The Liturgical 2024-25

A document to support Diocesan schools in planning Collective Worship that has the Word of God at its heart, incorporates the Church's liturgical year, its seasons and feasts, and provides opportunities for promoting Catholic Social Teaching.



'PILGRIMAS OF HOPE' - JUBILEE YEAR -https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025-letter-from-pope-francis/

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee will begin in Advent 2023, which will mark the start of a year of prayer. The Bishops' Conference will be producing resources for the preparatory year of prayer, focusing on the Our Father, as well as resources about Jubilee in the Catholic Church.M

School Jubilee Plan:

Term 1	'A shared journey that the church is called to make'	Faith (Discovering what it means to be pilgrim of hope)	 A whole school mass celebrated on the feast day of our lady. Mary as a Pilgrim of Hope for us at St Mary's Catholic College - launch of jubilee Launch of our pilgrimage group - student group to lead on aspectS of the jubilee year and start preparation for their own pilgrimage Whole school assemblies on the theme of the jubilee year in term 1 Visual display of the Jubilee theme in front area
Term 2	'I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, to a great "symphony" of prayer.'	Prayer (opportunities of prayer for those who need)	 The school chapel will host a 'pilgrimage prayer trail' that will take pupils through what happens in a pilgrimage to Lourdes with links to the main themes of hope, faith, forgiveness & charity Weekly Chapel prayer opportunities with links to our prayer themes of poverty, refugees & those oppressed. Whole school Lent walk - 'Our journey to Rome'
Term 3	'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength'	Charity (Putting our faith into action and being the makers of change)	 Pilgrimage prayer trail to move to local church - Holy Apostles and Martyrs (dates TBC) and opened up to local community and primary schools. Refugee water walk as part of our enrichment week. Year group fundraising Pupils to join SYMT on their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.
Term 4	'Let us press forward in its mission of bringing the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to everyone.	Hope How can we continue this work	 A whole school mass celebrated on the feast day of our lady. Celebrate how we have been like Mary as a pilgrim of Hope over the last 12 month - ending of the Jubilee Assemblies led by our pilgrimage group on their pilgrimage to Lourdes - How others can get involved. Chapel reflection for all classes in AUT term reflection on their journey of Faith, prayer, Charity and Hope the last 12 months.

Chapel year focus & RE curriculum links:

Year group Half term Theme & curriculum link		Theme & curriculum link	Links & resources
Year 7	HT1 WK 4 & 5	 Belonging to a catholic community Creation & covenant- WK 4 responsibility to others & our community. Pupils to look at what it means to be part of a Catholiccommunity and their role in discovering their faith. Links to retreat days. 	
Year 8	HT3 WK 20 & 21	 <u>Pilgrimage</u> Galilee to Jerusalem - WK 20 pilgrimage and Lourdes Pupils will focus on the jubilee year and what it means to be a pilgrim. They will reflect on their faith journey so far and barriers to faith. 	
Year 9	HT2 WK 10 & 11	 Mary our Patron saint Launch of Year of Pilgrims of Hope Prophecy & promise - WK10 who is Mary Pupil will look at the importance fo Marya nd how we can live like her today. 	
Year 10	 HT5 WK 30 & 31 Paschal candle item and reflection - WK30 Use or artefact and what it is use for and what it teaches us about life after death. 		
Year 11	HT4 WK 23 & 24	 Forgiveness - sacrament of reconciliation Curriculum link -WK 24 sin & forgiveness revision Pupil offered the sacrament with local parish priests 	
6th form	HT6 WK 33 & 34	 Stewardship and daily life Laudato Si - WK33 What can we do to make change and be stewards of the earth today? 	

LAUDATO SI'

In May 2020 Pope Francis inaugurated "Laudato Si' Week" at the Vatican commemorating the 5th anniversary of the publication of his eco-encyclical with the same title, opening a wider year-long commemoration of the document aimed at spurring global citizens to adopt more sustainable practices. As communities begin to envision what a post-COVID world will look Laudato Si' continues to provide "the moral and spiritual compass for the journey to create a more caring, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world." Encyclical Resources from CAFOD here - https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical

COMMON PRAYER FOR LAUDATO SI'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your image and made us stewards of all your creation, of our common home.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it. May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind. Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic, Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good, Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected, in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a central and essential part of our faith. It is rooted in Scripture that tells of God's special love for the poor and marginalised and calls us to be bearers of love and justice. It is teaching founded on the words and actions of Jesus who identified himself with the hungry and thirsty, the

sick and the imprisoned, the naked and the stranger – the 'least of my brothers and sisters'. CST is formed by the wisdom of Church leaders and provides us with a moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation so, with care for our common home and the dignity of every human person at its heart, CST compels us to make present in our unjust and broken world the justice, love and peace of God, especially to our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

