

ORDINARY TIME

The Liturgical Year of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church is framed by the two great feasts: Easter and Christmas. The Liturgical Year begins with Advent which leads us to the Christmas season. Lent, which this year begins on 14 February, will lead to the Easter Triduum and the Easter season. Easter Sunday this year is 1 April.

In between the Advent-Christmas and the Lent-Easter seasons are the Ordinary Sundays or Ordinary Time. It is a short-hand name for *Time throughout the Year* (in Latin *tempus per annum*).

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated this year on Monday 8 January, began the first week of Ordinary Time and so this Sunday is the second Sunday of Ordinary Time and is marked by the return to green vestments.

When the Church's calendar was revised in 1969 the term *Ordinary Time* was introduced to recall that those Sundays which are not associated with any particular season or feast, are celebrations of our constant relationship with God in Christ.

Although we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ with special solemnity each year during the Easter Triduum, we also celebrate our union with Christ every Sunday.

The whole of the Christian life is about becoming one with Christ in his death and resurrection and we most fully do that when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist we become one with Christ in his offering of himself to the Father. That is why the Church teaches us that Sunday Mass is an important obligation because it is the best way for us to thank God for all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul Crowley, Parish Priest