

CHRISTMAS & EASTER

COLOUR = WHITE & GOLD (PURITY AND LIGHT; GRACE AND GLORY)

CHRISTMAS IS 12 DAYS (EVE 24TH DEC – 5/6 JAN); FIRST SIX DAYS EMPHASISE BIRTH, LATER SIX DAYS EMPHASISE THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION.

EASTER IS 'THE GREAT 50 DAYS OF EASTER' BEGINNING ON EASTER SUNDAY (FIRST 8 DAYS ESPECIALLY)

THEMES: 'ENRICHED IN THE GIVING' (CHRISTMAS)

'HEALED IN THE DYING; HEARTENED IN THE RISING' (EASTER)

JOY! LIFE! POWER! LOVE! TRIUMPH! TRANSFORMATION!

CELEBRATION... THE REALISATION OR ARRIVAL OF A GREAT HOPE

EUCATASTROPHE (TOLKIEN): THE SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS THAT BRINGS A DISASTROUS STORY TO AN UNEXPECTEDLY GOOD CONCLUSION, WHICH "PIERCES YOU WITH A JOY THAT BRINGS TEARS"

GOD CAN'T HELP BUT OVERFLOW, SHOW HIMSELF TO THE WORLD HE HAS MADE AND GIVE DIVINE LIFE!

A TIME WHEN WE ARE OVERWHELMED BY GOD'S NEARNESS AND GLORY

A TIME TO REFRESH OUR OLD THOUGHTS AND IMAGES OF GOD

JOYFUL DANCE & SONG

SYMBOLISM OF NEW LIFE & RESURRECTION: FLOWERS, EGGS & BUTTERFLIES

CHRISTMAS: THE WAITING OF ADVENT IS OVER; THE WONDER, THE AWE IS HERE.

WONDER IS THE POSTURE OF THE HUMBLE AND GRATEFUL

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

REMEMBER HIS NAMES: WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

WONDER FILLS US WITH JOY AND MOVES US TO SELF-GIVING LOVE

A TIME TO 'LOVE YOURSELF FOR GOD'S SAKE' (BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX)

EASTER: THE SUPER-ABUNDANCE OF THE RESURRECTION.

A TIME TO SUSPEND KNEELING – STANDING AS A SYMBOL OF RESURRECTION

"ALL IN OUR LIVES THAT IS LIMITING, SORROWFUL, OR DEAD BECOMES THE DANCE FLOOR ON WHICH WE CELEBRATE OUR EASTER JOY" (WENDY WRIGHT)

PRACTICES

- 1. ORNAMENTS, LIGHTS, DECORATIONS, PARTIES, BELLS, NATIVITY SCENES**
- 2. GIVING – DONATIONS, TIME, GIFTS, EGGS**
- 3. MUSIC/WORSHIP**
- 4. EASTER READINGS FOCUS ON HIS TEACHINGS BETWEEN HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION.**
- 5. SIGN OF THE CROSS: THUMB AND TWO FINGERS TOGETHER REPRESENT THE TRINITY, TWO FINGERS TO PALM REPRESENT THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST (GOD AND MAN),
FOREHEAD ⇨ HEART ⇨ SHOULDER ⇨ SHOULDER ⇨ HEART.**
- 6. EASTER: "CHRIST IS RISEN" RESPONSE "HE IS RISEN INDEED"**

IMPROVISING: ATTEND A CATHEDRAL SERVICE; OR DO A WALKING TOUR OF CATHEDRALS IN YOUR CITY (CELEBRATING THE GREATNESS OF GOD); LEAVE YOUR TREE AND DECORATIONS UP UNTIL JANUARY 6; CANDLELIGHT ONLY FOR 12 NIGHTS; HOST A DINNER PARTY WITH A FORMAL DRESS CODE; DRINK ONLY FROM A WINE GLASS, FLUTE OR CRYSTAL GLASS; GIVE UNEXPECTED SMALL GIFTS; KEEP FLOWERS IN YOUR HOME; GO TO THE BEACH; WEAR WHITE TO REMIND YOURSELF TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE PURITY THAT CHRIST HAS ACHIEVED FOR YOU; ATTEND A LIVE MUSIC OR SPORTING EVENT; SPARKLERS, STREAMERS, BALLOONS AND FIREWORKS!

- IS 9:2-7 (FRI 14/9)
- PS 139:7-12 (SAT 15/9)
- PS 148 (MON 17/9)
- LK 8:40-56 (TUES 18/9)
- JN 20:11-18 (WED 19/9)
- 1COR 15:51-2 (THURS 20/9)
- LK 2:21-40 (FRI 21/9)
- PHIL 2:5-11 (SAT 22/9)
- GAL 4:4-7 (MON 24/9)
- NUM 6:22-27 (TUES 25/9)
- PS 8 (WED 26/9)
- HEB 1:3, 1 COR 15:54,
COL 2:15 (THURS 27/9)

LECTIO DIVINA ("DIVINE READING", PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES)

1. **READ** – WHAT DOES IT SAY?
2. **MEDITATION** – WHAT IS STANDING OUT TO ME?
WHAT IS THIS SCRIPTURE SAYING TO ME?
3. **PRAY** – SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER ABOUT
WHAT YOU HAVE MEDITATED ON
4. **CONTEMPLATION** – SPEND TIME LOOKING AT HIM AND LETTING
HIM LOOK AT YOU. CREATE SPACE THAT IF GOD WANTS TO
GIVE YOU A SPECIAL GRACE GIFT IN RELATION TO THIS
PASSAGE, HE WILL. IF NOT, JUST RELAX WITH HIM.
5. **ACTION** – HOW WOULD GOD HAVE ME RESPOND?

