



FROM THE VATICAN PICTURE GALLERY

CHRISTMAS 1942

May the Lord grant His Christmas
peace to the prisoners of war of every
nation whom adversity has made doubly
dear to Us. The longer and more painful
the separation from their country and
their dear ones, the deeper be this peace
within their hearts. At this holy season
of Christmas Our prayers for them are
still more fervent, and on them and
on their families We call down God's
choicest blessings.

Pius p/p. XII

CHIETE. ITALY.

P.W. Camp. P.G. 21.

Presented by Papal Ambassador
from H.H. Pope Pius XII 24/12/42.



The words quoted beneath the calendar for each month are taken from speeches made by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

JANUARY 1943						
SUNDAY		3	10	17	24	31
MONDAY		4	11	18	25	
TUESDAY		5	12	19	26	
WEDNESDAY		6	13	20	27	
THURSDAY		7	14	21	28	
FRIDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
SATURDAY	2	9	16	23	30	

With boundless and unshakable confidence, We place in the tiny, omnipotent and merciful hands of the new-born Redeemer, Our desires, Our hopes, Our prayers, and in union with all those who recognize in Christ our Lord and Saviour, We beg Him to deliver mankind from the deadly conflict into which the war has led it.

(December 24th, 1940).

M E M O R A N D U M

FEBRUARY 1943

SUNDAY		7	14	21	28	
MONDAY	1	8	15	22		
TUESDAY	2	9	16	23		
WEDNESDAY	3	10	17	24		
THURSDAY	4	11	18	25		
FRIDAY	5	12	19	26		
SATURDAY	6	13	20	27		

In human society all men are brothers — no one is a stranger to the other, the poor need the rich, the rich are debtors to the poor, the strong to the weak, the wise to the foolish, for all are made from the same dust and come from the hands of God, all are redeemed by the same Saviour, all are journeying towards the same Home of their Heavenly Father, Who has called them all to share in the same happiness.

(April 20th, 1941).

M E M O R A N D U M

MARCH 1943

SUNDAY		7	14	21	28	
MONDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
TUESDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
WEDNESDAY	3	10	17	24	31	
THURSDAY	4	11	18	25		
FRIDAY	5	12	19	26		
SATURDAY	6	13	20	27		

We exhort you always to give the first place in your family circle to Christ, our Saviour, King and Master of your home. He is the Light which illuminates it, the Flame which warms and cheers it, the powerful Protector Who will preserve its peace and happiness.

(July 30th, 1941).

M E M O R A N D U M

APRIL 1943

SUNDAY		4	11	18	25	
MONDAY		5	12	19	26	
TUESDAY		6	13	20	27	
WEDNESDAY		7	14	21	28	
THURSDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
FRIDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
SATURDAY	3	10	17	24		

25 Easter.

*Let us pray for a speedy and universal peace—
not a peace which involves the oppression and
disintegration of peoples, but a peace which, by
guaranteeing the honour of all the nations, may
satisfy their vital needs and their lawful rights.*

(April 13th, 1941).

M E M O R A N D U M

MAY 1943

SUNDAY		2	9	16	23	30
MONDAY		3	10	17	24	31
TUESDAY		4	11	18	25	
WEDNESDAY		5	12	19	26	
THURSDAY		6	13	20	27	
FRIDAY		7	14	21	28	
SATURDAY	1	8	15	22	29	

Heroism is not the work of a day, nor does it ripen in a morning. By slow degrees souls are moulded and mount higher until they are ready, when the occasion presents itself, to undertake noble deeds.

(August 20th, 1941).

MEMORANDUM

JUNE 1943

SUNDAY		6	13	20	27	
MONDAY		7	14	21	28	
TUESDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
WEDNESDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
THURSDAY	3	10	17	24		
FRIDAY	4	11	18	25		
SATURDAY	5	12	19	26		

God will never permit trials of whatever kind they may be, to exceed the strength which He will give you to meet them, by His timely grace and paternal liberality, a grace so generous and all-embracing in its beneficent effects that it will enable you to find in fidelity to your most difficult duties, one of the sweetest and deepest joys of your life.

(August 13th, 1941).

