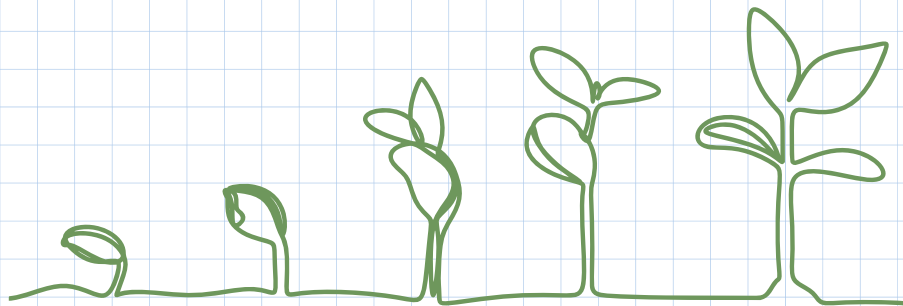


ORDINARY TIME



Theme



Growth

Hope

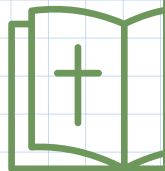
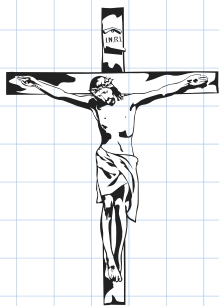
Holy Spirit

Season of Creation



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every
matter under heaven*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1



Ordinary time refers to the ordinal/ sequential numbers throughout the year (e.g. 3rd Sunday in Ordinary time). It is an opportunity to more deeply explore the life of Jesus and to reflect on how we can grow and mature into his faithful missionary disciples. The year is ordered so that the readings follow a pattern, and guide us to a fuller understanding of our faith and so that **we can order our lives to Jesus**. There are readings for every day of the year that are taken either from the 2 cycles of weekday readings or the 3 cycles of Sunday readings. You can check our **Diocesan Ordo** to find out what we are on today!

*The heart of man plans his way,
but the Lord establishes his steps.*

Proverbs 16: 9



We often light candles as part of our prayer and worship. Looking to the Hebrew scriptures we see that fire is used to demonstrate **devotion to God** and to symbolise a **holy space where God is present** - this is why today we still have a sanctuary lamp lit outside of tabernacles where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

Jesus said 'I am the light of the world' and now, when we light candles, we feel his presence and are reminded of his love and care for us in times of darkness. Just as Jesus gave of himself to save us, the candle must burn and give of itself to bring us light.

When we light a candle in memory of someone, or at the shrine of a Saint, we are recognising that they are in **full communion with God in Heaven**. We are asking for their intercession in our prayers and hope that one day, we too will be united with God in eternal life.

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it.*

John 1: 4-5

Ordinary ORDINARY TIME

See

A crucifix is always a key focal point when we pray, drawing our minds to the **mystery of Christ**. A crucifix is a reminder of the humility, service and sacrifice of Christ and prompts us to reflect on the ways in which we can grow in these areas in our own lives. An empty cross reminds us of the **resurrection** and the hope of eternal life as we work to build the Kingdom of God here on earth in the present day.

It is good to vary the crosses that we use to follow the themes of our prayer and to keep us alert to this special symbol of our faith.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2: 20

The Latin origins of the word 'ordinary' include: to be **stirred up**; to **rise up**; to **grow**; to **rise like the sun**. During ordinary time we, like the natural world around us, turn our faces to the Son, as our source of light, life and inspiration. We are **challenged to grow more and more like Jesus every day** and green reminds us of growth. The colour **green** reminds us that we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ and that we live our lives in hope of eternal life with Him.

Green

*The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*

They are planted in the house of the Lord...

Psalms 92: 12-13



CYCLES OF PRAYER

See 

Ordinary
Time

Winter

Post Christmas -
Shrove Tuesday

Peace on Earth

Openness to the Word of God

Christian Unity

The sick and those who care for them

Victims of trafficking and those who
work to combat it

The unemployed

*Is anyone among you suffering? Let him
pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing
praise.*

James 5: 13



Summer

Post Pentecost - End
of August

A deeper understanding between
Christians and Jews

Those who suffer persecution,
oppression and denial of human rights

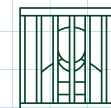
Europe

Human Life

Seafarers

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in
prayer, believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.*

Mark 11:24



Autumn

September - Week of
Christ the King

Students and teachers

The spread of the Gospel

The Harvest

The fruits of human work, and the
reverent use of creation

Justice and peace in the world

All victims of war

Young people

Prisoners and their families

*Do all this in prayer, asking for God's
help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit
leads. For this reason keep alert and never
give up; pray always for all God's people.*

Ephesians 6: 18 GNT

Post Epiphany

In the Liturgical Year the final celebration of Christmastide is The **Baptism of the Lord** which replaces the 1st Sunday of Ordinary Time. When Jesus is baptised with water, God announces that Jesus is His Son and Jesus' ministry begins.

