

Kyrie (Farsi) RAK

PREFACE for DEAD.

Last week I began by talking about sex and death, intending to lead on to something about the sacred signs in which these great personal human experiences are made encounter with Christ & God's love, in two of the sacraments which are part of the life of the Church. And that was to be a lead-in to something about a sacrament that's been in the news lately — at least, in the sense that a new rite for the Anointing of the Sick has just come out and will soon be in general use. We used to call it, in one of those abominable Latinisms in English, the sacrament of Extreme Unction. The term may have been perfectly clear and intelligible to you, as I must say I never gave it much thought myself until I had to try & explain it to someone who wasn't a Christian & ^{for} whom English was a second language. Now, not only has the official name been changed but there's been a pastoral change & development in the understanding and use of this sacrament. / Disease, illness and suffering are part of the human condition and they pose difficulties for all of us. Illness seems to be an assault on the human personality and we flinch before pain. Often enough we do not know how to handle illness & suffering and we do so in fact very much according to temperament. Moreover, there is the

→ "The Tablet" 10.2.73 (Crichton on Anointing)

MUSIC — Inghelbrect Requiem: Agnus Dei
(RAK)
Ango