
What is 'Ordinary Time'?

These days, we are frequently reminded that we live in 'extraordinary' or 'unprecedented' times. No one alive today has ever lived through anything like this. Yet at Mass, we are now back in what the Church calls 'ordinary time'. It's 'ordinary', because it's not Lent or Advent or one of the great feasts of the year. But can time, especially time with God, ever be 'ordinary'? We know that Jesus is with us at all times; this may make His presence, including His presence at Mass, seem quite ordinary to us, but in reality it is astonishing: Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made Flesh, accompanies us every moment of our lives. He is always there for us if we turn to Him. What could be *less* ordinary than this reality? So, even in unprecedented times, there is a deeper truth that remains with us: in Jesus, God Himself is with us. On the 'ordinary' Sundays of the year, the colour used at Mass is green. It reminds us of the growth of the natural world, and encourages us to see this time, this 'ordinary' time, as a real time of growth in our spiritual lives. Progress in our journey towards God is not just for Advent or Lent; it is for every day of the year. Let's allow that spiritual progress to become something which is never out of the ordinary for us, but something which is truly an aspect of our daily lives.

Today's Readings

There is a strong theme of vocation – calling – in today's readings. We hear the famous story of the call of Samuel, who took several attempts to hear and understand the Lord's call, and even then needed some guidance from Eli. In the Gospel we hear of the call of the first disciples: St Andrew and an unnamed follower, who have been disciples of John the Baptist, who leads them to Jesus. In the second half of the Gospel the call goes deeper: Simon Peter is given a specific calling, to be the rock on which the Church would be built. In the second reading, St Paul reminds us that we are called to devote our whole selves, including our bodies, in service of the Lord.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 2

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel. All information and links at www.saintclares.co.uk

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)*	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Mary & Ronald Airey RIP
Sunday 17 th	9:30am*		People of the Parish
	11:30am*		PM Mathew RIP
	6pm*		Jean & John Cullerton RIP
Monday	9:30am		Joseph Speight RIP
Tuesday	9:30am		Special Intention (P)
Wednesday	9:30am		Mary Foy RIP
Thursday	9:30am	St Agnes	Sandy Knowles RIP
Friday	9:30am		Barbara Parker RIP
Saturday	9:30am	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Ann and Bill Rowland RIP
	6pm (vigil)*		People of the Parish
Sunday 24 th	9:30am*		Patrick Hoyle RIP and family
	11:30am*		Margaret Kelly RIP
	6pm*	Rose Baines RIP	

* These Masses can only be attended by those who have booked in advance.

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Monsignor James Hook** and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

ANNIVERSARIES: Martin Cliff, Anne Gray, Gerald Turner, Helena Corbishley, Colin Mullarkey, Hilda Battersby, Phylis Abram, Marie Jackson, William Loughran, Vincent Jorge, Catherine Harrison, Hilda Templeman, John Barbarel.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

PRAYERS AND HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED: At this time, please continue to keep in your prayers all those working in the hospital, other healthcare workers, carers and key workers who are doing so much to look after others at this time. Please also remember those who are sick, isolated or bereaved, and those whose jobs or livelihoods are threatened by the pandemic. If you know of anyone in need and the parish may be able to help, please contact Fr Andrew. Finally, please keep our school communities in your prayers as they continue to care for and educate young children, both in school and at home during the current lockdown.

CHURCH OPENING: Under the current lockdown, the church remains open. We have received new assurances from Public Health England that opening is safe, as long as we all abide by the rules. Please do not mix with others when visiting.

WORK IN CHURCH: Monday-Friday this week we will not be open for private prayer. Weekday Mass will be celebrated in the parish hall. This is because of planned maintenance work, and is unrelated to the pandemic.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18th-25th January. We are invited to pray for deeper unity amongst the followers of Christ and to work, wherever possible, for greater cooperation with Christians of other denominations. The theme for this year is “Abide in my love and you shall bear fruit” (John 15:1-17).

VISITING THE CRIB: The main crib will remain in place up to and including Tuesday 2nd February, the feast of Candlemas. This will give us all, and the wider community, the opportunity to further reflect on the Lord’s presence with us.

YOUNG PEOPLE: Although our youth groups can’t meet at present, there is online material on the Metanoia Project Facebook page for Seekers, and Zoom sessions taking place for members of the ‘Sent’ group and for young leaders. Please contact Metanoia Project or Father Andrew for more details. Also see back page for more initiatives, run by the Diocesan Youth Service.

METANOIA PROJECT – 10 YEARS: Metanoia Project recently marked their 10th anniversary. We give thanks to God for the great work Ruth and Joe and all the volunteers are doing in our parish and beyond, in service of the Lord and His Church.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS: From February we will no longer be supplying the Universe/Catholic Times in the parish. These are available to order directly from the publisher (www.thecatholicuniverse.com or 0161 820 5722). It can be posted to you each week. Introductory offers: printed copies for three months - £25; twelve months - £99; or digital copy £55 for twelve months.

THE DRAMA DISPLAYED: A free series of online talks examining the key moments of salvation history, with the aid of great works of art. At 7:30pm every second Thursday, from 14th January to 25th March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 17 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Saturday	11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 24 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

All events marked 'YouTube' are streamed live on our channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Lancaster Diocese Youth Service during lockdown

Our diocesan youth service, based at Castlerigg Manor, is organising various online events to help nourish the faith of young people and for all adults during the new lockdown. Are you interested? Or do you know someone who may be? Please pass the details on to anyone who may enjoy and benefit from these events.

RISE // Online Youth Group - Our first online Youth Group launches on March 11th. It's free of charge and open to anyone in Year 7 to 9. Every other Thursday from 7pm to 8pm. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline

Online Study Days for Adults - Our first study day will be on Saturday March 13th. Father Michael Docherty will be talking to us about Salvation History. Tickets £5. 1pm to 5pm. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/study

ENGAGE // Online Youth Ministry Course - The second run of the ENGAGE course starts on March 16th. The course is aimed at people starting out in Youth Ministry or people who've been around a while and want to learn a little more. Earlybird price £48 until February 10th. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/engage