



The Seasons of the Liturgical Year

		Liturgical Colour:	Focus/Display:	Appropriate Scripture Phrase:
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SEASON OF ADVENT</p> <p><i>Begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.</i></p>	<p>Advent has a twofold character. It is the season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered, and it is the season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, the season of Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation.</p>	<p>Violet/Purple Symbolises joyful waiting, renewal and expectation.</p>	<p>Bible; Advent Wreath; Jesse Tree; a small plant or flower in bud to represent 'waiting' for the birth of Christ; an empty crib.</p>	<p>"Someone very good is coming!" <i>(adapted from Mark 1:7)</i> "Prepare the way for the coming of our God" <i>(adapted from Luke:3:3)</i> "The Lord is very near" <i>(adapted from Philippians 4:4)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS</p> <p><i>Begins on Christmas day and ends on the 2nd February - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i></p>	<p>Christmas is a season, not a day. This is difficult to realise since the world wants to 'get back to normal' long before we have arrived at the last day of Christmas: the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is a season of true joy when we celebrate that 'God-is-with-us' – Emmanuel! The colour and vibrancy of our Christmas celebrations should inform a very deep part of ourselves that something has happened, that Christ is born, and the world will never be the same again. <i>The Word was made flesh and lived among us. (John 1:14)</i></p>	<p>White or gold. Symbolises true joy and triumph.</p>	<p><i>Crib (but without the Wise Men); holly and ivy.</i></p>	<p>"A child has been born for us" <i>(based on Isaiah 9:6)</i> "Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem – in a stable because there was no room for him at the inn." <i>(based on Luke 2:7)</i> "When the time was right, God the Father sent Jesus into the world" <i>(based on Galatians 4:4)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY</p> <p><i>This feast is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the 6th January</i></p>	<p>The Epiphany of the Lord is one of the greatest feasts in the Church's year and in many parts of the world it is celebrated as the most joyful day of Christmastime. The word 'epiphany' means 'showing'. We rejoice that the glory of God is shown to the whole world through the person of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Red. symbolises royalty for this feast.</p>	<p>Three wise men</p>	<p>"Where is the child born to be king....?" <i>(based on Matthew 2:1-2)</i> "When they saw the star they were delighted" <i>(based on Matthew 2:16-18)</i></p>

	<p>That glory is shown to the Magi who come from far away and followed the star to Bethlehem. The wise men are the first of many people who would seek Jesus and find him.</p>		<p>with gifts; stars</p>	<p>"We have seen his star rise and have come to worship him". <i>(based on Matthew 2:1-12)</i></p>
<p>THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</p> <p><i>This feast is celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany</i></p>	<p>The feast of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season and prepares us to follow the teachings of Jesus and celebrate his life during the coming year. As Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan by John the Baptist the followers of John saw the heavens open and the voice of God was heard. This voice invited all those who saw Jesus to listen to his message. In this event God's glory was revealed and so the Baptism of the Lord is another 'epiphany' or 'showing'.</p>	<p>White or gold Symbolises true joy and triumph</p>	<p><i>Bible; candle; water; picture/painting/ mosaic of the baptism (Could also use flowers/plants/different types of greenery).</i></p>	<p>"You are my son, whom I love." <i>(based on Mark 1:11)</i> "The Spirit came down upon him....." <i>(based on Luke 3:21-22)</i></p>
<p>ORDINARY TIME</p> <p><i>From the end of the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). From the day after Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent.</i></p>	<p>For a few weeks in January and February, and then all through the summer and autumn, the Church is in Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the word "ordinal" and means "counted". In other words, each of the weeks has a number (for example, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time). During Ordinary Time the Sunday gospels follow Jesus from story to story in Matthew, Mark or Luke. Each of these gospels is read for one year in the church's three-year cycle of Sunday Mass readings. Sunday after Sunday we also read through the various letters of Paul and others in the New Testament.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>life and growth</p>	<p><i>Bible, candle, seeds or glass tube with growing plant in to show growth, or anything from nature or human life showing the promise of growth; pictures of ordinary activities e.g. reading, writing, doing homework, eating, playing etc.</i></p>	<p>"Always do what is best for you and everybody else" <i>(based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 17)</i> 'People who see you at your best will thank God" <i>(based on Matthew 6:16)</i> "In everything you say or do, do it as Jesus would want you to" <i>(based on Colossians 3:17)</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">LENT</p> <p><i>Begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday in the evening – approximately 6 weeks.</i></p>	<p>In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth and a time for discerning and doing good. Traditionally we give more time to prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money given to the 'poor' or good causes). This helps us to say 'Yes' to God's will and 'No' to our selfish ways in order to become better followers of Jesus. The season begins by recalling the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert and prepared to proclaim the Good News. In the Northern Hemisphere, Lent begins in winter. But when the 40 days are over, we know that the warmth and new life of spring are surely coming.</p>	<p>Purple</p> <p>penance</p>	<p><i>Cross made out of branches and draped with a purple cloth; stones, sand and pebbles, sandals and footprints; bowl of flower bulbs or seeds; pot of bare twigs or branches.</i></p> <p><i>On Ash Wednesday a bowl of ashes could be added.</i></p>	<p>"Turn your life toward God and live!" (based on Ezekiel 18:32)</p> <p>"Follow me" (based on Luke 5:27)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HOLY WEEK</p> <p>For the Church, Holy Week is the 'greatest week' during which the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus is remembered in special celebrations.</p>	<p>On PASSION SUNDAY which is sometimes called PALM SUNDAY(because we bless palms and we hear the reading of the passion of Jesus), Christians celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to face his suffering and death.</p> <p><i>If this day is remembered in school then palms and other spring branches may be added to the Lenten display.</i></p> <p><i>One way to highlight the events of Holy Week is to use red cloth to give special honour to the cross.</i></p> <p>THE PASCHAL or EASTER TRIDUUM Begins on Holy Thursday in the evening ends on Easter Sunday in the evening.</p> <p>"Paschal Triduum" means "the Three Days of Passover". For the Jewish people, Passover celebrates the great event when God delivered the people of Israel from slavery in</p>			

