

# PRAYER BOOK CATHOLICISM

Nashotah House: Advanced Degree Course

Winter Term 2025 (6 – 31 January)

Residential Week, 20 – 24 January

at St. John's Episcopal Church, Savannah, GA

Instructors: Dr DN Keane, the Revd GG Dunbar, the Revd J Jameson

## Description

When seen through the lens of later developments, such as the Liturgical Movement and ecumenism, classical Anglicanism can be assessed in terms unsympathetic to its distinctives and unappreciative of its virtues, as an aberration from catholic tradition in need of correction. By contrast, Prayer Book Catholics (like Percy Dearmer, Charles Grafton, C. B. Moss, Michael Ramsey, and Robert Crouse) regard the Book of Common Prayer as the rule of life and definitive articulation of catholic doctrine for Anglicans.

Students in this course will (1) analyze the overall design, liturgies, lectionaries, and doctrines of the Book of Common Prayer (1662 and 1928 recensions), and their relation to pre-reformation and early reformation traditions; (2) participate daily in the forms of the Daily Office and Holy Communion contained in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer; (3) learn the mechanics of implementing these liturgies in a parish setting, including questions of ceremonial and vestment; (4) explain key differences between the 1662, 1928, 1979, and 2019 recensions of the Prayer Book.

## Meetings

From Monday 20th to Friday 24th January participants will meet at the following times and locations:

- 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Morning Prayer in St Mary's Chapel of St John's
- 9:05 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. breakfast in the dining room of Cranmer Hall
- 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Morning Seminar in the Ralston Reading Room of Cranmer Hall
- 12 noon to 12:45 p.m. Holy Communion in St John's Church [except for Thursday, when there will be Choral Communion in the evening]
- 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. lunch in the dining room of Cranmer Hall
- 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Afternoon Seminar in the Ralston Reading Room or the Chancel of St John's as announced

- 3:45 p.m. to 4:55 p.m. Study Hour in the Ralston Reading Room or Library
- 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer in St Mary's Chapel of St John's [except for Thursday, when there will be Choral Communion in St. John's Church]

## Seminar Format

In a typical class meeting, the instructor will give a 10 to 20-minute lecture or for afternoon sessions in the chancel, a liturgical walk-through, to frame the conversation, followed by a discussion of the readings assigned to that session and reading questions submitted in advance by the students. All students must read in advance and think carefully about the assigned materials.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to

1. Analyze the design, liturgies, lectionaries, and doctrines of the Book of Common Prayer (1662 and 1928 recensions), and their relation to sources;
2. Explain key differences between the 1662, 1928, 1979, and 2019 recensions of the Prayer Book;
3. Explain the mechanics of implementing these liturgies in parish settings, including questions of ceremonial and vestment.

## Assignments, Requirements, and Marking Scheme

*Discussion Questions (20%).* For each seminar meeting, students will submit a discussion question based on the assigned readings assigned for that meeting. All discussion questions must be emailed to all course instructors by 18 January, ahead of the residential week.

*Class Participation (20%):* Attentive and sustained participation in class is required for all students. Students may have one excused absence without penalty. Each absence after that will result in a proportional deduction of the participation mark. \

*Short Essays (20%):* For five of the ten class seminar meetings (selected by the student), students will submit an essay of between 300 and 400 words that critically engages with the readings for that seminar meeting. The essay must be submitted before the start of the seminar meeting to which it corresponds.

*Long Essay (40%):*

Choose a doctrinal or liturgical theme that cuts across multiple services in the Book of Common Prayer, and analyze it critically in a 2,500 to 3,000-word essay. The essay must advance a clear, unified, argument and include engagement with at least three secondary sources. Analysis goes beyond mere description: it must reveal something

that is not obvious without analysis. All essays are expected to be written in clear, grammatical English. Errors of spelling, punctuation, and grammar will negatively affect your grade. You may use any recognized style guide and referencing system you prefer, but you should use one standard consistently.

A detailed outline (of at least two pages) must be submitted before the start of the residential week on 20 January. Second, a draft must be submitted before the end of the residential week on 24 January. Each student must schedule one half-hour meeting with an instructor to discuss his or her progress on the long essay (see below). The meeting may take place during one of the daily study sessions. The finished draft is due by no later than 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the term, 30 January.

## Academic Integrity

All work you submit for this course must be your own. Any ideas, arguments, words, phrases, or other content derived from or informed by a source must be properly documented. Essays must reflect original engagement with sources, not merely string together quotations from and/or summaries of others' work. Contravention of this policy constitutes plagiarism, for which the penalties may include a failing grade.

*A.I. Policy:* You are welcome to use generative A.I. to assist you in your work, so long as the work you submit is your own. If you do make use of such tools, you must properly document your use, including submitting both the prompts you used and the answers you received.

## Texts

All students should purchase a copy of:

- Brian Cummings, *The Book of Common Prayer: The Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662* (OUP 2013)

Other readings are available online or will be provided by the instructors here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nmR3Q\\_M2vZUus7mVXjLumysFpBHza1vB?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nmR3Q_M2vZUus7mVXjLumysFpBHza1vB?usp=sharing)

## Seminar Schedule for the Residential Week

Texts listed must be read *prior* to the seminar meeting to which they correspond. Note that this schedule is subject to amendment as needed.