MEMORANDUM

JULY 1943

SUNDAY		4	11	18	25	
MONDAY		5	12	19	26	
TUESDAY		6	13	20	27	
WEDNESDAY		7	14	21	28	
THURSDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
FRIDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
SATURDAY	3	10	17	24	31	

You must be ready every day to forgive the offences committed against you, in family or social life; just as, every day, on your knees, before the Crucifix you repeat: "Our Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us."

(July 10th, 1940).

M E M O R A N D U M

[illegible]

AUGUST 1943

SUNDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
MONDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
TUESDAY	3	10	17	24	31	
WEDNESDAY	4	11	18	25		
THURSDAY	5	12	19	26		
FRIDAY	6	13	20	27		
SATURDAY	7	14	21	28		

Suffering is often a more effective teacher than success... And we trust in God that mankind in general as well as each nation in particular, will come forth from this school of terrible suffering wiser, more experienced and more mature.

(December 24th, 1940).

MEMORANDUM

SEPTEMBER 1943

SUNDAY		5	12	19	26	
MONDAY		6	13	20	27	
TUESDAY		7	14	21	28	
WEDNESDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
THURSDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
FRIDAY	3	10	17	24		
SATURDAY	4	11	18	25		

He who truly desires the well-being of mankind, who earnestly wishes to help to protect from incalculable harm the spiritual and moral bases of the future collaboration of the nations, will consider it a sacred duty and a lofty mission to strive that the natural ideals of truth, of justice, of courtesy and of cooperation should not vanish from the minds and hearts of men, nor, above all, the sublime supernatural ideal of brotherly love, which Christ brought into the world.

(December 24th, 1940).

M E M O R A N D U M

[illegible]

OCTOBER 1943

SUNDAY		3	10	17	24	31
MONDAY		4	11	18	25	
TUESDAY		5	12	19	26	
WEDNESDAY		6	13	20	27	
THURSDAY		7	14	21	28	
FRIDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
SATURDAY	2	9	16	23	30	

A Christian, who faithfully and bravely fights for his country, must, nevertheless, refrain from hating those against whom it is his duty to fight.

(July 10th, 1940).

M E M O R A N D U M

NOVEMBER 1943

SUNDAY		7	14	21	28	
MONDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
TUESDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
WEDNESDAY	3	10	17	24		
THURSDAY	4	11	18	25		
FRIDAY	5	12	19	26		
SATURDAY	6	13	20	27		

As there can be no strength of body without frequent physical exercise, neither can there be firmness and constancy of soul without frequent spiritual exercise ... You have already learnt, or will learn, as you grow older, a profession or an art but making oneself a good Christian is also a profession, an art; in fact, it is the art of arts because it is the art of life.

(November 2nd, 1941).

M E M O R A N D U M

[illegible]

DECEMBER 1943

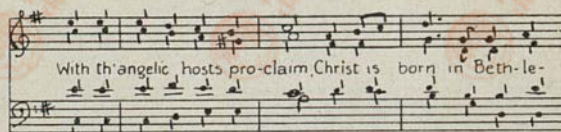
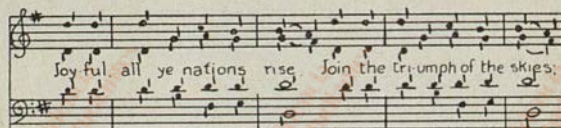
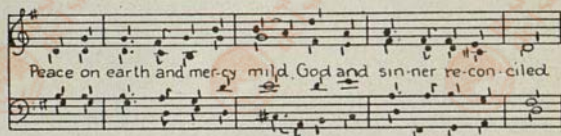
SUNDAY		5	12	19	26	
MONDAY		6	13	20	27	
TUESDAY		7	14	21	28	
WEDNESDAY	1	8	15	22	29	
THURSDAY	2	9	16	23	30	
FRIDAY	3	10	17	24	31	
SATURDAY	4	11	18	25		

*As we kneel before the crib of our Infant God,
Who silently loves, protects and judges mankind,
now torn by civil strife, may all men once more
become brothers in love and concord, in the triumph
of good over evil, in justice and in peace.*

(November 30th, 1941).

