

come before us in turn. Thus Advent prepares us to receive the great centre truth of the Incarnation of God, and then opens up the doctrine of a judgment to come, when He who once came among us clothed in the great humility of our nature, will come again to judge the quick and the dead. And so, Christmas teaches distinctly the doctrine of that Incarnation: and the Epiphany sets forth the Godhead bursting through the human nature, depending upon the great truth of Christmas: the fall of man is set forth at Septuagesima, as preparatory to our Lord's fasting during the fast days of Lent, and as a preparation for the great truth of the death of our divine Saviour during Holy Week, to rescue us from the consequences of that fall, and to fit us to celebrate His mighty resurrection at Easter; and this is to lead us to consider His glorious ascension into heaven, to send down the Holy Ghost upon His Church, and to carry on His work by continually representing before the Majesty of God His precious death on the cross.

Some such plan as this, we may be sure, was meant by the arrangement of the Christian seasons. *One system* pervades the liturgies of every branch of the Catholic Church. And to bring this system into prominence, and by it to illustrate the great truths which it embodies, so that not one shall be obscured or lost, should be the earnest desire of every one who values the integrity of Christian doctrines.

The season of Advent, then, about which we may now speak briefly, is the preparation for Christmas; and Christmas, which commemorates the *first* coming of Christ, is a reminder of the *second* coming. Christmas, then, gives

to Advent its key-note; and that is God taking man's nature upon Him. God becoming man, God living as man upon the earth, subject to the infirmities, trials, and temptations to which men are subject; and though very God of very God, bearing them and resisting them as *man*. St. Peter brings before us the *duty* which rests upon us as a consequence of this, "Even hereunto were ye called, because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow His steps."

Thus considering *Christ as Man our Example*, we shall regard Him at His first Advent giving His servants their tasks, first showing them how those tasks are to be done; while His second Advent will show Him as judging the work done, and giving the rewards and punishments due to faithful or unfaithful service.

We cannot then, we think, do better than close these remarks with the words of the beautiful collect for that season at which we have once more arrived, and which while preparing us to celebrate the Incarnation, brings before us at the same time the duties which rest upon us who have been baptized, and the account we must one day render to our God.

"Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the last day when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.—Amen." A.

SYNDICAL ACTION.

THE Church in this diocese stands, at present, in a peculiar position. It is, in fact, a body of Christians without any direct rules or laws to govern it, except such as are found in the Book of Common Prayer. True, we have a Bishop to whom is imparted the spiritual care and supervision of the clergy, who are bound by their ordination vows to render to him all canonical obedience; but where are the canons by which they are to be guided in their al-

legiance? Now in every society there must be certain rules for the maintenance of peace and good order, as well as for the support of that discipline so essential to the well-being of any association. But in the Church of this diocese no such rules or canons are in existence, by which it may be governed or guided in matters of ecclesiastical discipline, or by which the Bishop may be relieved from that onerous responsibility now resting upon him, in being the sole judge in all matters affecting