<County: Staffordshire>
<Code: L4245>
<MS reference: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Greaves 57>
<Text: John Mirk’s Instructions for Parish Priests>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 4v> And also þu most as þu Dost preche
The cosenage of Folowyng~ teche
And if þu wolt conne þu well
Take good heede & þu ost Spell
Jn þe medyll þe childe stonte
As he is folowyd yn þe fonte
All they ben cosyns to hym for Ay
That noon of hem wedde he may
The priste þu folowythe
The pristes chyldrynne
The pristes & þe child-is fadur & modur
The godfadur & his wyffe
Know be-fore þe folche

<lat></lat>
The godfadyrs children
þe childys modur & his Fadur
The Same cosenage þyn All thyng~
ys yn þe childys byspsyng~
The byschop & þe byschoppys children
þe byschop & þe childys Fadur
The childe þu is ibysput
þe byschop & þe childys modur
The godfadur & his wyffe
þe godfadyrs children
The childys fadur & his godfadur
þe childys modur & his godfadur

<fol. 5r> These Shall neuer oon wedde oþer
But cosyns beth As Suster & broþer
3et tech hem A-noþer thyng~
That is A poynt of weddyng~
He þe chese hym A Fere
And Sey to hur~ yn~ þe manere
Here y take þe to my weddyt wiffe
And þerto my trowþ y plighte
With-eowt coupull of fleschely Dede
He most þe woman wedde nede
For thaghe he & She A-noþer take
That worde woll A Dome make

<lat></lat>
Also loke they make no hydde weddyng~
lest All ben cursyd yn~ that Doyng~
prest & clerke & oþer mo
þe Servise þe hyden So
But right þe As Seyþ þe lawys
Aske þe banes iij holy dawys
Then lett hem come & witnes bryng~
To stande by At ther~ weddyng~
So opynly At the church Dore
let eþ hem eyþer wedde othore

<lat>De luxuria</lat>
Off lechery teche hem right this
<fol. 5v>That Dedly Synne forsoþe hit is
What maner Synne wise þ hit be wroghte
Dedely Synne hit is y-broghte
Save yn~ here wedhode
þe is Faire be-fore god

<lat>De luxuria inter Solu@ & Solam</lat>
Thaghe man & woman be Sengyll boþe
As dedely Synne thei schall hit loþe
Also þe mot to hem ben Sayd
Both for knaue child & mayd

<lat></lat>
That when thei passen vij 3er~
Thei Schull no lengur lyge ynn fere
lest the fynde be-twene hem brede
lykyng~ of that fowle Dede

<lat>Contra naturam</lat>
Also wretyn~ well y Fynde
þ of Synne A-3eynst kynde
Thu Schalt peresch no thing~ teche
Ne of þi Synne no thyng~ preche
But Sey þi by good vyse
That to grete Synne hit yse
For eny mon þi beryþi lyffe
To forsake his wedded wyffe
And Done his kynde by oþer way
That is A grete Synne w·owt nay
But how & where he Dolþi þi Synne
Before his gostly fadur he most hit mynne
Also þi most god to pay
Tech þi peresche þi & say
All þi ben of wille & elde
þi can hem-selfe kepe & welde
3e Shull all to church come
And be Shrevyn All & Some
And ben y-hoselyd w·owt were
On Astyrday All yn~ Fere
Jn þi Day by custome
ye Shall be hoselyd All & some

<lat></lat>
Teche hem then w· good entent
To beleve on the Sacrament
þi they reseve yyn Forme of brede
ys godys body þi suffrede Deede
A-pon þi holy roode tre
To byge owur Sowlys & make vs fre
Tech hem then neuer þi latur
þi hit is but wyne & watur
That thei reseyvn~ for to Drylke
After the holy hoselyng~
Therfore werne hem þi Shalle

<fol. 6v>That they ne chewe þi oste to smalle
lest to Smalle they Do hit breke
And yn there tethe hit Do steke
Therfore thei shullyn~ w· watur & wyne
Clanse þer mowþi þi no thyng~ be þer-yne
But teche hem All to beleve Sadde
That . þþ is yn þþ Autere madde
Hit is very goddys blode
Þþ he Shede on þþ rode

