

# **THE VICAR OF CHRIST**

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The vicar of Christ by William Humphrey

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**WILLIAM HUMPHREY**

**THE VICAR  
OF CHRIST**



THE  
VICAR OF CHRIST

BY

THE REV. WILLIAM HUMPHREY, S. J.

LONDON AND LEAMINGTON

**Art and Book Company**

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following pages are reprinted from *The Month*, by kind permission of the Editor.

The purpose of the writer is to press home on his readers four truths :—

1. That Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, has a visible Kingdom on this earth,
2. That in this Kingdom He not only reigns, but *rules*.
3. That His rule, both in teaching and in government, is rendered actual by means of that man whom He has made to be His Vicar on this earth.
4. And that, if Christ had no visible Vicar, His royalty would be merely nominal and not real.

WILLIAM HUMPHREY, S.J.

CATHOLIC CHURCH, OXFORD,

*Feast of St. Ignatius, 1892.*



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# THE VICAR OF CHRIST.

AMONG the many titles of the Roman Pontiff, there is no one which so sets forth that Pontiff's place in the Christian economy as does his title of *Vicar of Christ*.

The Roman Pontiff is rightly called the visible Head of the visible Church; but to ascertain all that is implied in this title, we must first have determined what that Church is.

The Roman Pontiff is the Successor of Peter, the Prince of the Apostles; but to ascertain what that is to which he has succeeded, we must first have determined the privilege of Peter, and the status of the Apostles.

The Roman Pontiff is Universal Bishop, and the Bishop of Bishops; but to ascertain the nature of