**The Rt Revd Barry Hill, Bishop of Whitby, reflects on Ordinary Time for the First Sunday after Trinity, 22nd June.**

Today is the first Sunday after Trinity Sunday, and it's the first of many Sundays through the summer, and indeed, for half of the whole year plus one Sunday, normally, where we wear green, if you wear liturgical colours in your church. It is the colour of ordinariness, and this is so-called ‘ordinary time’.

We may think if only we had a mountaintop experience of God, if we'd encountered Jesus as the disciples had. Today’s gospel reading is a complex and disturbing and inspiring reading about a man from whom Jesus cast out demons into pigs that jump off a cliff. I've got three minutes. There is no way I'm going to be answering all of the questions this may raise. My point is, we often think if we had an experience like that of those first disciples, then all would be well, and we would follow Jesus faithfully wherever we go and we would have no more questions. And yet, what ordinary time reminds us, and the reason I'm filming this from a messy kitchen where, even though I'm a neat freak, we haven't done the washing up from meetings earlier, and dinner, frankly, is a bit late and I'm giving it a bit of a stir, although it's a bit performative because to be honest, my wife cut it all up earlier. I'm just filming it here for the sake of the sermon.

My point is that ordinary time, the greenness of the year, the half of the year we green, is about finding Jesus not on the mountain tops, but about finding Jesus in the ordinary, about developing a theology of the household that is as strong as our theology of the temple. We may think if we've had those mountaintop experiences, all will be well. And yet, the same disciples that saw the most astonishing mountaintop experience in our reading today are the same ones, some of them of which deny Christ. Peter, literally up a mountaintop, meets Elijah and Moses and Jesus, and yet is almost in the next page of our scriptures, the one to deny even knowing Christ.

It is about finding God in the ordinary things of life, finding Jesus in the washing up, in the washing, in the shopping, our bank accounts are perhaps the most theological documents after the scriptures that most of us have in our houses. Finding God in the ordinary on the Monday to the Saturday which this greenness of the Church’s year into which we now enter invites us.

So may God bless you in the chaos, in the mess, in the Monday morning and the Thursday afternoon and the Friday evening every bit as much as the Sunday mornings from which we are sent into the week ahead. Amen.