3et þþ most teche hem mare
þþ when they to þþ church fare
Byd them leeve here mony wordys
There ydull Spech & nyse bordys
And put A-way ther~ vanyte
And sey ther~ pater noster & ther~ Ave
No man yn church Stonde Shalle
Ne leene to pyler~ ne to walle
But feyr~ on kneys thei Shull hem Sette
kneling~ Downe All for þþ Feete
And pray to god wþ hert meke
To 3eve them mercy & grace eke
Suffur hem þþ pen to make no beere
But euer to byn yn ther~ prayere

<lat>De Stando Ad Ewaungelium</lat>

<fol. 7r>And When the gospell me rede Shalle
Teche hem then to stande vp Alle
And blesse hem feire As they canne
when Gloria tibi is beganne
And when þþ gospelle is y-done
Tech hem knele A-Downn eft-sone
And when they her~ þþ bell ryng~
To þþ holy Sacryng~
Tech hem knele boþþ yong~ & olde
And there hondes boþþ vp holde
And Sey then yn þþ manere
Fair~ & softe wþ-owt bere

<lat>Oracio Ad eleuaconem</lat>

Jhesu lorde welcome þþ be
yn forme of brede As y þþ Se
Jhesu for þþ holy name
Shelde vs fro Synne & Shame
Shryfte & hosolle graunte vs bo
when we Shull fro hens go
And very contricoun for our Synne
þi we neuer Dy lorde þerynne
And as þu were of A mayd bore
suffur vs neuer to be for-lore
But when we shall fro hens wynde
Graunte vs þi blis þi hæþ no ynde Amen
Teche hem this or Some oþer thynge~
<fol. 7v>To say At the Sakeryng~
Tech hem all y þe pray
þi when they walken þ yn þe way
And seen þe priste A-þeynn comyng~
God-is body wþ hym bryngyng~
Then wþ gret Devocion
Tech hem all to knele A-down
Fair~ ne fowle spar~ thei noght
To worschip hym þi All hæþ wroght
For glad may þi man bene
That onys A Day hym may sene
So moch good Doþe þi sight
As seynt Austyn techeþ right

<lat></lat>
That Day þu seyst godis body
þu schalt haue þi Securly
Mete & Drynke at þi nede
Noon shall þi þi Day be grede
ydull oþe & wordes bo
God forþeyþ þe Also
Soden Deþ that ilke Day
þe Dar~ no Drede yn no way
Also þicke Day y þe plight
þu shalt not leese þi eye-sight
And vche foote þi þu gost thene
That holy Sight for to sene .
<fol. 8r>They Shall be tolde to stonde yn stede
When thu hast þerof most nede

<lat></lat>
Also yn þe church & church ey
Do right þe as y þe sey
Song~ & cry & suche fare
For to stynt þū shalt not spare
Castyng~ of þē Axtre & þē ston
let ther~ they vse noon
Barre & barys & opur play
Owt of þē churchorde put A-way
Curte-holdynge~ & such host
Owt of þē church put þū most
</lat>
For crist hym-self techeþ vs
þē holy church is his howse
That is made for noght ellys
But for to pray As þē booke vs tellys
Ther~ þē pepull schall gedur ynne
To pray & wepe for ther~ Synne
</lat>
Tech hem Wele & greythe
how thei shull . pay ther~ teythe
Off All thyng~ þō Dothe hem new
They shull teyþe wele & trew
</fol. 8v>Aftēr costome of the contrey
yche eon shall his teiþe pay
Bolþe of smale & of grete
Of shepe of swyne or ell nete
Teithe of hyere & of honde
Golþe by custome of þē londe
y hold hit but an ydull thyng~
To speke to moch . of teythyng~
For thagh A priste be A foole
Aske his teythyng~ wele he wole
</lat>De Jacantacone</lat>
Wychcraft and Stelyng~
Forbede þū for eny thyng~
For who so beleveþ yn our fay
Most leeve þē by Any way
hit is A Sleytht of þē Devyll
And makyn A body chech Evyll .
Such beleve he makeþ hem haue
þē wichcraft shall hem Saue
So wē charmes & wē tele
he is broght Agayn to heele
þwâ fynde he is blente
And his beleve mys-shente

