

ORDINARY TIME

Two periods in the Roman calendar are called *Ordinary Time*. The first period begins on Monday after the Sunday following January 6 and continues until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The second period begins on Monday after Pentecost and ends before Evening Prayer of the First Sunday of Advent. 'Ordinary Time' does not just mean 'common.' Ordinary comes from the word 'ordinal,' which means 'numbered' and is the time during which we hear of the 'ordinariness' of the Lord's ministry. Ordinary Time is not a 'feast season' - it refers to those Sundays of the Liturgical Year that are outside the seasons of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter. Although the bulk of these Sundays extend from the close of the Easter season to the end of the Liturgical Year, several occur between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the Season of Lent.

A number of feast days and solemnities occur in Ordinary Time, for example the Most Holy Trinity, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Saints Peter and Paul, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, All Saints, and All Souls.

Weekdays during Ordinary Time on which no solemnities, feasts, or memorials of saints fall are called *ferial days*. On ferial weekdays there is a choice of Mass prayers which may be used, i.e.

- the Mass formula of the previous Sunday;
- the Mass formula of any Sunday in Ordinary Time, even with some of the prayers taken from another Sunday in OT or from the prayers of Masses for Various Needs;
- the Mass of a Saint noted in the calendar as an optional memorial or of any Saint noted in the Roman Martyrology for that day;
- a Mass for the Dead (n.b. the formula of the daily Mass for the Dead may only be used if the Mass is actually said for the dead);
- a Mass for Various Needs;
- a Votive Mass.

In our Diocesan Liturgical Diary we refer to this freedom of choice simply as 'ad libitum'.