

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



Candles

The proper use of candles, if any, has been a matter of controversy in the Anglican Church since the Reformation. Consider the Ornaments Rubric in the BCP, The Lincoln Judgment of 1890 and the Lambeth Opinion of 1899. There was a court case about their use in one English village as late as 1926.

Candles remind us of Christ, the Light of the World, and mark all joyous events of which Sunday Eucharist is central. But some still fear that they are signs of “popery” and the darkest superstition.

The Paschal candle set alight by the new fire at the Easter Vigil, decorated with the A and Ω and grains of incense, has escaped persecution.