VSur~ & okur~ þbôc ben oon
<Tech that they Vse noon
That is A Synne Full grevous
Befor~ owyr Swete lord jhesus
God takfêc moch on greffe
To syll A mon ynh his myscheffe
Any thyng~ to hy pryce
For well y wot okur~ hit yse
And to lende xijd to haue xiiijne
That is vsur~ so mot y thene
Tech hem Also to lette oone
To sell the derr~ forthèc lone

Prech Also òc may yn~ londe
By òc wyffe & the husbonde
That neyþer of them no pence take
Ne noon A-vowe of chastite make
Ne no pylgyrmage take to do
But if bofêc Assent þerto
These iij poyntes Verement
Neyþer shall do but bofêc Assent
Saue òc vowe to jerusalem
That is lawfull to eyther of them
Then shall òc husbonde to stynte stryffe
Tech & tell so hys wyffe

That Sheo Avowe no maner thyng~
but hit be to hys wetyng~
And if Sheo do . hit may not stonde
but Sheo haue grante of hur~ husbonde
And if òc husbonde Assente þerto
Then nedely hit most be do
No mor~ shall he verement
But if his wyffe þerto Assent
The pater nostec & òc Crede
prech òc peresche òc most nede
Twyes or thryes yn~ the 3ere
to thy peresche All yn~ fere
Teche hem thys & byd hem say
Wî good entent euery Day

<Pater noster qui es in celis></Pater>

Owre Fader~ that art yn~ hevynn
Thy name be halowde wî meke Stevyn~
Thy kyndome be for to come
Jn vs synfull . All & Some
Thy wyll be done yn~ erþe here
As hit is yn~ heuynn clere
owur euery days bredded we pray
þî thou 3eve vs þî Same day
And for3eve vs owur trespas
As we don them þî gilt vs has

And leede Vs ynto no foundyng~
but Shelde vs fro All euylt thynge~

Haile be þîu mary full of grace
Owur lorde wî the yn~ vche place
y-blessyd be þû of All women
And the frute of þî womb Jhesus Amen

I beleve wî wit right
on þûe fadur~ of heuyn~ god Almyght
That Al+thyng~ made & wroght
hevyn~ & erthe & All of noght
On Jhesu criste y leue Also
his owne Son & no mo
That was conseuyd of þûe holy Spyret
And of A mayde ybor~ qwycke
And after vndur pounce pilate
was take for envy & hate
And suffryd payne & passion
And on þûe crosse he was idone
dedde & buryede he was Also
And went to hell to Spoile our foe
And rose to lyffe þûe thryd+day
And styed to heuyn~ when tyme he say
<fol. 10v>3et Shall he come W

to Deme the quycke & the deede
Jn þe holy goste i beleue well
Jn holy church & her~ gospell
Jn god-ys body y beleue now
A-mong~ his Seyntes to 3eue me row
And of my Synnys þ y haue don
to haue plener~ remyssion
And when my body fro deþ shall ryse
J beleue to be w god & hyse
And haue þe ioy þ lastþ Ay
God graunte hit þ y so may
</lat></fol>

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 22r><lat>Accidia</lat>
Hast thu be Slow & take no hede
to tech þ godchildryn pater noster Ave & Crede
hast þ be Slow for to here
godys seruyce when tyme were
hast þ come to church late
And Spoke of Synne be þe gate
hast þ be slowe yn godes seruyce
Or sturbyt hit yn eny wyse
hast þ let eny mon
þ to church wold gon
hast þ spoke harlatry
w-yn church or Seyntory
hath thy hert be wroþ & grete
when godes seruyce was seyd A trete
hast þ hyed hit to þe ende
That þ myghtes hameward wende
hast þ w-owte Devocyon
harde eny predicacyon
hast þ gone ellys-where
When þ myghtes han be there
hast þ be Slow & lothe to faste
When þ hert thereto dud caste
hast þu be Slow yn Any degre
to do werkes of charyte
hast þu be Slow & feynt yn hert
to do penance for hit dud smert
Or Any pilgrymage hast vndo
That þu were ioyned to
hast þu be-gonne eny dede
For godes loue & Sowle mede
prayers penance & fastynge~
Or Any othyr hooly thyng~ .