- Human Dignity
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Concern for the Poor
- Solidarity & the Common Good
- Family
- Community & Participation
- The Dignity of Work
- Care of Creation

Throughout the liturgical year there are countless opportunities for schools to focus upon aspects of CST and bring reflections on global justice and poverty into their worship activities. Using the language of CST and drawing children and young people into a deeper understanding of its principles will inspire and empower them to respond to inequality and injustice in the modern world, leading them to seek ways to put their faith in action in school, in the local community and in the wider world. This document suggests ideas and opportunities for promoting CST in schools as a supplement to the excellent and varied work that is already taking place in Diocesan schools with regards to CST and social action.

Further information and resources for CST can be found at:

- http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/
- https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Catholic-social-teaching
- https://missio.org.uk/catholic-social-teaching/

CARITAS DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

Caritas is the social action and social justice agency of the Diocese of Shrewsbury that seeks to work with children, families and communities throughout the Diocese. They support families with a range of concerns for example mental health, addiction, domestic abuse and family breakdown. They offer practical support to those living in poverty, in partnership with SVP and local food banks. They also give support to refugees and those seeking asylum. Each Lent school can support Caritas by fund raising for the Good Shepherd collection and Caritas offers opportunities for Caritas Ambassadors in schools. If you would like to know more see https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/about/ or email info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Society in England and Wales, through its Mini Vinnies and Youth SVP programmes, encourages children and young people to develop their faith and spirituality in order to put their faith into action; in service to the disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised of society. F or more information see https://www.svp.org.uk/involve-young-people

MISSIO

Missio is the Pope's official Charity for Overseas Missions. It is the Holy Father's chosen instrument for sharing the Gospel and building the Church throughout the world. Their secondary resources encourage students to reflect on their role in building the Kingdom of God for all people and aim to help young people to: discover the world around them and reflect on their role within it; think critically, inspired by Christ's Gospel; to embrace Catholic Social Teaching and to grow in faith. Secondary schools can download their free resources to follow the Liturgical Year, including Advent and Lent. They also have a series of workshops explaining the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and https://missio.org.uk/general-resources/
For primary schools Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, encouraging children to pray, fundraise and become missionaries themselves — children helping children. They provide primary school resources throughout the year focused on the Gospel, liturgical seasons and on our various overseas projects including assemblies, liturgies, activities, posters and aids to prayer. All resources are available from https://missiontogether.org.uk/teachers-resources/

CAFOD

CAFOD is the official international development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and is active within the global Caritas family. CAFOD provides a wide range of resources for primary and secondary schools and has Diocesan volunteers who can help you to promote CAFOD and CST in your school. See https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education/Education-resources and https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education/Education-resources and https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education/Education-resources and https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/CAFOD-in-your-area/Shrewsbury

FAITH IN ACTION AWARD

The CYMFED Faith in Action award scheme is a great opportunity to encourage and inspire young people to get more involved in the community and in local Parishes. Open to pupils from Y6 upwards the Faith in Action award aims:

- To celebrate the faith journey of young people
- To celebrate what already happens
- To encourage tangible living faith in the 'real world'
- To strengthen links between individuals, communities and organisations
- To explore the universal call to holiness
- To work for the Good News and the common good

