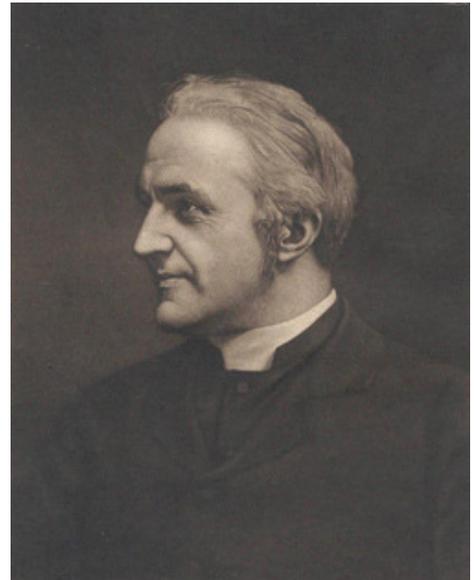


## Prayer of the Month • September 2014

O thou true light that lightest every man coming into the world, we pray thee in thy mercy to inflame the heart and enlighten the understanding of all whom thou dost call to the service of thy church; that they may cheerfully acknowledge and readily obey thy call, to the benefit of thy people and the glory of thy holy name; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, livest and reignest, world without end.

Henry Parry Liddon, 1829–90<sup>1</sup>



This prayer approaches God, the source of wisdom, and prays for him to affect both the heart and the mind of those who are called to serve in the church. If only the mind is influenced then the form of religion will be academic, cerebral. If only the heart is affected it will become heavily emotional. Both are needed to create balance, each reinforcing the other. Recognition of the next step, that those called may consciously recognise their calling. The Church sometimes appeals for more vocations – in truth, the vocations may already be there, but latent, unconscious. We must hear, and then obey, rather than be distracted by other concerns. The motivation should be, not self-fulfilment but being fulfilled in benefiting others and in bringing glory to God’s name. Not a bad prayer for all vocations.

Henry Parry Liddon was born in Hampshire on 20 August 1829. Ordained in 1852, he became vice-principal of the new seminary at Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire, in 1854, and was a supporter of the Oxford Movement, a catholic revival movement in the Church of England. He became a friend, and later a biographer of Edward Bouverie Pusey, leading light in the movement. He was appointed chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury in 1864, W. K. Hamilton, one of the few bishops favourable to the movement at that time. His reputation was enhanced when he gave the Bampton Lectures in 1866, published the next year under the title: *The Divinity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*. In 1870 he became a canon of St Paul’s Cathedral, London, and drew large crowds to his sermons for the next twenty years, refusing preferment, and turning down at least two bishoprics. He died on 9 September 1890, in Weston-super-Mare.

Colin Lunt

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<sup>1</sup>“Hours of Prayer for Daily Use Throughout the Year,” in Macnutt, *The Prayer Manual*, p. 165.