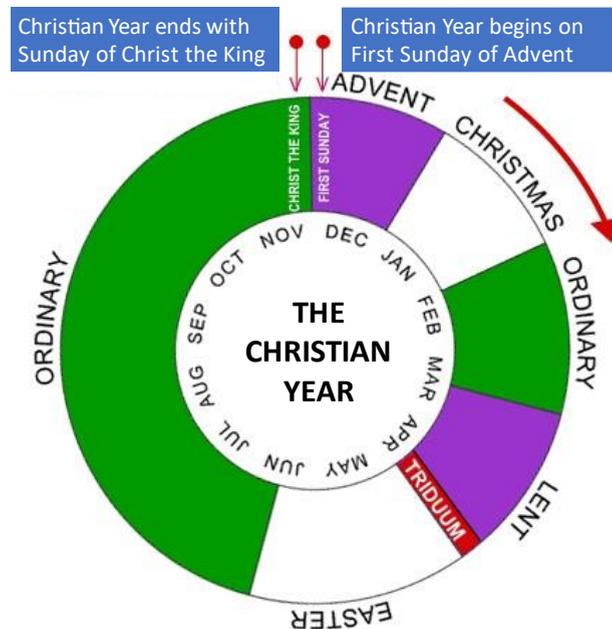<u>Weekly Message from Fr William for Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time 2022</u>

Dear People of St Mary's, at this moment in time we are nearing the end of the Christian Year. The Christian Year is made up of seasons, starting with Advent.

In the season of Advent we are waiting for the coming of Jesus.

In the season of Christmas we a celebrating his birthday, celebrating that he has come.

In the season of Lent we are fasting, to turn our hearts back to him.

In the season of Easter we are feasting – celebrating the Resurrection, celebrating for 50 days the greatest feast of the Christian year.

Waiting and celebrating, fasting and feasting: It's all part of our Christian spirituality. Let's safeguard it. Let's tune in to it. Let's live it !

Then, two chunks of Ordinary Time – the little chunk between Christmas and Lent; the bigger chunk after Easter to the end of the Christian Year, ending with Christ the King.

So here we are, near the end of the second chunk of Ordinary Time, near the end of the Christian Year, just one month to go, and in this final bit of Ordinary Time, in this final bit of the Christian Year, we have the month of November. It falls within Ordinary Time, but by tradition we dedicate this month to all those who have died. On 1st November we keep the feast of All Saints, celebrating all those holy men and women, and even children, who have died and already share in the Resurrection and in the eternal glory of Christ. On 2nd November we commemorate All the Faithful Departed, including those we have known. In more recent times we have had Remembrance Sunday in November when we commemorate all those who have died in military conflict, and in even more recent times our own St Mary's remembrance service for those of our parish who have died in the last 12 months, and a November book placed before the altar for you to write in the names of your loved ones who have died. May they all share in the glory of his resurrection with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

William

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, 30 october 2022