*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Reverend Chasuble

Mr. Worthing, I offer you my sincere condolence. You have at least the consolation of knowing that you were always the most generous and forgiving of brothers. Will the internment take place here?

You would no doubt wish me to make some slight allusion to the tragic domestic affliction next Sunday.

My sermon on the meaning of the manna in the wilderness can be adapted to almost any occasion, joyful, or as in the present case, distressing. I have preached it at harvest celebrations and festal days. The last time I delivered it was in the Cathedral, as a charity sermon on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Discontent among the Upper Orders. The Bishop, who was present, was much struck by some of the analogies I drew!

Your brother was, I believe, unmarried, was he not?

Information about the monologue:

Jack, who has posed as “Ernest” to his fiancée, Gwendolyn (because she can marry a man with no other name) , has determined he needs to “kill” his “brother” Jack, so he can be legitimately christened as “Ernest” by Reverend Chasuble.