

Correspondence.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNION.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

The Vicarage, Gisborne,
May 14th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In spite of the authorities you quote I feel more than ever unconvinced. You say the point at issue is: "What is the custom or rule of the Church of England," and your whole argument savours of the type which makes the Church of England a Church of The Reformation only. Should not the point at issue be: "What is the rule or custom of the Catholic Church," of which Church we are a true branch. Evan Daniel and the Rector of St. James, Picadilly, may possibly consider that the provision of a Liturgical Epistle and Gospel contemplate a celebration, but so far, in my limited library, I have failed to discover a liturgiologist of note in favour of it. The quotation from the *Church Times* is, I take it, the opinion of "many priests," and not that of the editor. The compiler of "The Congregation in Church," states emphatically that no communion is celebrated on Good Friday and quotes from the *Church Times* to that effect. My remark about the *Missa Præsanctificatorum* is perhaps beside the mark, but in the Latin Church it was limited to Good Friday. However the *Missa Sicca* and the *Missa Navalis* (see Maskell, Ancient Liturgy) were allowed and prove the custom of the Epistle and Gospel being said without a celebration. Vernon Staley, a master in Liturgical knowledge, says "on Good Friday, commemorating the Passion and Death of our Lord, there was no Liturgical celebration of the Eucharist, and the eminent writer Duchesne is equally emphatic. Vide Christian Worship, P. 248, Canon T. T. Carter, with the joint authors of "Ritual Notes" and the "Altar Hymnal" may be added to the list of authorities. Of Bingham, Palmer in his *Origines* (p. 164) says: "He seems to have suffered his judgment to be prejudiced against the *Missa Sicca* by the representations of Bona!" Palmer concludes with Durandus that it may sometimes be inexpedient to celebrate. For reasons already stated I am convinced that Good Friday is such an occasion, and I believe the full weight of Catholic teaching and custom is agreeable. Your reference,

Mr Editor, to the celebration on Fast Days at 3 p.m. was obviously in order that the faithful might make their fast as long and real as possible.

I am, etc.,

HORACE PACKE.

[We publish Mr Packe's letter in full, but cannot in our limited space accept any more on the subject. We are quite familiar with his references, and would greatly value the restoration of the *Missa Sanctificatorum* and some other Catholic usages discarded by the Church of England during the storm and upheaval of the 16th century, in the endeavour to save the ship, even by jettisoning valuable cargo. The fact remains we cannot now have the *Missa Præsanctificatorum*. What does the Church of England give us in place of it? Perhaps Mr Packe would say the *Missa Sicca*; "a mere mask and counterfeit of the true feast, properly dry and jejune, as wanting not only the consecration but the participation of the Body of Christ like that supper of wood and stones exhibited by Heliogabalus to his guests" (Bona Rer. Liturg. i 15). A corruption condemned by bishops and prominent liturgiologists when it arose about the 12th century, "without the grace and moisture of the consecrated Eucharist, profiting the faithful nothing"—(Petrus Cantor; Verb. Abbrev. c 29). In the face of the Prayer Book and of the continuous custom of three centuries since the Reformation, we refuse to believe that our Spiritual Mother offers us on Good Friday only a "supper of wood and stones" when we ask for the Bread of Life. Possibly we are wrong in ascribing such an answer to Mr Packe, for he said in his former letter, "the celebration is without doubt an innovation of the Reformation when reservation was forbidden." *Cadit quæstio*. We will not quarrel with him for calling it an "innovation" so long as he grants that it was introduced by the *Ecclesia Anglicana* at the Reformation, not since abolished, and therefore still the rule. That is all we maintain. As to the "expediency" or "inexpediency" of celebrating on Good Friday opinions may differ, but the Church prescribes the *Missa Sicca* only for those occasions when the number of communicants requisite for a communion cannot possibly be obtained.—ED.]

Military Affairs Committee.

Wellington,

19th May, 1917.

To the Editor,

Sir,—On the 15th June, I expect to arrive in Napier, and after spending a fortnight in the Waiapu Diocese proceed to Auckland for three weeks, and then devote the last week of my four to Palmerston North and the Wairarapa. The total received to date is £2,124/5/4. Of this amount the Christchurch Diocese has contributed £1398/16/8. It is expected to raise £2000 in this Diocese as the Christchurch Committee is working hard for that object.

If our Church people are desirous that our Church shall discharge its obligations to our soldiers, who are making such sacrifices for us, it must be remembered that this cannot be done unless the necessary funds are provided.

In many places the response has been most disappointing, but if clergy and laity will each do their part there is no doubt that the amount asked for will easily be forthcoming.

It will be welcome news to his many friends and admirers to know that the Rev. Canon Taylor goes into the camp at Trentham next week as Assistant Chaplain, with the rank of Major, his salary being paid by this committee. Canon Taylor, who went with the Main Body, saw service in Egypt, Gallipoli, Lemnos, and France, and his record as Chaplain was such as he and our Church may well be proud of; those of us who were fortunate enough to hear him give an account at the C.E.M.S. Conference last week of his experiences whilst on active service, know how well qualified he is for the position to which he has just been appointed.

Subscriptions may be sent to me direct, addressed P.O. Box 46, Timaru, or c/o the Diocesan Secretary of the respective Dioceses. Cheques should be made payable to the Military Affairs Committee.

Yours etc.,

R. W. SIMPSON,

Hon. Financial Organiser,
Military Affairs Com.