

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Mark 4:35-41

As the Church enters again into Ordinary Time after the weeks of Lent and Easter, we are reminded of the of time. Time is an important idea in our faith. Unlike many other religions which believe that time is an endless cycle Christianity believes that there is a beginning and end to time. There was a moment when God created the world and time began and there will be a moment when God will end the world and time itself will end. The Bible is itself a book of time; the beginning of time is found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, and the end of time in the book of the Apocalypse, the last book of the Bible.

The Church marks the passage of time through the seasons of the year. Not just the four seasons of the natural world—spring, summer, autumn, and winter—which the Church prays for with the Ember Days on the first Fridays of each of these seasons—but also the seasons of the life of Christ with the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide, and Ordinary Time to the many solemnities, feasts, and memorials. But apart from this the year is also divided by months and days, each of which is dedicated to a particular aspect of our faith.

January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus, February is the month of the Holy Family, March is the month of St. Joseph, April is the month of the Blessed Sacrament, May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, July is the month of the Precious Blood, August is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, September is the month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, October is the month of the Holy Rosary, November is the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and December is the month of the Immaculate Conception.

And then there are the days of the week. Sunday is dedicated to the Resurrection and the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Monday is dedicated to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Souls in Purgatory, Tuesday is the day of the Holy Angels, Wednesday the day of St. Joseph, Thursday is given in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday honours Our Lord's Passion and His Sacred Heart, and Saturday is the day of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Heart, for just as Saturday is the gateway to Sunday, so the Blessed Virgin Mary leads us to her Son, our Lord.

This is the genius of our faith. That we recognise amidst the natural and the physical the supernatural and the spiritual. This all comes from the fact that we believe that God became man in Jesus Christ and so blessed all that is physical. So we should engage with these great traditions of our faith and see in them just another means to raise us from this world to the next.