Schools who wish to participate must contact the Youth Office at youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL T	HEME & GOSPEL READING	FEAST DAYS/ SPECIAL DAYS	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
			SEPTEMBER	
	Р	ope Francis' prayer intention for Sept	tember	CST THEME AND LINKS
2 nd September	New Beginnings	"You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions." Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	22 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, the Revenant use of Creation 1 st World Day of Prayer for Creation 5 th St Teresa of Calcutta	Care for creation Sunday 1st World Day of Prayer for Creation – the start of Creation Time which runs until 6th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources https://catholicclimatemovement.global/
9 th September	Let us Listen	"If they listen to you, you have won them over." Matthew 18:15-20	23 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Education Sunday 14 th Exaltation of the Holy Cross Fairtrade fortnight	SOLIDARITY https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234838/Home/Resources/Education_Sunday/Education_Sunday.aspx
16 th September	Who do people say I am	"But you," he asked, "Who do you say I am?" Mark 8:27-35	Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Joy of the Gospel) 21 st St Matthew 21 st International Day of Peace	Care for creation 21st International Day of Peace https://internationaldayofpeace.org/ https://paxchristi.net/2020/07/06/catholic-nonviolence-days-of-action/
23 rd September	Servant of all	"Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:30-37	25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Harvest Sunday 27 th St Vincent de Paul	Care for creation https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Harvest-prayers 27 th Feast of St. Vincent de Paul - Mini Vinnies/Youth SVP
30 th September	Good Deeds	"Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name." Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48	26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time 4 th St Francis of Assisi 4 th CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	Care for creation
7 th October	Count your blessings	"For it is to such as these (little children) that the Kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:2-16	Month focus on the rosary 27 th Week of Ordinary Time 10 th World Mental Health Day	Preferential Option for the Poor Black history month - https://motivationalspeakersagency.co.uk/news/black-history-month-what-is-it-and-how-do-i-celebrate#:~:text=October%201st%202024%20marks%20the.cultur

14 th October	Justice for all	"Go and sell everything you own	Week of Prayer for Prisoners and families	Life and Dignity of the Human Person
		and give the money to the	12 th St Wilfrid	Sunday 20 th World Missions Sunday
		poor then come, follow me."	18 th St Luke	https://missio.org.uk/what-is-world-mission-sunday/
		Mark 10:17-30		
21 st October	Serving others	"Anyone who wants to be great	29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Call to Family, Community and Participation
		among you must be your servant,	World Mission Sunday	
		and anyone who wants to be first		
		among you must be slave to all."		
		Mark 10:35-45		
		Half term break - Mon	day 28th October - Friday 2nd November 2024	
4 th November	The Greatest	"The second is this: 'Love your	31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Life and Dignity of the Human Person
	Commandment	neighbour as yourself.' There is no	1st - All Saints	Friday 6th CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
		commandment greater than	2 nd - All Souls	https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Harvest-Fast-Day
		these."	9 th – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	
		Mark 12:28-34		
		Widtk 12.20-34		
11 th November	Give all you have	"This poor widow has put in more	32 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Life and Dignity of the Human Person
		than all."	Remembrance Sunday	Prisons Week
			11 th Remembrance Day	https://prisonsweek.org/
		Mark 12:38-44	Anti-Bullying Week	Hello Yellow-
				https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraisi
				ng/helloyellow/
				13th – 17th November Anti-Bullying Week
				https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/
18 th November	Why do we	"The stars will fall from heaven	33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Preferential Option for the Poor
	remember them?	and the powers of heaven will be	World Day of Prayer for the Poor	Tuesday 19 th World Toilet Day -
		shaken."	RED Wednesday – Prayer for those	https://www.worldtoiletday.info/
			persecuted for their faith	Or use CAFOD's World Toilet Day Assembly
				Friday22nd - Universal Children's Day
		Mark 13:24-32		https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
25 th November	Christ the King	"Jesus says, "Mine is not a	Last Week of Ordinary Time – Christ the	Solidarity
25 November	Ciliast the King	kingdom of this world."	Universal King	World youth Sunday
		Kinguoiii oi tiiis woriu.	National Youth Sunday	http://www.nationalvouthsundav.org.uk/
		John 18:33-47	30 th St Andrew	https://homemission.org.uk/home/youth/
		JUIII 10.55-47	30 St Anulew	inteps.//nomemission.org.uk/nome/youth/

