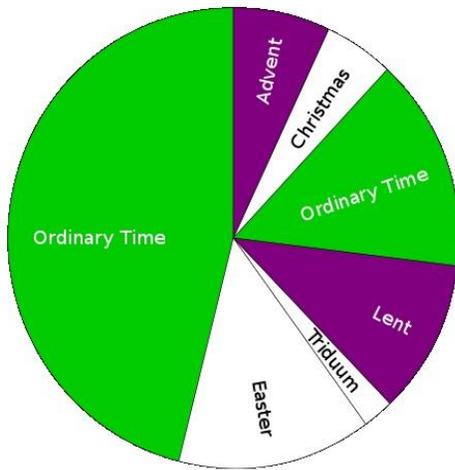


ORDINARY TIME



SUNDAY & ORDINARY TIME

Changes in society have already led many to see Sunday as just another day in the week. But for us it remains the day when we gather as a community to celebrate our relationship with God in Christ.

Unfortunately, over the past two years the COVID pandemic lockdowns have further eroded our sense of the community gathering on Sundays. We continue to face that challenge.

Technology has helped us to stay in touch with family and friends when we could not meet face to face, but it is a poor substitute for normal human contact. We all look forward to a time when we can again safely

gather to celebrate the Eucharist together.

We are also about to return to what we call the Ordinary Sundays. It is a short-hand name for *Ordinary Time throughout the Year*.

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, the season when we prepare for Christmas. Lent, which this year begins on 2 March (Ash Wednesday), will then lead us to the Easter Triduum and the Easter season.

In between the Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter seasons are the Ordinary Sundays or Sundays in Ordinary Time.

The liturgical calendar was revised in 1969, following the reforms of Vatican II. After more than 50 years, we have become familiar with the term *Ordinary Time* for these “in between” Sundays.

Yet for some, the English word “ordinary” can give the impression that these Sundays are not important. One consequence has been a tendency to introduce theme Sundays such as “Social Justice Sunday” and “Marriage & Family Sunday” into the calendar.

While there are many important issues on which we need to reflect, the danger is that we lose sight of the essential meaning of Sunday.

We know that in many European languages, Sunday is called the “Lord’s Day” and from the earliest centuries it has been the day on which Christians have gathered to celebrate the Eucharist.

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