

Cathedral Church of Christ the King

*The Anglican Church of
Australia*

Diocese of Ballarat



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Ballarat, Victoria

Acting Dean

The Right Rev'd Garry
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Bishop of Ballarat

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Welcome to the Cathedral.
**Please take this booklet
with you.**

If you are new or visiting and
want more information,
please complete our Welcome
Card

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Celebrant & Preacher

The Rt. Revd. Garry Weatherill
Bishop of Ballarat and Acting Dean

**Sunday 29th November 2020
10am**

We welcome you to the Cathedral today

A special welcome to visitors and those attending for the first time.

We are **strictly adhering to the COVID19 requirements and restrictions**. As a result, please note the following:

1. Kindly sanitise your hands BEFORE entering and BEFORE leaving the Cathedral.
2. You must register preferably before attending any our services by giving your name and contact details.
3. You are encouraged to switch on their COVID-19 app on their mobile phones.
4. Kindly keep to the 1.5m distance between people from different households at all times. This means no physical contact during the greeting of peace or greeting one another before and after the service by those of different households.
5. Communion will be in one kind only.
6. There will be no offertory procession. The collection bowl will be placed at the entrance of the Cathedral, next to an usher who will greet you at the door. Please consider making your offering by direct debit.
7. Crosses on the floor and on the pews are there to help you keep the distance required.
8. The order of service will be printed. Please take it with you when you go and recycle it at home.
9. Unfortunately, no refreshments or food will be served after the services.
10. Please follow the directions of the ushers especially during communion.

The words in the bold print are said by all.

Should you wish to support our ministry electronically instead of using cash, please make a direct transfer to the “Christ Church Cathedral” account at:

Commonwealth Bank BSB: 063502 A/C number: 10516638

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Eucharistic Setting:

Cover Page Credit: <https://www.theblogmire.com/difficult-bible-passages-jesus-and-the-fig-tree/>

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This Cathedral acknowledges the Wadawurrung people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pays respect to the elders past and present of the Great Kulin nation who may be present and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Please stand when the bell is rung.

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

The Sanctuary party will enter during the music followed by sprinkling of the holy water reminding us of our baptism.

The celebrant may briefly greet the people and introduce the service

My sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray to the Father who called us in baptism to be his people.

Silence

Blessed are you, Lord our God
Father of all and creator of the universe:
through the waters of baptism
you have raised us to new life in Jesus.
Help us to continue to die with Christ to sin
and to live with him for you.

Blessed and praised are you God our Father
through Jesus Christ your Son
in the love of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

The congregants respond by saying these words

May almighty God cleanse us of our sins, and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to share at the table of his kingdom.

Amen.

Congregants are encouraged to make the sign of the cross as the holy water is sprinkled. The celebrant then returns to the sanctuary and proceeds with incensing the altar. Thereafter, the Eucharist begins.

GREETING & WELCOME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The first candle is lit while the following is said

Lord Jesus, come!

As morning light awakens us to work and pray,

shine, Sun of righteousness,

bright on the path of all who seek justice.

As the days grow longer and the sun's heat increases, increase our faith, and bring us to worship you by your cradle, at your cross, in your resurrection, and at your glorious coming again with judgement and with mercy.

Amen.

Sung by the cantor



Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day

Mark Earey

Tune: ANGEL VOICES by E.G. Monk 1819-1900 NEH 336

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY

'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.'

Mark 13.31

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord have mercy*)

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you to do his will, and keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Let us pray.

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 64 1-9* *Please sit.*

A reading from Isaiah chapter 64 beginning at verse 1.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

PSALM 80

Show the light of your coun - te-nance, O Lord God of
hosts, _____ and we _____ shall be saved.

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
2. Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.
Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved
3. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You made room around it,
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.

Music by Colin Mawby .

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1. 1-9*

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 1 beginning at verse 1.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Mark 13. 24-37 Please stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 13 beginning at verse 24.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON *Please sit*

Please refer to Bishop's ADVENT Sermon via Facebook or Youtube if you are participating with us remotely.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *Please stand*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

*The intercessions will be led by one of our congregation members.
The response to the petitions*

if you are participating with us remotely Please spend some time in silence and intercession prayers. Please refer to page 17 for prayer points and this simple prayer during this time of COVID-19

Gracious and Loving God, bless the people of the Diocese of Ballarat and the communities of western Victoria. Guard all our people. Guide our leaders. Teach us to exercise our freedoms with responsibility for all our neighbours. Bless us with hope and peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The priest will conclude the intercessions by saying

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE *Please stand*

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Due to the current restrictions, you may be "creative" in exchanging a sign of peace while maintaining social distancing restrictions.

