

chewing, digesting, and excreting what it produces. Through these sad and narrow tunnels of cement and iron run peoples' dreams, ideals, blood, hopes and unalterable faith that the water of the ocean is not far away. One day we will get up there, and then the desert will bloom and the oases will dry up ... We are pariahs, criminals, dissenters—banished, oppressed and alienated: the wretched of the earth ... But in all this we find salvation. We iden-

tify with one who was born in a stable and died on the cross ... Ill-treated and in rags, we hear the voice of him who bids us to the banquet where the chalice of his blood will slake our present thirst ... This is our path. It leads to liberation. It winds but it never turns back. To turn back is to betray, to be afraid. We have passed the point of no return. We cannot look back. We can only go on.

ALBAN WESTON O.P.

POPE JOHN SUNDAY MISSAL Edited by **Mgr Michael Buckley Kevin Mayhew Ltd.**
1979. £4.00 or £6.50.

During the last few years Mgr Buckley has not been devoting the whole of his time to the absurdities of the "Peace People", he has also been usefully engaged in producing probably the finest English Sunday Missal since the old St Andrew Missal of pre-conciliar days. In one compact beautifully printed volume it contains all the Sunday masses for the three year cycle together with the major feasts. The binding of the cheaper edition (which this reviewer received) is such that the book will probably disintegrate shortly after three years of regular use, but then the obvious thing to do is to buy another. At the astonishingly cheap price of £4 this would work out at about 2½p per Sunday.

Like the St Andrew's Missal this one contains much more than the liturgical texts. Mgr Buckley provides forty pages of excellent catechesis on the christian life and the sacraments as well as explanations of the structure of the liturgy and of the gospels. This is just the kind of book that could be lent to an enquiring friend puzzled about what Catholicism is all about. There are prayers before and after Mass and a useful collection of occasional prayers including both the rosary and the stations of the cross. As Mgr Buckley says in his introduction "there is a combination of old and new prayers and devotions so that this missal may become a reconciling and healing factor in a changing Church and world."

The Grail psalms are used, which I suppose is all right since this version has become the most singable one in English, but I think it a pity that the scriptural readings should have been taken from the Jerusalem Bible. The great value of that bible lies in its annotations and cross-references; as an English translation, especially for liturgical use, it is for the most part a calamity.

With so much else in the book it seems a pity not to have included the Latin texts of the *Missae Normativa Ordo Missae*, with a parallel column of English, for those who wish occasionally to take part in the Latin Mass (and to recognise its enormous superiority to the so-called 'Tridentine' Mass peddled by Archbishop Lefebvre and his friends). The mean little page or two of Latin texts of the 'People's parts' added as a sort of afterthought at the end is no substitute for this.

Music is provided for the congregational responses of the Ordinary of the Mass—but when will our musical elite realise that we musical illiterates find it much *easier* to follow plainchant than these fussy five little line squiggles that have been creeping in over the past few centuries? The book is disfigured, in my view, by fuzzy little pictures here and there, but they are not actually offensive or particularly distracting.

All in all an exceedingly good buy. Let us hope it spells the final doom of those horrible missalettes.

HERBERT McCABE O.P.