<fol. 22v>And After Were so Slow & Feynt
þu Deuocyon was all queynt
hast þu feynt & slow be
to helpe þu wyffe & thy meyne
Of Suche As they had nede to
Sey if thu haue So do
yf þu be A seruante
hast þu hold thy couenante
hast þu be Sharpe & besy
to serue thy mayster trewly
hast þu trewly by vch wey
Seruyd þu mete & thy pay
hath þu neibowur trust to the
to helpe hym yn Any Degre
hast þu for Slowth & feynytse
hym begilyd yn eny wyse
hath Slowth so Shend thy thyght
þu yn disspayr~ hit haþe the broght
And neuer myghtes A ende maken
Of no good dede that þu dydyst taken
hast þu for Slowthe be so feynt
þu all þu wyll haþe be y-weynt
And Soght not ellys but lust & ease
And wold so the body please
hast þu Sparyd for heete or cold
to go to church when þu wer~ hold

<lat>De Jnuidia</lat>
Hast þu euer be grochung~
A-gaynst god for eny thyng~
hast þu ſe of his good and his relyfe
Of of his good and his relyfe
<fol. 23r>Hast thou had Envy And erre
to hym that was thy ouer-herre
Or any that was yn eny degre
take forth be-fore the
hast enveyd thyn vn hurling-
For he was good & thryvyng-
Or lest he had passyd the
Jn eny vertu or Any Degre
hast þu ſe for hate or Envy
holpen or counselyd for to ly
Any mon to defame
Or to destry his good name
hast þu bacbyted þi neibowur
For to make hym far~ þu ſe worre
hast þu ſe reised any debate
A-mong~ thy neibowurs for any hate
hast þu Sar Sparyd for envy
to tech A mon his harme to sly
when þu myghtes by þi warnyng-
haue hym~ Saued fro harmyng~
<lat>De ira</lat>
Hast thow for hate or for yre
Any thyng~ set on fyre
hast Any tym by wrapše so
þi thy wyt haþe ben A-go
hast þu ſe by malice of thy doyng-
wrathed thy neibowur ſe Any thyng~
hast þu ſe wrapše or ſe Stryffes
Greuyd eny cristyn lyffe
hast thu w1 wordes bytter & Shrewde
Greuyd eny mon lerned or lewde
hast þu ſe wrapše & ſe evyll hert // Made Any mon to Smerē //
<fol. 23v>Hast yn Wrath Any man Slayne
Or holpe ther-to by thy mayne
hast þu ſe wonete to Speke ylle
by any man lewde or styyle
hast þā glad to here bacbyte
by Any mon moch or lyte
hast þā Any tyme malicyusly
Cursed Any thyng~ betterly
Jn hope to make hit fare the worse
by the malice of thy curse
hast y-cursed or y-blamyd
Or any man to wrâþ tamyd
hast þā ben vnpacient
Jn eny gryffe þi god haþ Sent
Other grucchyd A-gaynst hit
Jn hert yn worde or yn wytt
As yf thy catell fell fro the
Or for Any infirmyte
For los of Frynde or Any thyng~
Now tell & sey Spar~ for no thyng~

<lat>De Auaricia</lat>
Hast thou willyd by covetyse
worldes good ouer syse
And Sparyd ne for god ne mon
to gete þi thu myghtes lay hond on
hath eny mon A-pon A wedde
Borowyd at the At A nede
And afterward when pay he wold
hast þā then his wedde wâ-hold
For thagh he failyd at his day
Thu Shuldyst not his wedde wâ-say
hast þā lent eny thyng~
to haue þe more wynnyng~

