Sunday 30th November First Sunday of Advent

A Message for Advent Sunday

On holiday on Corfu earlier this year, my Grandson Luka and I would meet beside the swimming pool for 'Early Morning Book Club.'

We would each do a little bit of quiet reading, he was reading 'Horrible Histories' whilst I had a book of poetry to hand, so aptly titled, 'A Splash of Words' by Mark Oakley.

We would read for a while, but it would not be long before our attention was drawn to nature waking up all around us.

Best of all would be when the swallows would come and swoop down over our pool and, barely touching its surface, they would take just a little splash into their wings and fly away to use that moisture in the building of their nests.

As I watched them, I thought about how this little drop of water was rather like what we each come to know about God in the end.

We may think we know so much and we certainly expect our Vicars to have an in depth understanding of holy ways, but maybe we only really get a tiny splash of Him.

In the book of poetry I was reading, I came across a wonderful verse by a Norwegian post named Olva Hauge. He lived on his own on a small holding and survived on the proceeds of his 70 apple trees.

Don't give me the whole truth
Don't give me the sea for my thirst
Don't give me the sky when I ask for light
But give me a glint, a dewy wisp,
a mote as the birds bear water drops from their bathing
and the wind a grain of salt.

I have leant that God does not make himself into a convenient and understandable package of information which we absorb and then pass on but rather he gives us little moments of his presence and rather like the sliver of bread and the sip of wine at the altar, we can learn that this is enough for us as we continue on.

Through the busy season of Christmas preparations and the quieter month of Advent, may you bear on your person that little water drop of His presence, which is all we need to sustain us.

With love
Fr Andrew