Please sit while the altar is prepared for the Eucharist

HYMN - NEH 5 *Hark! A herald voice is calling* by Merton

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy God, pour upon the poverty of our offerings the riches of your grace, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, make yourself known to us in broken bread and wine that is shared.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are invited to stand throughout the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, as members of God's family gathered around the Altar. Should you want to kneel, then please do so after the said Sanctus & Benedictus 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord'

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence stand before him who redeems us from sin and death and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.' He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray;

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us your peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us your peace

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. The Anglican Communion welcomes members of other Christian Churches to receive Holy Communion with us if they receive the Sacrament in their own church.

COMMUNION MUSIC

This is the truth from above

Traditional arranged by Lloyd

if you are participating with us remotely

Act of Spiritual Communion at home – St Alphonsus Ligouri

At this time, we cannot receive you Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving Sacrifice will be offered and the divine Banquet will be spread in our churches once more.

You are the Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and I shall be healed.

My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; let me always be at one with you.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand*

God for whom we wait, we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we joyfully await your Son, keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices and announcements

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Chorale Prelude on “Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme”
(Awake the voice is calling)

BWV 645 by J. S. Bach 1685-1750

*Please remain standing for the procession from the Church. You are welcome to **leave quietly during the postlude.***

If you are here for the first time and would like further contact from the Cathedral clergy, please complete the Welcome card available at the back of the Cathedral and hand it to one of the ushers or to the clergy.

For Your Prayers

The World: We pray for...

- Collaborative effort and actions in caring for the environment
- World leaders to work together and support the various organisations who are in search for COVID19 vaccine.

The Church: We pray for...

- Pray for. The Lusitanian Church (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury)
The Rt Revd Jorge Pina Cabral - Bishop of the Lusitanian Church.
- All who have asked for the sacrament of marriage.
- The Chancellor: Charles Gunst QC,
The Advocate: Sally Macarthur Clyde and
Property and Finance Committee: Mike Robins (Chair).
- Pre & Post Ordination Training: Fr Constantine Osuchukwu, Fr Peter Treloar & Bishop Garry Weatherill.
- Our Sister Diocese of Aipo Rongo, especially the people of Tsungup.

The Community: We pray for...

- Local council and those involved and employed in local government.

Those who have asked for our prayers: We pray for...

Gary, Pauline, Fr Peter, Anna, Tom, Roger, Sarah, Annette, Kevin, Mike, Ian, Andrew, Craig, Dianne, Winsome, Sarah, Luke, Caroline, Adrian, Josephine, John, Chris, Brenda, Ann, Lucas *and for all those known to us who are sick or suffering.*

Thanksgiving for those who have died recently:

Year's Mind: William Almada, Hugh Linaker, Emily Castle whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Prayer for a new Dean

Bountiful God, give to this Cathedral a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Notices & Announcements

Due to the current restrictions, the Cathedral is opened during these hours:

Mondays to Fridays

Holy Eucharist – 12.10pm

Mondays to Thursdays

Evening Prayer – 5pm

Sundays

Holy Eucharist (BCP) – 8am

Holy Eucharist with music – 10am

NO BOOKING REQUIRED BUT PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS BEFORE ENTERING THE CATHEDRAL.

PLEASE HELP - ABM Mission

Thank you for your kind donations so far. We just reached slightly over \$1000.00 and we would like to extend contribution towards this project for another week. Once again, we are supporting the Anglican Board of Mission's 'Kenya - Disability Inclusion Project'. Donations can be made either through the mission envelopes or by direct electronic transfer to the Cathedral identifying the payment as 'Eldoret'

Christmas Baking- Have you placed your orders for Christmas with Lois?

So far, we have received over \$500 worth of orders mainly from people outside our Cathedral (thanks to the aggressive advertisement by Carolyn!)

It is still not too late to place an order with Lois. She can be contacted through phone – 03 5336 1094 or 0407 051 952. Please call or SMS to place orders.