	<p>Egypt to freedom. The followers of Jesus proclaim that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God has freed and saved us.</p> <p>When Lent ends, we stand in the centre of the Christian year. On the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, we keep the Easter Vigil. We gather to light a fire and a towering candle, to listen to our most treasured scriptures, to sing psalms and other songs. Then we go to the waters and baptise those who have been preparing for new life in Christ. The newly baptised are then anointed with fragrant oil and, at last, with these newly baptised, we celebrate the Eucharist.</p> <p>We prepare for this Vigil in the washing of feet on Holy Thursday and in the veneration of the cross on Good Friday. We also prepare by fasting. The Church fasts – from food, from entertainment, from chatter, from work – so that we have time to ponder deeply the death and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery of faith that we will celebrate in our Vigil.</p>			
<p>HOLY THURSDAY</p> <p>Sometimes known as Maundy Thursday</p>		<p>White and Gold Symbolises true joy and triumph</p>	<p><i>Bible opened at John 13; a cross; bowl and jug of water; white towel; sandals; picture of the washing of the feet by Seiger Koda as backdrop</i></p>	<p>"I have given you an example, so that you may copy what I have done for you." <i>(based on John 13:15)</i></p> <p>"Love one another." <i>(based on John 15:12)</i></p> <p>"Love one another as I have loved you."</p>

<p>EASTER SEASON</p> <p><i>Begins on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later on Pentecost Sunday.</i></p>	<p>Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Easter Season which lasts for 50 days. The Easter season is to the year what Sunday is to the week. It is the heart of the Christian faith. St. Paul writes that without a strong, unswerving belief in the resurrection of Christ, then, "empty too is our preaching; empty too your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14.) We are an 'Easter People' and make "Alleluia" our song because we delight to praise the Lord who is raised from the dead and now shares his new life. The Paschal candle, the giant candle that is lighted during this season whenever we celebrate in church, shows that Jesus lives.</p>	<p>White and gold Symbolises joy</p>	<p>Large white candle; bowl of Easter water; 'Alleluia' banner; cross draped with a white or gold cloth; any symbols of new life e.g. eggs, spring flowers, butterflies etc.</p>	<p><i>(John 15:12)</i></p> <p>"God raised Jesus to new life". <i>(based on Ephesians 1:20)</i></p> <p>"We know he is alive for we have seen him" <i>(based on Acts 2:32)</i></p> <p>"Tell the people everything about this new life". <i>(based on the Acts of the Apostles 5:21)</i></p>
<p>PENTECOST</p> <p><i>50 days (7 weeks) after Easter Sunday.</i></p>	<p>Pentecost is a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish 'feast of weeks' was held fifty days after the beginning of the grain harvest. It was a thanksgiving feast to celebrate the end of the harvest and to commemorate the day God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was important that they carry on his mission after he was gone. He promised he would give them the strength of his Spirit to do this. At Pentecost the Church celebrates the fulfilment of Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will guide and help his disciples to understand all that he has taught them. It is sometimes called the 'birthday' of the Church.</p>	<p>Red Symbolises royalty, fire and martyrdom</p>	<p><i>A picture of Pentecost/Holy Spirit; red flowers; bible opened at Acts 2:1-43; one large white candle surrounded by 12 smaller red ones.</i></p>	<p>"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts of the Apostles 1:4)</p> <p>"I give you the Holy Spirit to help you" (based on John 20:21)</p> <p>"Let the Holy Spirit guide all that you say and do" (based on Galatians 5:16)</p>
<p>FEASTS OF MARY</p>	<p>May & October: Mary the Mother of God has a special place in the Church's seasons and feasts. For the</p>	<p>Blue and white Traditional colours for</p>	<p><i>Use some of the following: Icon – Mary Mother of</i></p>	<p>"Rejoice, Mary, God has blessed you and is very close to you" (based on Luke 1:27)</p>

	<p>Church, May is the month of Mary and in October Catholics are encouraged to pray the Rosary. There are also special feasts throughout the year and many local traditions and celebrations throughout the world. There are six major feasts the Church celebrates in honour of Mary. They are: January 1stMary the Mother of God March 25thThe Annunciation May 31stThe Visitation August 15thThe Assumption September 8thMary's Birthday December 8thThe Immaculate Conception</p>	<p>Our Lady</p>	<p><i>Jesus; rosary, flowers, candles; bible opened at appropriate scripture passage</i></p>	<p>"Mary was so happy, she sang a song of praise to God" (based on Luke 1:46) "God is so good. My heart is full of joy" (based on Luke 1:39-58)</p>
<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p><i>The Month of Remembrance - including the celebration of 'All Souls' AND 'All Saints'</i></p> <p><i>The Liturgical Year ends with Christ the King</i></p>		<p>White</p>	<p><i>Paschal Candle, white cloth, Holy Water as a sign of Baptism and link with final sprinkling of the coffin.</i></p>	<p>"Don't be sad about people who die....they will all live again with God." (based on 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)</p> <p>"God will take away all your sadness and wipe the tears from your eyes. There will be no more hurt no more pain no more suffering no more dying. For all these things are finished and gone". <i>(Revelation 21:1-5)</i></p>