

CYCLE OF READINGS DURING THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and concludes on the Saturday following the feast of Christ the King.

LITURGICAL YEAR

Advent runs for 4 weeks and part of the 5th week until Christmas Day. It has two parts:

- a) until December 16th preparing for Second Coming of Jesus.
- b) December 17th-24th preparing for our celebration of Jesus' birth.

Christmastide

December 25th until the Sunday after Epiphany (the Baptism of our Lord).

Then **Ordinary Time** (34 weeks) commences.

Lent and Eastertide interrupt Ordinary Time.

Lent is six full weeks and the second half of the week commencing with Ash Wednesday. During the Sundays of Lent the first reading from the OT is not linked with the Gospel as it is during the remainder of the year. Instead the OT Sunday readings each Lent are a summary of the OT. (see document on this website entitled *Scripture in the Liturgy*)

Eastertide is seven weeks concluding with Pentecost. During Easter both readings are from the NT. The first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles.

Ordinary Time resumes on the Monday after Pentecost and continues until the Saturday after Christ the King when we begin again.

CYCLE OF SUNDAY READINGS IN ORDINARY TIME

The Gospels follow a three year cycle, one of the Synoptics is read each year.

Gospel	Year A	Matthew	(2011)
	Year B	Mark	(2012)
	Year C	Luke	(2013)

The First Reading links thematically with Gospel.

The Psalm is our response to God's Word to us in the First Reading.

The Second Reading is chosen independently. It is almost continuous reading (semi-continuous) of an entire book of the New Testament. When we have read that book, we begin reading another book of the NT, and thus it continues.

CYCLE OF DAILY READINGS IN ORDINARY TIME

The reading of the Gospel during Daily Masses follows a yearly cycle. Each of the three Synoptics is read for part of the year.

Gospel	Mark	Weeks 1-9
	Matthew	Weeks 10-21
	Luke	Weeks 22-34

The first reading during the Daily Masses covers most of the Bible in a two-year cycle and is not linked thematically with the Gospel as it is on Sundays.

Reading Year 1 (2012)
 Year 2 (2013)

You might well ask ‘What happened to John’s Gospel?’ Parts of John are read outside of Ordinary Time, during Lent, Eastertide and other feasts.