

28 June 2022

Dear Parents, extended whanau and children,

Reflecting on our journey together so far this year...

We have celebrated many liturgies this year. We are excited to be able to start having school and class masses again too! Fr Jae Woo is our chaplain and we are blessed to have him lead us in these special occasions, where we encounter Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist.

- In Term 1 we celebrated the following liturgies: a liturgy to begin our new school year together was celebrated outside together as a school. Ash Wednesday and St Patrick's Day liturgies were celebrated within our individual classrooms owing to Covid restrictions at the time.
- Term 2 has seen us be able to come together to celebrate mass again. We have started these celebrations with class masses on Monday mornings. We also loved being able to share our Matariki mass with so many of you recently. We look forward to being able to celebrate many more masses in the next two terms together – starting with St Dominic's Day on 1 August and the Feast of the Assumption on 15 August.
- The Sacramental Programme is up and running again for this year. We have had two group Baptisms, in Terms 1 and 2 welcoming 12 children into the St Patrick's Parish community. This term we have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the next step in their journey of faith. On Tuesday 23 August at 6.00pm in the Church we will celebrate the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, with Bishop Michael, which will see these children fully initiated into our Parish.



*The Liturgical Year – we are currently in the season of **Ordinary Time**...*

So, the great celebration of the Easter Season has ended and we may ask “Now what?” It can kind of feel like a let-down, right? We have all these great celebrations of the liturgical year in Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and then it's just plain old Ordinary Time. Blah. But wait just a second! That's not right. Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary. It's so much more than that!

What is Ordinary Time?

Just like any other season in the liturgical calendar, this season celebrates a very specific time in the life of Jesus. The 33 or 34 weeks of Ordinary Time contain the rest of Jesus' ministry on earth and includes some of the major events of the Gospels we have come to know and love, such as the miracles, the parables, the calling of the twelve, the sermon on the mount, . . . we get all that and more during this season. Truly, there is much to celebrate.

When is the season?

Ordinary Time has two parts, but it remains one season. The first part begins right after the feast of the Epiphany and runs until Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday (when Lent begins). The second part begins the Monday after Pentecost and runs until the First Sunday of Advent.

What's the colour?

The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green. This represents the growth and expansion of the Church following the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Green symbolises growth and new life.

What are we supposed to do?

Like all liturgical seasons, Ordinary Time is meant to be lived! We are called to be active participants! Participating in Ordinary Time means participating in the everyday life of Jesus. In Ordinary time we are taken through the life of Christ. It is a time of conversion, of growth, and a time for living the life of Christ.

A thanksgiving prayer for a winter day...

On this winter's day
We are thankful for the small things that lift our spirits-
The warmth of another's smile or embrace,
The glimpse of the sun through the clouds,
Freshly brewed coffee,
Newly baked bread,
Hot soup.



On this winter's day
We are thankful for glimmers of hope;
For acts of kindness that tell us
We are not alone
In our sorrow,
In our suffering,
In our uncertainty.



On this winter's day
We are thankful for
All that stirs us into life;
For funny stories and laughter,
For music that sets us dancing,
For words and wisdom that inspire us.



On this winter's day
We are warmed
By the beauty of this place in which we live,
By the company of family and friends,
By our passion for justice and peace.

May the thoughts of our hearts,
the words of our mouth,
the work of our hands,
and all that we do with our lives
speak of grace and truth
as we seek to live in the way of Christ. Amen.

Sue Maynard, Director of Religious Studies