M E M O R A N D U M

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

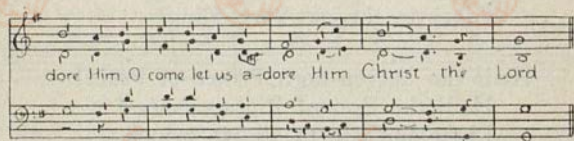
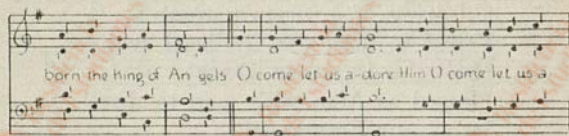
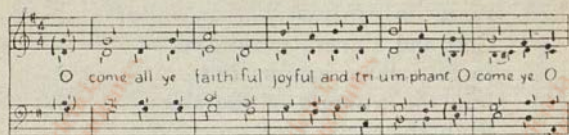


Hark! the herald Angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald Angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail! the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuell!
Hark! the herald Angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail! the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald Angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

ADESTE FIDELES



O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels.

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created.

Chorus

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above,
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest.

Chorus

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

Chorus

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Slow and soft

Si - lent night hal - lowed night Earth is hushed, heav'n a - light

The first system of musical notation for 'Christmas Night'. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Angels throng the star - lit air; whispering round the child so

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

fair, Sleep, O baby King! Sleep they soft - ly sing

The third system of musical notation, concluding the piece. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Silent night! hallowed night!
Earth is hushed, Heaven alight!
Angels throng the star-lit air,
Whispering round the Child so fair:
"Sleep, O Baby King!
Sleep," they softly sing.

All is still, Jesus sleeps;
Holy watch Joseph keeps;
Mary bends His Face to see,
Murmuring low her lullaby:
"Sleep, my Babe Divine!
Sleep, God's Son and mine!"

Blissful night, prophesied;
Angel hosts glorified,
Wondrous news to shepherds tell;
Heavenly harps their chorus swell!
"Peace!" a seraph sings,
"Peace the Saviour brings."

Gather round, children dear!
Little ones, gather near!
Though are closed those Eyes so sweet,
Lo! His Heart doth, watchful, beat,
Sleep, then, Jesus dear,
Sleep! Thy Heart doth hear!

GOD REST YOU MERRY,

God rest you merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dis-

may Re-mem-ber Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas

Day To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we had gone a

stray, O ti-dings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and

joy, O ti-dings of com-fort and joy

In Bethlehem in Jewry
This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger,
Upon this blessed morn;
The which His mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn.

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father
A blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

Chorus

“Fear not,” then said the angel,
“Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour,
Of virtue, power, and might;
So frequently to vanquish all
The friends of Satan quite.”

Chorus

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:

Chorus

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

When the snow lay round a-bout Deep, and crisp and e-ven

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

Brightly shone the moon, that night tho the frost was cru-el

The third system of musical notation. The melody and bass line continue. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fu--el

The fourth system of musical notation, concluding the phrase. The melody and bass line continue. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

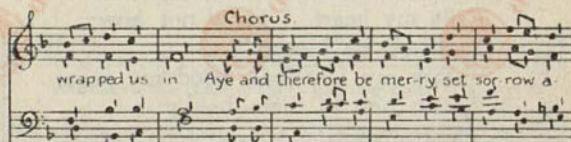
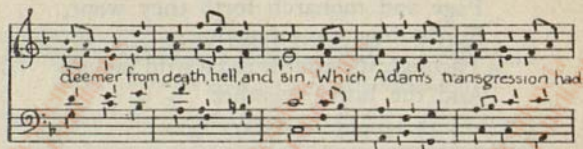
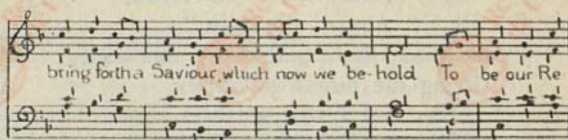
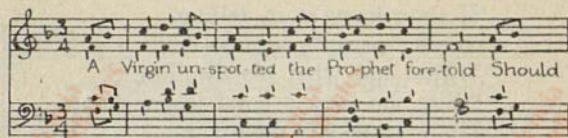
Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By St. Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine-logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither."
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather

"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

A VIRGIN UNSPOTTED



A Virgin unspotted, the Prophet foretold
Should bring forth a Saviour which now we behold,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,
Which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in.

