

This Week's Liturgy Calendar.

Ordinary Season of the Year. (a) Weekdays – Year 2

Sunday 7th June: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. (a)

There is a beautiful Russian icon of the Blessed Trinity painted by a monk by the name of Rublev. It shows the three Divine persons sitting at a table but the place at the front of the table is empty. This place is meant to symbolise welcome towards the stranger and the outsider, a place that is meant for you and for me and for the whole human family. It signifies God's invitation to us to share in the life of the Trinity.

In the first reading, God has revealed himself to Moses on Mount Sinai as the God who is faithful to his promises. He is a God rich in tenderness and compassion.

In the second reading, St. Paul uses a familiar form of greeting and blessing, one that is still used as a greeting at the beginning of Mass. He encourages the Corinthians to live in peace and harmony.

In the extract from John's Gospel, we are reminded how God has shown his love for us by sending his son to save us all. All who believe in him will be saved.

Monday 8th June: 10th Week of the Year.

The first reading takes us back into the history of the people of Israel. It continues where we stopped before Lent. We will be hearing about the various prophets in the reign of King Ahab who was married to Jezebel. Elijah is the first who condemns the people in no uncertain terms the false gods introduced by Jezebel.

The Gospel takes us to the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. This is the start in a way of Jesus fulfilling the promises made by setting down the ideals he expects us all to achieve.

Tuesday 9th June: Feast of St. Columba.

Columba was born in Gartan in County Donegal in 521 into a family of royal lineage. He became a monk at Clonard and was ordained a priest where he was trained by St. Finian. He began founding monasteries in Derry, Durrow and possible Kells before travelling to Scotland and landing in Iona. From here, his monks travelled all over evangelising the local tribes and their kings. His influence reached as far as Northumbria. Iona became known as a place of pilgrimage and as a centre of missionary expansion. He died in 597.

Wednesday 10th June: 10th Week of the Year.

Today we have the story of Elijah being challenged by the prophets of one of the local gods – Baal. He was a fertility god worshipped by Jezebel and Ahab. Many of the people worshipped both the God of Israel and Baal to be on the safe side. As a result of the confrontation with Elijah and the prophets of Baal the people see that there is only one God and that is the one to be worshipped.

The Gospel reminds us that the old covenant was good but that it was to be completed by Jesus through his mission amongst the people.

Thursday 11th June: Memorial of St. Barnabas.

Barnabas was a Jewish Levite from Cyprus. He was not one of the original twelve apostles but has always been identified as an apostle because of the work he carried out in the early Church. He was noted for his generosity and for encouraging the early Christians to persevere in their new found faith. He worked in Antioch where he brought St. Paul. He worked with Paul on his first missionary journey and later went to Cyprus with St. Mark.

Friday 12th June: 10th Week of the Year.

In spite of all his work, Elijah finds that many of the people still refuse to accept the one true God and desert him. Elijah travels for forty days to find the Lord and finds him not in fires and winds but in the still quiet peace within a cave. His encounter with the Lord lifts his depression and he returns to the people, convinced that God has not left his people.

Jesus repeats and stresses again. The people must obey the laws of their religion from the hearts. Ritual empty observance will never be acceptable to God.

Saturday 13th June: Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua.

He was born in Lisbon in 1195, originally being called Ferdinand. He changed his name to Anthony when he joined the Friars Minor. He was very inspired after a visit to Assisi where he met St. Francis. He became known for his preaching in Italy especially in Padua where he lived for the last few years of his life. He was only 36 when he died.