- Fruit Cakes - 3 sizes - \$10, \$15, \$20
- Mini Fruit Cakes - \$4
- Fruit Mince Pies (6 per pack) - \$5
- Mini Plum Puddings - \$6
- Shortbreads (6 per pack) - \$5

THANK YOU

The Cathedral Council would like to thank Louise Tonkin for organising the Cathedral Patronal Festival luncheon last week. It was a great success and we all had a great time. There was so much joy and laughter! We also would like to thank Maria Sozanski for the delicious gluten free cake that was kindly donated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY

We are **urgently looking for more people** to support the ongoing ministry of the Cathedral. Volunteers needed for readings, intercessions, ushering, cleaning and morning tea. Please speak to Fr Martin.

Notices & Announcements

ANGLICARE Hamper

This year Anglicare is expecting lesser donations whilst managing a higher than usual demands. Hence, they would like to encourage more donations – toys, Christmas food, vouchers or money. Please deliver or send the to Anglicare Victoria Ballarat Centre, 14 Victoria St, Bakery Hill. They are around between 10.30am-12pm until 8th Dec 2020, Mondays to Thursdays.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from one of their Christmas hampers, please let Norma Coffield or Fr Martin know.

EXCITING Plan - Talk@The Cathedral

With great hope, we are looking at starting Talk@The Cathedral, a new venture either on the 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month, at 5pm from Feb 2021. The idea is to have a Q&A and theological discussions in a relax environment with cheese and wine on offer! If you have any interesting practical topics (e.g. What is Autism and what's my role as a Christian?) that you would like to discuss or thinking about, please send them to Fr Martin. The plan is to have a credible and reliable panel to lead these discussions.

**** PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS? ****

Please note these dates and times in your diaries

19th Dec 9am to 12pm – Working Bee & Christmas Tree

19th Dec @ 5pm – Family (Children) Christmas Service @
Holy Trinity, Sebastopol

20th Dec @ 7pm – Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
(booking can be made ONLY from Dec 13th onwards)

24th Dec @ 11pm – Christmas Eve & Blessing of the Crib

25th Dec @ 8am – Christmas Service according to BCP

25th Dec @ 10am – Christmas Sung Eucharist



Cathedral Directory

Bishop of Ballarat

The Right Reverend Garry Weatherill

Acting Dean

The Bishop

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The Revd. Wayne Dorning
The Revd. Graham Reynolds
0407 107 165

The Revd. Roger Dyer

Br Neal Salan OP

The Revd. David Bol Bichok

Cathedral Council

(Meet 3rd Tuesday of the Month)

Secretary: Euan Thompson

Treasurer: Gillian Canavan

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Carol Greenwood 0412 55 83 44

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Web Page

www.ballaratanglican.org.au

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/ballaratanglicancathedral

Diocesan Office

9am-5pm Mon-Fri 5331 1183

Electronic Offertory contributes can be made online:

A/C: Christ Church Cathedral

BSB: 063502

A/C number: 10516638

Readings for 6. 12.2020 -Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 40. 1-11
Psalm: Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-13
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3. 8-15a
Gospel: Mark 1. 1-8

Introduction to the Season of Advent

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

*Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty.*

(Charles Wesley)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas. The Third Sunday of Advent was

observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

Extracted from CofE

website

Introduction of Asperges or Sprinkling of Holy Water

In response to the current restrictions, our Holy Water stoop has been empty since Feb 2020. As a result, we are introducing the sprinkling of holy water or asperges at the beginning of each service.

What is the significance?

Traditionally, water is one of the signs that the Church often uses in blessing the faithful. Holy water reminds the faithful of Christ, who is given to us as the supreme divine blessing, who called Himself the living water, and who, with water, established Baptism for our sake as the sacramental sign of the blessing that brings salvation.

Holy water reminds us of our Baptism, when by the invocation of the Holy Trinity and the pouring of holy water, we were set free from sin, infused with sanctifying grace, incorporated into the Church, and given the title son or daughter of God. In making the sign of the cross with the holy water, we are mindful that we are called to renew those baptismal promises of rejecting Satan, all his works, and all his empty promises, and to profess our credal faith. Once again, we repent of sin, so that we can offer our prayers and

worship to God with pure and contrite hearts. Just as water and blood flowed from the side of our Lord as He hung upon the cross — signifying the great sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist, the taking of holy water and making the sign of the cross remind us of our Baptism in preparation for the reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Is it safe?

Yes, only water and a pinch of salt is used when it is blessed by the priest. Typically, the priest offers a prayer of blessing, dips a sprinkler into a bucket and processes throughout the church.

**** FOOD FOR THOUGHT****

Have you thought of doing something spiritually different during Advent this year?

Can we be gracious and truthful at the same time when talking to someone about the Bible?

Have you given much thought to your call or vocation recently?