Chorus

Aye and therefore be merry, set sorrow aside,
Christ Jesus our Saviour was born on this tide.

At Bethlehem city in Jewry it was
That Joseph and Mary together did pass,
All for to be taxed with many one mœ,
Great Caesar commanded the same should be so.

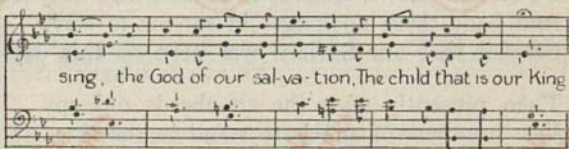
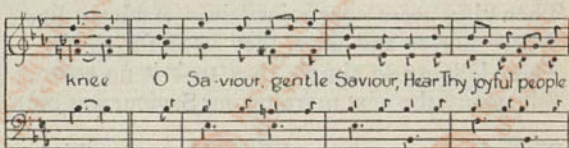
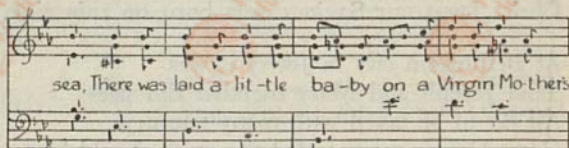
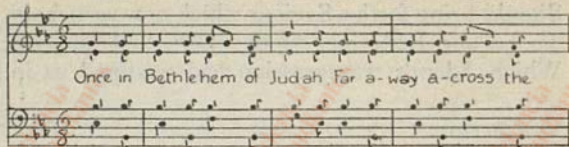
Then they were constrained in a stable to lie,
Where horses and asses they used for to tie:
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,
But against the next morning our Saviour was born.

Then God sent an angel from Heaven so high,
To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie
And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Saviour was born on this day.

Then presently after the shepherds did spy
Vast numbers of angels to stand in the sky;
They joyfully talkèd and sweetly did sing,
To God be all glory, our heavenly King.

To teach us humility all this was done,
And learn we from thence haughty pride for to shun:
A manger His cradle who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace and of love.

ONCE IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDAH



It was not a stately palace
Where that little Baby lay
With His servants to attend Him
And with guards to keep the way.

Chorus

O Saviour, gentle Saviour,
Hear Thy joyful people sing:
The God of our salvation,
The Child that is our King.

But the oxen stood around Him
In a stable low and dim:
In the world He had created
There was not a room for Him.

Chorus

For He left His Father's glory
And the golden halls above,
And He took our human nature
In the greatness of His love.

Chorus

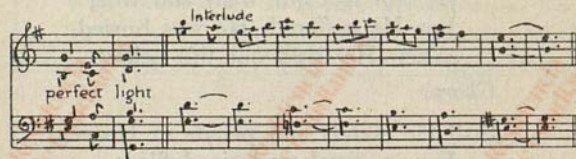
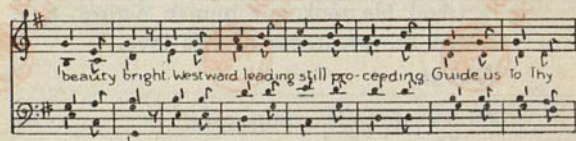
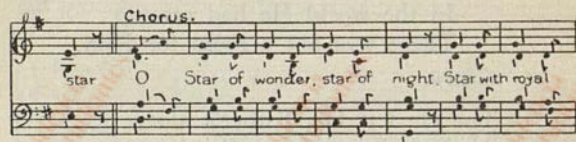
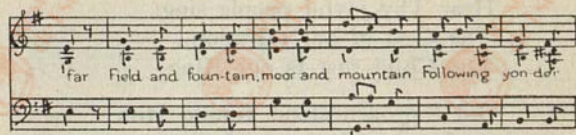
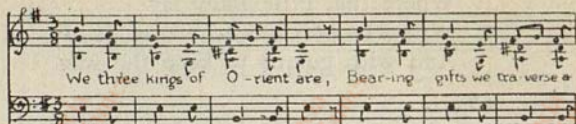
Of His infinite compassion
He can feel our want and woe;
For He suffered, He was buried,
When He lived our life below.

