

# A Snapshot of the Liturgical Year

# A Liturgical year sets before us, season by season the life of Christ.

#### Suggested resources to use for review:

- The Ordo for the current year there is a wealth of information about a liturgical year
- Centre for Liturgy Liturgical Calendar 2022 view a liturgical year as a whole.
- The Sunday Missal read and reflect on the short paragraph that introduces each Sunday of the year.



## General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar

Throughout the course of the year the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and observes the birthdays of the Saints.

During the different periods of the liturgical year, in accord with traditional discipline, the Church completes the education of the faithful by means of both spiritual and bodily devotional practices, instruction, prayer, works of penance and works of mercy.

The cycle of readings in the Lectionary are based on the Liturgical Year and presented to us in a systematic way to help us understand the life of Christ.

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When does a liturgical year close? What is so ordinary about Ordinary Time? Note there are two seasons of Ordinary Time Explore each season and how long it goes for.

#### A Liturgical Year -the liturgical cycle of the seasons of the Church's year.

The Church's Liturgical Year begins with the First Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas.

Advent, a time of joyful waiting, when we look back to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and we look forward to his coming again at the end of time.

**Christmas** celebrates the coming of Christ into the world – the son of God, Jesus, became man and lived among us.

**Ordinary Time** the first period of Ordinary Time comes between Christmas Season and Lent. We explore more deeply the life of Jesus and reflect on his message of life, justice, love and peace. For more information on Ordinary Time see the article from Liturgy Brisbane - <u>Ordinary Time (1)</u>.

**Lent** begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days, from Ash Wednesday to the beginning of Mass on Holy Thursday.

**The Easter Triduum** begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with Evening Prayer on Sunday of the Resurrection.

**The Easter Season** lasts for 50 days after the Mass of the Resurrection and culminates on the feast of Pentecost Sunday.

The second period of **Ordinary Time** stretches from Pentecost to the feast of Christ the King and a new liturgical cycle begins again with Advent.

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