<fol. 24r>Hast thow Doe Symony
Spirituall thyng~ to sell or by
hast þā werkemen oght wâ-hold
Any thyng~ that they haue shold
hast þā begilyd wâ chaffare
Any mon las or mare
hast þā 3eve A fals dome
For eny mede þi to the come
hast þā falsely be forswore
For Any thyng~ þu couetyst fore
hast þu gete Any thyng~
w' falce cowtenance & glosyng~
hast þu couetyd ouer gate
worldys worship or eny State
hast thu ben executour
To Any frynde or neibo
And Drawe home his good þe tyll
And not ydone the ded-is wyll

<lat>De Gula</lat>
Hast thu Synned yn gloteny
tell me Son boldly
hast þu ete w' Such meyny
þu hast cast hit vp A-gayn
hast þu w' Such voment
Cast vp the Sacrament
hast þu be dronke oft by yse
And Shendene by þv yse
hast þu by malice or oþer degre
Made eny mon dronke to be
For þu woldyst the menewhile
Any thyng~ of hym begile
Or for þu woldist lagnther haue // To se hym dronke & to rave //
<fol. 24v>Hast þu fast As thu Shuldest do
daies that þu were ioyned to
Or broke any oþer fastynge~ day
yf þu haue don þu most nede say
hast þu eten or dronke more
Than thy nede Askyd fore
Other to erly or to late
By-counce of swetemete & delicate
yf þu haue done þu by yse
Tell me sone for nede hit yse
hast þu cheryst þ body ofte
W' sweete mekes or cloþ's softe
Or wonte to go to Ale
To fille ther~ thy fowle ma[le]we
And Draw thedur oþer w' the
To be the felechip yn þu degre
hast þi Stole mete or drynke
For þi noldyst for hit Swynke

<lat>De luxuria</lat>
Hast thou Synned yn lechery
Tell me sone boldely
And how oft þi dedyst þi dede
Tell me thou most nede
And whedur hit wer~ wiffe or may
Suster or doghtur þi thu belay
And if heo were kynne to the
how ny thu most tell me
And if heo were Ankur~ or nonne
Wedow or wif tell if þi conne
Or Any that vowed chastite
Or comyn woman if sheo be
Or whedur thu dedyst by streynþ so
<fol. 25r>Or by the Assent of yow bo
hast ete or dronke the more treuly
To enforce the to lechery
hast Any thyng~ wroght or do
That Steryd thy Flesch mor~ þerto
Clyppyng~ or kussyng~ Any lythe
þi thy flesch was steryd withe
And moche & 3urne thoght þeron
A-mong~ feleschip & A-lone
And woldest fayne yn þi thoght
þi fowle dede haue wroght
Then thu dedust Synne yn lechery
As god hymselfe Seyt-he verely
W’t-owten gult of fleschely dede
Thy chastite fro the dopþ flede
hast þi had lust ynwardly
And thoght moch on lechery
And hast ben fowlyd yn such thought
Tell me Sone spare þi nowght
Slepyng~ or wakyng~ whedur þi were
Tell me sone anon right here
hast þi done surfet of mete or drynke
And after polutyd Slepyng~ thynke
hast þ done þ Synne bale
By any woman þ ley yn~ hale
hast þ wowed Any wight
And tempted hur~ ouer myght
hast þ the made gay therfore
þ Sheo shuld love the þ more
hast þ desired Such to be
That women Shulde love the.

Hast thu had likyng~ to here
Songes that of lechery were
hast þ counselyd or do Socowur
by eny wey to A lechowur
Bethyng~ the son yn vch degre
What yn thy thoght befell the

And if heo be A woman
byd hur~ tell if heo canne
Of what degre the man was
That Synned wþ hur~ yn þ cas
weddyd or sengull or eny Spowse
Of what Degre of religy. [o]use
Or whedur hit were A-gaynst hur~ will
Or was Assented to that yll
Or whedur hit were for covetyse
Of gold of seluer or eny prise
Then the Synne Dowbullyd were
And nedyþ penance moch more
Why & wher~ how & When // And how oft Aske hur~ then //
And All poyntes thu most weton
As be-fore y haue wreton

<lat>Quod si femina</lat>