

**ST DOMINIC'S, DURSLEY**  
**&**  
**ST JOSEPH'S, NYMPSFIELD**

Parish Priest: Father Philip Beisly

St Dominic's Presbytery Jubilee Road Dursley GL11 4ES 01453 542039

Permanent Deacon: Domenic Bucci

01453 542136

[dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com)

**SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**



**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

## **Gospel (John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28)**

In the beginning was the Word: the word was with God and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth

### **CELEBRATION OF MASS**

We are now able to open to celebrate Mass with a congregation again, so our services this week will be as follows:

Saturday 2 January: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 3 January: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 6 January: **Feast of the Epiphany** Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

If you wish to attend, please contact the Church Office on 01453 542039 or at [dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com) to book a place

### **200 Club: December Winners**

Anne Ballard £40, Domenic Bucci £30, Gill Hill £20

### **Our Parish**

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

#### **Diocesan Prayer Link:**

St John the Evangelist, Bath

#### **Churches Together Prayer Rota:**

St Dominic, Dursley

#### **Parish Prayer Rota:**

The choirs of our parishes



## Twelve Days of Christmas

Ironically, the pandemic has provided us with an opportunity for a more prolonged celebration of Christmas. In a year when attendances at Mass may have been spread over several days and families may not have been able to come together on Christmas Day, our focus need not be on the one day.

This offers us a chance to reflect deeply on the holy exchange, whereby ‘we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity,’ and to be ‘caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.’

And maybe it will help us to celebrate the whole Christmas season anew this year, and to have a better sense of the whole period of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany as a season of the Manifestation of Our Lord as we are called to rediscover, to celebrate and to live the gift of salvation as part of the process of transformation in Christ.

So when it comes to Epiphany, the celebration of the revelation of Christ to the world – the wise men encounter the child Jesus and are changed – instead of just taking down the decorations and forgetting all about it, why not celebrate this too? In the gospel according to Matthew, the wise men offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matt 2:11). The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus’ birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

We could perhaps make a ‘Galette des rois’ (a kings’ cake) to celebrate the day – there are plenty of recipes available on the internet.

Or perhaps we could have an Epiphany blessing of our home: using blessed chalk, a parent can mark the inside of the main door of the house with the initials of the Magi and a code of the current year connected with crosses: 20+C+M+B+21. Another explanation of the initials (C-M-B) are the first letters of the blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (‘May Christ bless the house’).

## Answers to Christmas Quiz

### Christmas Carol Anagrams - identify the hidden carols.

1. I HATE INTERLINKED BMW – IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
2. TOT WILL FRESHEN – THE FIRST NOWELL
3. NEWSWORTHINESS MADE TIE – SEE AMID THE WINTERS SNOW
4. COYLY SEND VICTORIAN AID – ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY
5. GREET MEN LEGEND OR MYSTERY – GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
6. MAN WEARY AGAIN – AWAY IN A MANGER
7. HALF TIME CUE OF LOYAL – O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
8. DANGER SHELL SHAKING EARTH – HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING
9. TESSIE FLED AID – ADESTE FIDELIS
10. TO WISHY WASHY RARE CRUMMIES – WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Christmas Miscellany

1. Advent Readings feature extracts from the Book of Isaiah prophesying the coming of the Messiah – when did he live? **Mid-low 700s BC**
2. Jesus was born of the house of David – how many centuries BC did David live? **10; i.e. a thousand years**
3. Mary and Joseph travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem – how long was their journey? **90 miles**. Some say 80
4. Santa Claus (aka Father Christmas) is thought to have evolved from St Nicholas who lived over 1700 years ago; when is his feast day and what was his nationality?
5. See 4 **Dec 6, Greek**.
6. What part did Equus Asinus play in the Christmas Story; **the donkey carrying Mary**.
7. Who were Joachim and Anna? **Our Lady Mary's parents**.
8. How many birds (feathered) are mentioned in the final verse of The Twelve Days of Christmas? **16**.
9. How many are mentioned in a full rendition of the song? **184**.
10. Which film featured the song White Christmas? **Holiday Inn**.
11. Mistletoe plants are dioecious; what does that mean? **separate male and female plants**.
12. Who was the creator of 'The Snowman',
13. And which seaside town featured in the The Snowman film? **Raymond Briggs, Brighton**.

### **Brighton.**

14. Female reindeer differ from other species of deer in what way? **They grow antlers**.
15. In the carol We Three Kings, what gift does Melchior bring which 'owns a Deity nigh'?

### **Frankincense.**

16. Rudolph's friends were Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Comet, Donner, Blitzen and ? and ?
17. See 16; **Vixen and Cupid**.
18. How is the Feast of Stephen known in this country? **Boxing Day**.
19. What were we once supposed to do on Ember Days? **Fast**.
20. The Australia possession Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is closest to which major island? **Java**.