A few weeks later we celebrate the **Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas**, when Jesus is presented to God at the Temple and Simeon's promise from God is fulfilled. During Mass, Candles are blessed for use in prayer and praise in the year ahead.

*'...for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples...'*

Luke 2: 30-31



See

Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost marks the **end of Eastertide**, 50 days after Easter Sunday. It marks the **birth of our Church**, the moment when the disciples stepped forward on the **mission** that Jesus had left them with by reaching out to the whole world and proclaiming the Good News. We reflect on the ways in which we use the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** in our life and how we put our faith into action to **build the kingdom of God on earth**.

*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other
tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
Acts 2: 4



Ordinary Time THEMES

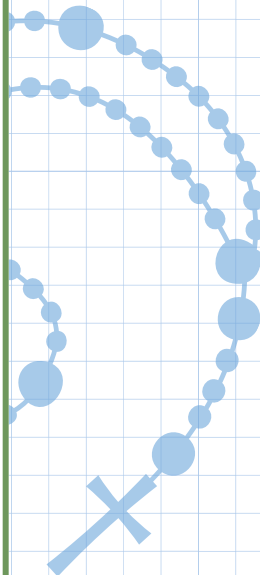
Months of Mary

Originating from ancient traditions of celebrating new life and flowers blooming in May, we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God throughout the whole of May. Activities such as **praying the rosary** and **crowning statues of Mary** are all ways that we embrace this special time as we follow the example of the perfect disciple, Mary, the Mother of our Church.

On the 7th October, the Catholic church celebrates the memorial of **Our Lady of the Rosary**. Throughout the whole month of October we make an extra effort to pray the mysteries of the rosary - asking Our Lady to intercede (to pray with us and for us) as we reflect on scriptures that help us to understand her Son, Jesus.

*for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed:*

Luke 1: 48



In the summer months we celebrate many important solemnities that help us to understand our faith more deeply. Spending time reflecting on the symbolism of these celebrations can help us to think more deeply about the mysteries of faith in our own lives.

Holy Trinity



Corpus Christi



Sacred Heart of Jesus



The Assumption



Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Psalms 150: 6

Ordinary Time

T H E M E S



Season of Creation

The **ecumenical** season of creation brings all Christians together in a common purpose to care for God's creation and to treasure, protect and preserve the gift that He has given us for the good of all, especially the most poor and vulnerable.

Beginning on the 1st of September - the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - and ending on the 4th October - the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology - the season of creation encourages us to **renew our relationships with God our Creator**.

We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth, our common home.

It is an opportunity to bring to life the words of Pope Francis in **Laudato Si** and **Laudate Deum** by working and praying alongside others in order to protect the gift of God's creation for future generations.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1: 1



The Month of the Holy Souls and Remembrance

On the 1st November we celebrate the solemnity of All Saints when we pray with the Communion of Saints that we too may choose a life lived for God. The following day is the commemoration of all the faithful departed - All Souls' Day.

Throughout the month of November we pray for all those who have died, especially those who have died in the last year. On the 11th November we mark **Remembrance Day** and the sacrifice that thousands made so that we might have peace. We pray that all people will recognise the human dignity of one another, especially where there are current conflicts so that we can live in peace, respect and harmony with one another.

November is a great month to reflect on **saints** that are significant for you in your community and to think about how their life inspires the way that you live your life today as we answer our own call to holiness and, we pray, our sainthood.

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Revelation 14: 12



Christ The King

The final Sunday of ordinary time is the solemnity of Christ The King when we celebrate that Jesus is the King of the universe. We reflect on readings about the kingdom of God and pray that we can be faithful servants who build God's kingdom here on earth.

On this final Sunday of ordinary time we also celebrate **World Youth Sunday** which is a special day of prayer for young people who are the future of our church and our world.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ...And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25: 31, 40

