

practice that must be spontaneous if it is to be genuine. It is worth trying it, however, from time to time. The effect may surprise and reassure them. For anyone who wishes to make his prayer often, or even usually, with the Mother of God in mind, he need not fear to do so. It is an excellent way and has the Church's blessing. Nor need there be any hesitation on the ground that there lacks a theological basis to such devotion. It is on the contrary well founded in Christian faith. Our redemption is effected in Jesus Christ becoming man, living, suffering, dying, rising from the dead, and ascending to heaven for us. This catena of mysteries forms the totality of the act of Christ, the great redemptive act, the *economy* of salvation. What gives it its force is his resurrection, in view of which all else is done. This totality of the mystery of Christ is one single divine-human act and Mary is God's instrument when he sets it in train. She is the willing furtherer of his purposes in consenting to become the mother of the Christ, however much or little she may have seen their outcome. Her complete dedication to and involvement in her Son's redemptive act, including her own early share in the resurrection as assumed into heaven, constitutes her a permanent and universal agent in the establishment of the kingdom of God, subordinate indeed to the Saviour of the world from whom all her merits come, but above all the other members of the kingdom. There is no reason, therefore, why we should not always make our access to it through her. There is no obligation to do this, just as there is no need to refrain from doing it, if we are so minded. It is in such matters that true liberty of spirit is to be maintained.

Our final thought on this matter of prayer might be the cheering one that in prayer, as in few other matters, to try is to succeed. It remains, therefore, for each to try.

THE CONSCIENCE OF THE SIXTIES

'Blackfriars' and the London Circle of the Newman Association announce a series of lectures on the above theme, to be given by Fr Kenelm Foster, Professor J. M. Cameron, Peter Benenson, Maryvonne Butcher, Elizabeth Jennings, Patrick Reyntiens and others. The lectures will take place at 31 Portman Square on Thursdays at 8 p.m., beginning on September 27th. Admission will be free for subscribers to 'Blackfriars' and 'Life of the Spirit' and for members of the Newman Association, otherwise 2s. 6d.