2nd December	What are we waiting	"Stay awake, praying at all times	1 st Sunday of Advent	Preferential Option for the Poor
	for?	for the strength to survive all that	3 rd Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees	Sunday 8th december - feast day of the immaculate
		is going to happen, to stand with	6 th Feast of St Nicholas	conception -Our lady whole school feast day
		confidence before the Son of		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		Man."		
		Luke 21:25-28, 34-36		
9 th December	Being a witness	"A voice cries in the wilderness:	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Rights & Responsibilities
		Prepare a way for the Lord"	9 th Feast of the Immaculate Conception of	
			the Virgin Mary	
		Luke 3:1-6	Bible Sunday	
16 th December	All things are possible	'What about us? What must we	3 rd Week of Advent – Gaudete Sunday	Rights & Responsibilities
		do?'		
		Luke 3:10-18		
		HALF TERM - Monday	23rd December 2024 - Friday 3rd January 2025	
		Pope p	rayer intention for January 2025	
6 th January	The Epiphany	"The Word was made flesh and	The Feast of the Epiphany	1 st January World Day of Peace – see Pope Francis'
·,		lived among us."	The reast of the approach	new year message of peace
				, and the state of
		Matthew 2:1-12		
13 th January	Being responsible	"And a voice came from heaven,	8 th The Baptism of the Lord	Call to Family, Community and Participation
		"You are my Son, the Beloved; my	8th – Maximilian Kolbe – Birthday	
		favour rests on you".		
		Luke 3:15-16,21-22		
20 th January	Pilgrims of Hope	"Do whatever he tells you."	2 nd Week in Ordinary Time – Launch of the	Call to Family, Community and Participation
			Jubilee Year- Pilgrims of Hope	Day of special prayer for world peace
		John 2:1-11	Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25)	https://www.paxchristi.net/
27 th January	Choices	"This text is being fulfilled today	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	27 th St Angela Merici
		even as you listen."	Sunday of the Word of God	https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/12549/97594
			27th -Holocaust memorial day	/version/5/file/St_Angela.pdf
		Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21		27th Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 Theme –
				https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial
				-day/this-years-theme/

3 rd February 10 th February	Courage	"They became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him." Luke 2:22-40 "They left everything and	2 nd – Presentation of the Lord Racial Justice Sunday Victims of Human Trafficking 8 th – St Josephine Bakhita	Preferential Option for the Poor Solidarity
TO PESITIALLY	Dedication	followed him." Luke 5:1-11	Children's Mental Health Week 11 th Our Lady of Lourdes – World day of prayer for the sick	8 th St Josephine Bakita – Day of Prayer for Trafficked People https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Saints-prayer-cards https://www.caritas.org/2016/02/international-day-prayer-awareness-human-trafficking/
		Half term	- Monday 17th - 21st February 2025	
24 th February	Be Bold and do good	"Love your enemies."	7 th Week in Ordinary Time 1 st March Women's World Day of Prayer	
3 rd March	Compassion	"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart" Luke 6:39-45	8 th Sunday of Ordinary Time Day of Prayer for the Unemployed 5 th Ash Wednesday - LENT BEGINS	Dignity & rights of workers Friday 8 th International Women's Day https://www.internationalwomensday.com/
10 th March	Being tempted	"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" Luke 4:1-13	1 st Sunday of Lent	Preferential Option for the Poor Check out CAFOD's & Missio Ash Wednesday and Lent resources
17 th March	Dare to shine	"As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothes became brilliant as lightening." Luke 9:28-36	2 nd Sunday of Lent The needy and hungry of the World 14 th CAFOD Family Fast Day 17 th St Patrick 19 th St Joseph Husband of Mary	Preferential Option for the Poor Support Caritas Shrewsbury https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/get-involved/g ood-shepherd-collection/ Fairtrade fortnight begins https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight 20th International Day of Happiness https://www.dayofhappiness.net/#join 22nd World Water Day - https://www.unwater.org/what-we-do/inspireaction/

Repentance	"But unless you repent, you too	3 rd Sunday of Lent	
	will all perish"	24 th St Oscar Romero	
		25 th The Annunciation of the Lord	
	Luke 13:1-9		
Forgiveness	"While he was still a long way off,	4 th Sunday of Lent	
	his father saw him and was moved		
	with pity."		
	Luke 15:1-3,11-32		
	Half term br	eak - Monday 7th -21st April (Easter)	
Love conquers all	"the one Jesus loved, and said,	Easter Sunday 20th April	Solidarity
	"They have taken the Lord out of	Easter Monday 21st April	https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/
	•		22 nd Earth Day
	where they have put him!"		https://www.earthday.org/earthday/countdown-to-2
			020/
Faith	· ·	1	Dignity & rights of workers
	1 1 1		1 st May St Joseph the Worker – Day of Prayer for
	not seen and yet believe."		Human Work
		1 st May – Joseph the Worker	
		Land	
Bravery	"Do you love me?"	3 rd Sunday of Easter	
	lohn 21:1-19		
Belonging	"Jesus said, "The sheep that	4 th Sunday of Easter	Mental health awareness week -
	belong to me listen to my voice."	,	https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-en
			gagement/mental-health-awareness-week
	John 10:27-30		
Being a disciple	"By this love you have for one	5 th Sunday of Easter	
	another, everyone will know you	24 th Our Lady Help of Christians Diocesan	
	are my disciples."	Patron	
	John 13:31-33,34-35		
	Forgiveness Love conquers all Faith Bravery Belonging	Will all perish" Luke 13:1-9 "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity." Luke 15:1-3,11-32 Half term br Love conquers all "the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" John 20:1-9 Faith "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." John 20:19-31 Bravery "Do you love me?" John 21:1-19 Belonging "Jesus said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice." John 10:27-30 Being a disciple "By this love you have for one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."	will all perish" Luke 13:1-9 Forgiveness "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity." Luke 15:1-3,11-32 Half term break - Monday 7th -21st April (Easter) Love conquers all "the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" John 20:1-9 Faith "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." John 20:19-31 Bravery "Do you love me?" John 21:1-19 Belonging "Jesus said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice." John 10:27-30 Being a disciple "By this love you have for one another, everyone will know you are my disciples." Ath Sunday of Easter 24th Sunday of Easter 24th Our Lady Help of Christians Diocesan Patron

