

Crowland Abbey

**REVD MARK WILLIAMS
PRIEST IN CHARGE**

What is "Ordinary Time"?

When you visit our beautiful Abbey, you may notice that the predominate colour on the Altar and elsewhere is green and this colour represents the season of Ordinary Time.

- Each Sunday of Ordinary Time is numbered, and this use of the ordinal numbers is the origin of the phrase "Ordinary Time." When most people hear the phrase "Ordinary Time," they think nothing special is happening. And in one sense, they are right; there aren't as many major feasts, and for those who love the feasts, this can seem like a long run of shapeless or even boring weeks.

However, there is another way to look at it. A season without many special occasions is also a season without many distractions. It is a season for developing good rhythms for spiritual life. Because there is less focus on what God has done in the past, there is time to focus on our relationship with God in the present.

What Do We Do During Ordinary Time?

Green represents growth, both numerically as the Church expands, and spiritually as each member of the Church becomes more like Christ.

During Ordinary Time, we can develop spiritual habits and disciplines that strengthen our normal relationship with God and our daily walk with the Lord. A helpful approach is to find patterns that can be practiced daily, weekly, or monthly.

Not Exciting, But Essential

Ordinary Time is actually the most essential in the development of our spiritual lives and our faith.

This is the long green stretch of days where our faith takes root and begins to grow. Ordinary Time invites us not into preparation, but into formation. It's the season for building spiritual habits, shaping the quiet, consistent ways our families walk with the Lord. Ordinary Time is a time for the Church to live out her vocation in the midst of the world, recalling that every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Ordinary" Time might well refer to living out our "ordinary" lives as Christians. But, since we follow the risen Lord of the Universe, there's nothing "ordinary" about it!

Revd Mike Ongyerth
Focal Minister
