

What is the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross?

We Are

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross is equivalent to a diocese for Roman Catholics, initially for those who were nurtured in the Anglican tradition, or whose faith has been renewed by the Ordinariate's liturgy and evangelising mission. The Ordinariate was created by the Vatican on 15 June 2012.

Our Mission



The Ordinariate exists for those who are, and who will be coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. Through the reverence and beauty of our worship, the study of Sacred Scripture, and charity for those in need, we desire to share the joy of being Roman Catholic!

Our Clergy



The Ordinariate's priests and deacons are clergy who were ordained after an extensive formation process in the Catholic Church: background checks; acceptance of candidacy by both the Ordinariate and the Vatican; completion of an approved formation programme; and, examination.

Celibacy is the norm for clergy. Permission has been given, on a case by case basis, by the Pope, for former Anglican priests who are married to be ordained Catholic priests for the Ordinariate.

If widowed, they may not marry.

We Are Not

Some people persist in referring to us as “The Anglican Ordinariate”; however, we are fully Catholic, even in having, as we were encouraged to do, brought certain aspects of that patrimony into the Catholic Church. Our mandate for evangelisation was expanded considerably so that, any unbaptised person, or baptised persons of a different ecclesial background other than Anglican may, with proper catechetical preparation, enter the Catholic Church through the Ordinariate.



Around the Globe

There are three Personal Ordinariates in the world: Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom; the Chair of Saint Peter in the United States and Canada; and, Our Lady of the Southern Cross here in Australia.

In Oceania

Based in Sydney NSW, the Ordinariate is comprised of 13 communities in Australia including the Torres Strait, 2 in Japan, and those in formation in the Philippines and Guam.

In addition to the Ordinary, there are 18 priests, 3 seminarians and 1 studying for the permanent diaconate.



Our People

Those who join the Ordinariate desire full Communion with the Catholic Church because of their belief in Her teachings and authority.

Lay people who are not yet Catholic and who wish to join the Ordinariate are required to undergo a period of preparation; apply in writing to the Ordinariate; and to be confirmed as Catholics—

just as others entering the Church do. The formation process includes directed study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its Compendium, along with other resources.

Former Anglicans and Methodists who have already become Catholic and who may now wish to join the Ordinariate may submit an application form to the Ordinariate: see the “Join” tab at our web site ordinariate.org.au



Masses in the Ordinariate

The mission of the Ordinariate is particularly experienced in the reverence and beauty of our worship, which features Anglican traditions of worship while conforming to Catholic doctrinal, sacramental and liturgical standards.

Through *Divine Worship: The Missal*—the liturgy that unites the Ordinariates throughout the English speaking world—we share our distinctive commitment to praising God in the eloquence of the Anglican liturgical patrimony and Prayer Book English.

