

**SHORT INSTRUCTIONS;  
OR, MEDITATIONS  
ON THE GOSPELS  
FOR EACH DAY IN LENT**

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Short Instructions; Or, Meditations on the Gospels for Each Day in Lent by P. Baker & William T. Conklin

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**P. BAKER & WILLIAM T. CONKLIN**

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# SHORT INSTRUCTIONS

OR

MEDITATIONS

ON

## THE GOSPELS

FOR EACH DAY IN LENT

BY

REV. P. BAKER

EDITED BY

REV. WILLIAM T. CONKLIN

NEW YORK

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*Archbishop of New York.*

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*Bishop of Brooklyn.*

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## PREFACE.

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IN these days of religious discussion, when many who are not of the household of the faith, are cast about by every wind of doctrine, this volume of Instructions on the Gospels for Lent, should prove to be a striking testimony of the unchangeableness of Catholic teaching. The book was originally published in 1834. The lessons drawn from the Gospels and the prayers which follow prove the Reverend Author to have been a man of deep learning and solid piety. The style of the book is all that has undergone any radical change. The first issue consisted of two very small volumes which might properly have been called a pocket edition. The present edition is much larger and is printed from new and clear type. Many typographical errors were found in the original—particularly in the Gospels which appear at the head of each Instruction. In the body of the work many words and expressions had to be changed. Some words had become obsolete—others did not seem to express clearly the mind of the author. Such expressions have been corrected. Another and rather important change which it has been seen fit to make is to omit the Sunday Instructions from the present volume and add them to volume two which is shortly to be issued.

In the original edition the Gospels for many Sundays of the ecclesiastical year were omitted. These have all been supplied and will appear in their proper places in volume two of the present edition. In supplying these Instructions care has been taken to follow as closely as possible the style of the original work.

In its present form the book should prove acceptable to both priests and people. In it, it is to be hoped, that the busy priest may find hints for Lenten Sermons. Religious and others who make daily meditations may also find this volume of assistance. With very little effort the Instructions may be divided into at least two points, and the prayer which is found at the end of each Instruction would serve as a beautiful spiritual bouquet, which might be called to mind from time to time during the day. The Catholic layman will find in the Instructions a clear exposition of Catholic Doctrine founded on the teaching of Christ Himself, which will assist him in the practise of his religion, and will enable him in case of necessity to give a reason for the faith that is in him.

That the present edition may do as much as did the first to promote the glory of God is the earnest wish and prayer of the

EDITOR.

Feast of the Purification,  
February 2, 1904.

## ASH WEDNESDAY.

ON THE BLESSED ASHES.

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*Memento homo, quia pulvis es,  
Et in pulverem reverteris.*

Remember, man, that dust thou art,  
And into dust thou shalt return.

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### INSTRUCTION.

THE ceremony of sprinkling ashes on the heads of the faithful this day, is instructive and significant. We are now entering upon Lent, a time particularly dedicated to fasting, prayer, mortification and self-denial. By these penitential exercises, we must endeavor to seek a reconciliation with God by the means which are most likely to obtain his mercy. By receiving ashes upon our heads, we appear before him in the posture of penitents, and, provided we accompany this *outward ceremony* with an