Monday 20 January

**Seminar 1: Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer and Prayer Book Catholicism**

**(GGD)**

BCP (1662): The Preface and Concerning the Service of the Church

Cummings 689–690, 721–722, 744–750

Bray & Keane, “A Ten-Minute History of the Book of Common Prayer” (*How to Use the Book of Common Prayer*)

Jeanes, “Cranmer and Common Prayer” (*The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer*)

Crouse, “The Book of Common Prayer in Historical and Theological Perspective”

Crouse, “The Prayer Book and the Authority of Tradition”

Ramsey “The Anglican Spirit” (*The Anglican Spirit*)

Kirby, “Between the throne of God in heaven and his church upon earth here militant’ instruction and prayer in the fifth book of Hooker’s *Lawes*” (*Dionysius* 29)

**Seminar 2: The Daily Office**

**(DNK)**

BCP (1662): The calendar and table of lessons, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Athanasian

Creed, and the Litany

Cummings 690–695, 705–706, 722–727, 744–750, 757–763, 783–785

Bradshaw, “The Daily Offices in the Prayer Book Tradition” (*Anglican Theological Review* vol. 95)

Billett “A Spirituality of the Word: The Medieval Roots of Traditional Anglican Worship” (*Pro Ecclesia* vol. 27)

Crosby, “The ‘decent and Godly ordre of the auncient Fathers’” (*Anglican Way*, No. 8)

BCP (PECUSA 1928) The Order for Daily Morning Prayer (pp. 3–20), The Litany (54–59)

BCP (ACNA 2019): Daily Morning Prayer (pp. 11–31), The Great Litany” (pp. 91–99)

Prayer Book Studies: The Litany (1953)

Tuesday 21 January

**Seminar 3: The Church Year, Eucharistic Propers, and Table of Lessons**

**(GGD)**

BCP (1662): Proper Lessons and the Collects, Epistles, & Gospels

Cummings 750–757, 763–768

Devereux, “Reformed Doctrine in the Collects of the First *Book of Common Prayer*” (*The Harvard Theological Review*, vol. 58)

Bray & Keane, “The Prayer Book and the Christian Year” (Ch. 8 of *How to Use the Book of Common Prayer*)

Von Bredow, “Preface to the One-Year Lectionary”

Vogel, “Continuous or Consecutive Reading, Discreet or Selected Readings (*Medieval Liturgy: An Introduction to the Sources*)

#### **Seminar 4: Post-Liturgical Movement Lectionaries (GGD)**

Friday 24 January

Dunbar, “The Fullness of the Word: Lectionaries Revisited”

Wednesday 22 January

#### **Seminar 5: Holy Communion (JJ)**

BCP (1662): Holy Communion and Communion of the Sick

Cummings 695–705, 714–716, 727–734, 741–742, 768–774, 780–781, 793–795

Buchanan, *What Did Cranmer Think He Was Doing?*

Buchanan, “Black Rubric,” (*Historical Dictionary of Anglicanism*)

Dunbar, “Like Eagles in this Life: A Theological Reflection on ‘The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion’ in the Prayer Books of 1559 and 1662” (*The Book of Common Prayer: Past, Present and Future*)

Grafton, “Sacrifice” (*Christian and Catholic*)

Crouse, “The Biblical and Patristic Foundations of Anglican Sacramentalism as Understood by the English Reformers”

#### **Seminar 6: Communion Walk-Through (in the chancel) (JJ and GGD)**

Staley, “The Object of Ceremonial” & “The Relation of Ceremonial to Doctrine”

Dearmer, “Introduction” (*The Parson’s Handbook*)

Holy Communion (US 1928)

BCP (PECUSA 1979): “The Holy Eucharist: Rite II” (pp. 354–399)

BCP (ACNA 2019): “The Holy Eucharist: Renewed Ancient Text” (pp. 104, 123–143)

BCP (ACNA 2019): “Communion of the Sick” (pp. 227–231)

Thursday 23 January

#### **Seminar 7: Baptism and Confirmation (DNK)**

BCP (1662): Public Baptism of Infants, Private Baptism, Riper Years Baptism, Catechism, Confirmation.

Cummings 706–710, 734–739, 774–779  
Whitaker, *The Sarum Rite: Baptism*

Sykes “Baptisme doth represente unto us oure profession” (*Thomas Cranmer: Essays in Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of his Birth*)

Keane “A Reconsideration of the Continued Practice of Confirmation in the Episcopal Church” (*Anglican Theological Review*, vol. 100)

**Seminar 8: Baptism and Confirmation Walk-Through (in the chancel)  
(JJ and GGD)**

BCP (PECUSA 1928): The Ministration of Holy Baptism

BCP (ACNA 2019): Holy Baptism (pp. 161–172)

BCP (PECUSA 1928): The Order of Confirmation (pp. 296–299)

BCP (ACNA 2019): Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation (pp. 174–181)

Crouse, “Confirmation in the Book of Common Prayer, the Book of Alternative Service, and the Report of the Task Force on Confirmation”

Dunbar “A Curate’s Egg: The ACNA Prayer Book of 2019” (*The Anglican Way*, vol. 1)

Friday 24 January

**Seminar 9: Marriage and Burial  
(JJ and GGD)**

BCP (1662): Form of Solemnization of Matrimony and Order for the Burial of the Dead”

Cummings 686, 711–714, 716–718, 739–741, 742–743, 779–780, 781–782, 796

Cressy, *Birth, Marriage, and Death: Ritual, Religion, and the Life-Cycle in Tudor and Stuart England*, pp. 396–420.

Stevenson, “The Anglican Prayer Book Traditions, 1549–1929” (*Nuptial Blessing: A Study of Christian Marriage Rites*)

Rowell, “Reformation and Post-Reformation Rites” (*The Liturgy of Christian Burial*)

**Seminar 10: Marriage and Burial Walk-Through (in the chancel)  
(JJ and GGD)**

BCP (PECUSA 1928): At a Marriage (pp. 267–268), The Form of Solemnization of Matrimony (pp. 300–304), At the Burial of the Dead (pp. 268–269), The Order for the Burial of the Dead (pp. 324–337)

BCP (PECUSA 1979): The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage (pp. 422–432), The Burial of the Dead: Rite I (pp. 468–489)