Chorus

Still He stands and pleads in Heaven
For us, weak and sin-defiled;
God Who is a Man for ever:
Jesus, Who was once a Child.

Chorus

WE THREE KINGS



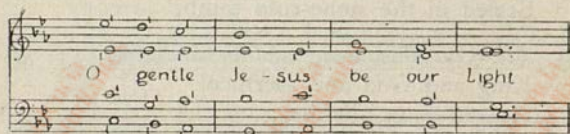
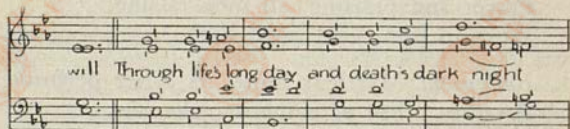
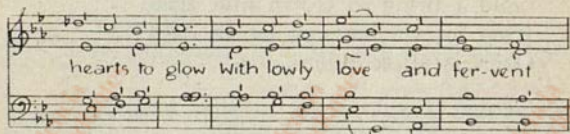
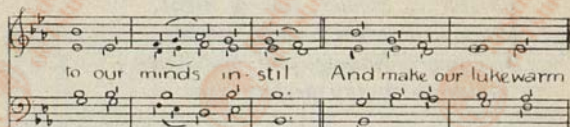
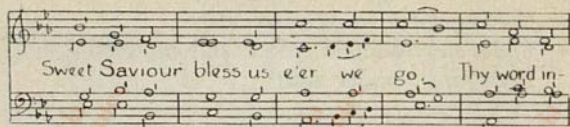
We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star:

(Refrain)

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. *Melchior*: Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.
3. *Gaspar*: Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him, God most high.
4. *Balthasar*: Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
5. *All*: Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice!
Heaven sings alleluia,
Alleluia, the earth replies.

EVENING HYMN



Sweet Saviour! bless us ere we go;
Thy word into our minds instil;
And make our lukewarm hearts to glow
With lowly love and fervent will.
Through life's long day and death's dark night,
O gentle Jesus! be our light.

The day is done; its hours have run;
And Thou hast taken count of all,
The scanty triumphs grace has won,
The broken vow, the frequent fall.
Through life's long day and death's dark night,
O gentle Jesus! be our light.

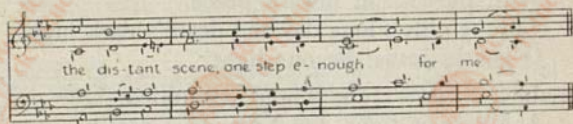
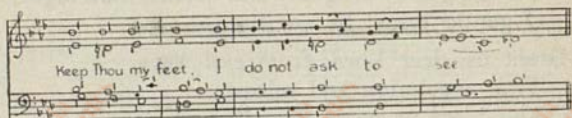
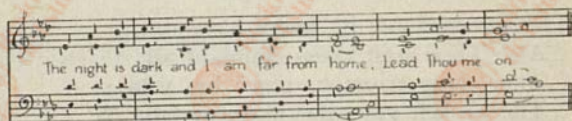
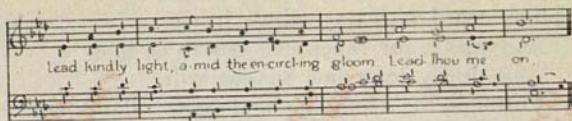
Grant us, dear Lord, from evil ways
True absolution and release;
And bless us more than in past days
With purity and inward peace.
Through life's long day and death's dark night,
O gentle Jesus! be our light.

Labour is sweet, for Thou hast toiled,
And care is light, for Thou hast cared;
Let not our works with self be soiled,
Nor in unsimple ways ensnared.
Through life's long day and death's dark night,
O gentle Jesus! be our light.

