

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION OF WITNESS.

(A letter from the Most Reverend the Archbishop to be read in the Church on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, 1941.)

Once again I write to ask for your full co-operation in making the Procession of Witness on Good Friday as impressive as possible, and I hope that you will look upon the special circumstances of this year as laying upon you an added personal responsibility to do all that you can in the matter. I have no doubt that there will be many — such as soldiers in camp or overseas — whose urgent duties in connection with the War will keep them away, and we ought to see that their places are filled, both as a patriotic and personal duty that we owe to them and as a response to the claim which our Lord has on our life. We were pledged in Holy Baptism to definite witness, in Confirmation we sealed the solemn vows, and our experience of His saving and sustaining grace surely impels us to public expression of our loyalty to Him. This loyalty is strongly challenged when the day He made peculiarly His own by His atoning sacrifice for sinful men is used by so very many in our midst as a day of thoughtless pleasure and a great and influential institution makes it an occasion for a huge public entertainment. Let us take up the challenge wholeheartedly, and show the people of our city where we stand. Let us remind them by our witness of the message of the Day. Let the Procession in this year of difficulty, in these days of human crisis, be, not smaller, but rather very much larger than it has ever been before. We are living in days when great sacrifices are being asked of many, and being freely made; let us not fall short of our duty as Churchmen because of any smaller sacrifice that it may claim from us.

It is most important that the Procession should be marshalled and despatched without confusion. Consequently all who take part should bear in mind the following arrangements:—

All should assemble at 4 p.m. in the Domain along the roadway which passes the back of the Mitchell Library and Sydney Hospital. Markers, bearing signs, inscribed with the names of the various Rural Deaneries, will be stationed in alphabetical order, and the units for the Procession will be Rural Deaneries, not parishes. Our Parish is in the Rural Deanery of North Sydney.....

The order in each case will be:—

1. All CHOIRS of the Rural Deanery. Parish banners will be carried by a Choir man, who will lead the members of the Choir to which he belongs.
2. All PARISHIONERS of the Rural Deanery.
3. CLERGY of the Rural Deanery.
4. The RURAL DEAN.

The short service in the Cathedral, which will conclude about 5.25 p.m., will be relayed to the grounds by amplifiers.

Hymns will probably be played by bands en route; it is desired that no attempt to sing be made.

Believe me, your friend and Archbishop,

HOWARD SYDNEY.

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS WHICH NEED NOT, HOWEVER, BE READ IN CHURCH.

Rectors are asked to make them clear to those concerned.

*All formations will fall in, six abreast, and be ready to march off by 4.20 p.m. sharp.

*Mothers' Union, G.F.S., C.E.M.S., C.E.B.S., C.E.N.E.F., and S.D.C.A. branches, Missionary, Scouts, and other organisations, will congregate as separate units. Banners should, if possible, be carried by these bodies. Uniforms and badges to be worn.

*Choirs are asked to robe, if at all possible. Each Choir should arrange to have a motor vehicle on the roadway, near them, when robing to convey garments and suit cases to the Cathedral in readiness for their owners at the end of the service there. Drivers of these cars will be supplied by their Rector with a distinctive windscreen sticker. This will entitle them to go to an appointed place before the Procession assembles, and afterwards to park in St. Andrew's Place or Bathurst Street adjacent to the Cathedral. The police will not allow other cars to park in these areas.

*It is particularly requested that surplices should be worn only in the Procession. They should not be worn in the streets or public conveyances when the Procession is over.

*On arrival at the Cathedral, the Cathedral Choir will proceed into the building by the North door.

*Parish Clergy and Choirs, with their banners, will take up positions in the grounds, as will also other bearers of banners. They will first fill up available space on the North or Town Hall side of the Cathedral.

*Other members of the Procession will turn to the left after entering the Cathedral grounds and proceed into the building by the South door until it is filled.

*Seating accommodation will also be found in the Chapter House for those who desire it. Others will remain in the grounds.