2 nd June	Spirit filled	"They were all filled with the Holy	7 th Sunday of Easter	8th World Oceans Day
		Spirit and began to speak."	World Communications Day	https://www.worldoceansday.org/
		Acts 2:1-21		http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/oce
				<u>an.html</u>
				https://www.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/0
				1/Prayer-for-the-Oceans.pdf
9 th June	The Church	"The Holy Spirit will teach you	Pentecost	Preferential Option for the Poor
	community	everything."		
		John 14:15-16. 23-26		
16 th June	Truth	"The Spirit of truth will lead you	Most Holy Trinity	
10 June	Trucii	to the complete truth."	Wioschory mility	
		John 16:12-15		
23 rd June	Human rights	"Give them something to eat	Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	World Refugee Week
		yourselves."	Prayer for those who suffer persecution,	https://refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/education-reso
			oppression and denial of human rights	urces/
		Luke 9:11-17	22 nd Ss John Fisher and Thomas More	22 nd Sts Thomas More and John Fisher – Day of prayer
			A call for action	for those who suffer persecution, oppression and
				denial of human rights.
30 th June	Know who you are	"But what about you?" he asked.	29 th Ss Peter and Paul	
		"Who do you say I am?"		
46		Matthew 16:13-19		
7 th July	Travelling light	"Carry no purse, no haversack, no	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Dignity & rights of workers
		sandals."		
		Luke 10:1-12, 17-20		
14 th July	Who is my	"Who is my neighbour?"	15 th Week in Ordinary Time	Dignity & rights of workers
14 July	neighbour?	Wile is my neighbour.	Sea Sunday	Diginty a rights of workers
	neignbour:	Luke 10:25-37		
21 st July	Achievement	"Lord, don't you care that my	16 th Week in Ordinary Time	
•		sister has left me to do the work		
		by myself? Tell her to help me!"		
		Luke 10:38-42		

The colour of the shading is indicative of the Liturgical colours used by the Church at different times or seasons of the year.

Green: 'Ordinary Time' refers to the part of the year outside the seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter. There are 33/34 weeks of Ordinary Time. During this time the Church helps us to reflect on the life and work of Jesus. The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green, a colour seen everywhere in trees and plants and a symbol of life and hope.

Purple is used during Advent and Lent as a sign of penance, sacrifice and preparation. At the midpoint of both of these seasons—Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent—rose (pink) vestments are traditionally worn as a sign of joy: we rejoice at the midpoint because we are half-way through the preparation and anticipate the coming joy of Christmas or Easter.

Rose is a lighter version of purple because it signifies the penitential purple is mixed with the white of the approaching festival. In both Advent and Lent there is a moment when the atmosphere of penance is brightened by a glimpse of light from the glorious season for which we are preparing ourselves. The third Sunday of Advent tells us 'Gaudéte, rejoice!' because the Lord is near and the fourth Sunday of Lent says 'Laetáre, Ierúsalem, be joyful, Jerusalem, and all who love her!' because she herself is loved by the Lord.

Red symbolises the shedding of blood and is therefore used on Palm Sunday (when Christ entered Jerusalem to prepare for His death), Good Friday, any other commemoration of the Lord's passion, the votive Mass of the Precious Blood, the days marking the martyrdom of the apostles (except St. John), and the feasts of other martyrs who offered their lives for the faith. However, red also signifies the burning fire of God's love. For this reason, red vestments are won on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and tongues of fire rested on their heads and for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

White or gold, a colour symbolising rejoicing and purity of soul, is worn during the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Easter. White vestments are also used for feasts of our Lord (except those pertaining to His passion), the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints who were not martyrs.