For all we love — the poor, the sad,
The sinful — unto Thee we call;
Oh let Thy mercy make us glad;
Thou art our Jesus and our All.
Through life's long day and death's dark night,
O gentle Jesus! be our light.

F. W. FABER

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT



Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on;

The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on.

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on.

I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead Thou me on;

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will; remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on,

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;

And with the morn those Angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Amen.

J. H. NEWMAN

EASTER HYMN

Not fast

The clouds of night are past a-way. *f* Al - le - lu - ia

Re-joice Ma-ry re-joice to-day. *f* Al - le - lu - ia

mf The offspring of thy vir-gin womb *mp* Al - le - lu - ia

mp Is ri-sen from the virgin tomb *mp* Al - le - lu - ia

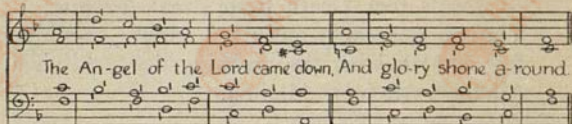
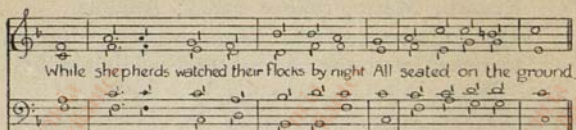
f Al - le - lu - ia *mp* Al - le - lu - ia *p* Al - le - lu - ia

The clouds of night are past away; Alleluia,
Rejoice, Marie, rejoice today; Alleluia,
The Offspring of thy Virgin womb, Alleluia,
Is risen from the virgin tomb, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Death's arrows keen are snapt in twain; Alleluia,
At Jesu's feet Death lieth slain: Alleluia,
Though heaviness endure a night, Alleluia,
Joy cometh with the morning light, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Cross, whereon our debts were paid, Alleluia,
His kingly sceptre now is made: Alleluia,
Rejoice, Marie, rejoice today; Alleluia.
The clouds of night are past away, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED



“Fear not,” said he (for mighty dread

Had seized their troubled mind);

“Glad tidings of great joy I bring

To you and all mankind.

“To you in David’s town this day

Is born of David’s line

A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;

And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find

To human view displayed,

All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,

And in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the Seraph: and forthwith

Appeared a shining throng

Of angels praising God, who thus

Addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,

And to the earth be peace;

Good-will henceforth from heaven to men

Begin and never cease.”

Among the many calamities resulting from the vast conflict one in particular has, from the outset, weighed heavily, and still weighs, on Our heart: the fate of the prisoners of war which We have felt all the more keenly the less opportunity was allowed to our fatherly solicitude to come to their aid where greater numbers and more acute distress call for efficacious relief and comfort. Bearing in mind what We were able to accomplish during the last war, in the name of Pope Benedict XV of happy memory, for the alleviation of the material and moral sufferings of very many prisoners, We hoped that this time also the way might remain open to the religious and charitable enterprises of the Church.

Nevertheless, if in certain countries Our purpose has been frustrated, Our effort has not been everywhere without success. In fact, We have been able to send not a few spiritual and material proofs of Our interest to at least one section of Polish prisoners, and others more frequently, to Italian prisoners and interned civilians, especially in Egypt, in Australia and in Canada.

Nor did We wish the holy festival of Christmas to dawn on the world without sending, by means of Our representatives, some tangible evidence of Our blessing, Our encouragement and Our remembrance to the English and French prisoners in Italy, to the Germans in England, to the Greeks in Albania, and to the Italians scattered throughout the British Empire, chiefly in Egypt, Palestine and India.

Moreover, in Our longing to make our own the eager desire of so many families anxious to know the fate of their unfortunate and absent relatives, We have established another work of no small magnitude which We are actively developing and extending with a view to obtaining and transmitting news, whenever and as soon as it is possible and permissible to do so, not only of numerous prisoners but likewise of refugees and all those who have been cut off from home and country by present circumstances. In this way We have been able to feel thousands of other hearts beating in unison with Our own in the tumult of their deepest affections, in the agitation of longing desire, in the nightmare of uncertainty, in the exultant joy of safety regained, in deep grief and patient resignation for the fate of their loved ones.

(December 24th 1940).

