a pure Spirit, the Lord and Maker of heaven and earth, who has neither beginning nor end, but is always the same ; is everywhere present ; knows and sees all things ; can do all things whatsoever He pleases ; and is infinite in all perfections.

2. THE BLESSED TRINITY.—Every Christian is bound to believe that in this one God there are three several Persons, perfectly equal, and of the same substance ; the Father, Who proceeds from none ; the Son, Who is begotten of the Father before all ages ; and the Holy Ghost, Who proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son ; and that these three Persons are all equally eternal, equal in wisdom and power, and are all three one and the same Lord, one and the same God.

3. CREATION.—We must all believe that this God created the angels to be with Him for ever, and that one part of them fell from God by sin, and became devils; that God also created Adam and Eve, the first parents of all mankind, and placed them in the earthly paradise, from whence they were justly banished for the sin they committed in disobeying God's express commands; and that by this transgression of Adam we all are born in sin, and must have been lost for ever, if God had not sent us a Saviour.

4. THE SON OF GOD.—We are bound to believe in this Saviour of all mankind. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God, and true man; perfect God from all eternity, equal to His Father in all things; and perfect man, from the time of His coming down from heaven for us, having a body and soul like ours.

5. THE REDEMPTION.—We must believe that this Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who had been long foretold by the prophets, was, at God's appointed time, conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Ghost, without having any man for His Father, and was born of her, she still remaining a pure virgin; that during the time of His mortal life, He founded the Christian religion by His heavenly doctrine and wonderful miracles,

and then offered a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, by dying upon a cross, to purchase mercy, grace, and salvation for us; and that neither mercy, nor grace, nor salvation, either can, or ever could, since Adam's fall, be obtained in any other way than through this Death and Passion of the Son of God.

6. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE COMING OF THE HOLY GHOST.—We must believe that Jesus Christ, after He had been dead and buried for part of three days, rose again on the third day, from death to life, never to die any more; and that, for the space of forty days, He was pleased at different times to manifest Himself to His disciples, and then ascended into heaven in their sight; where, as man, He continually intercedes for us. From thence He sent down the Holy Ghost upon His disciples to abide with them for ever, as He had promised, and to guide them and their successors into all truth.

7. THE CHURCH.—We must believe the Catholic or Universal Church, of which Christ is the perpetual Head, and His Spirit the perpetual Guide; which is founded on a rock, and is ever victorious over Death and Hell.

The Church is *one* by all its members being baptized into *one* body, and so

partaking of the one Spirit, having one Lord, professing the Faith once delivered to the Saints, and having one organization of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

The Church is *Holy* by teaching Holy Doctrine, by conveying in the Sacraments the power of being holy, by inviting all to holiness of life, and by the great holiness of many of her children.

The Church is *Catholic* or Universal by existing in all ages, by teaching all nations, and holding all truth.

The Church is *Apostolic* by receiving her doctrine, her orders, and her mission by unbroken succession from the Apostles.

8. THE RULE OF FAITH.—With the Catholic Church the Scriptures both of the Old and New Testament were deposited by the Apostles. She is by her Pastors the keeper and interpreter of them, and judge in all controversies about them. In the Scriptures, interpreted by her with the aid of the Holy Spirit, according to Apostolic tradition, is contained the Faith once for all delivered to the Saints. The Church, not individuals, can alone decide what is the meaning of the Bible, where its meaning is disputed, and what is the Faith. That Faith is briefly summed up in the Three Creeds, partly explained in the Catechism, and set forth generally in the Prayer Book.