

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

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**7 JANUARY 2024
EPIPHANY SUNDAY – CHRISTMAS II**



Here on Epiphany Sunday, our readings paint a glorious picture of God's kingdom. We begin with Isaiah proclaiming the glory of the Lord, Who will deliver Jerusalem from darkness. The Psalm will sing this same hope and joy that the King has come.

The promises of God are great; why are we stuck so far from them? Our world is marked by terrible suffering. The helpless and innocent are most at risk and in great need of protection. People are hungry, lonely, grieving, and lost. We seem to have strayed quite far from the kingdom we have been promised.

What would our world look like if we acted more like the Magi and less like Herod. What if we worked diligently to search for the Sacred? What if we approached the meek with great gifts of honour and praise? This Epiphany may we recognise anew that God calls us to compassionate action and may we join in the process of making the kingdom of God more present in our world.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – B – MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST TO THE GENTILES – CHRISTMAS II

Saturday 6 January	5.30pm	Epiphany Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 7 January	10.30am	Epiphany Mass	Dursley
Monday 8 th January	6.00pm	Mass	Dursley
BAPTISM OF THE LORD			
Tuesday 9 th January	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
Feria of Week I			
Wednesday 10 January	9.00am	Mass	Dursley
Feria of Week I			
Thursday 11 January	10.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
Feria of Week I	12 noon	Funeral Requiem Eileen McAsey	Nympsfield
Friday 12 January	6.00pm – 6.55pm	Exposition & Confessions	Dursley
St Aelred of Rievaulx	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley
Saturday 13 January	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
St Hilary of Poitier	3.30pm – 4.15pm	Confessions	Dursley
SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B			
Saturday 13 January	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 14 January	10.30am	Sunday Mass	Dursley

Café Dominic is open for refreshments each Sunday after the 10.30 Mass at Dursley

Entrance Antiphon - Vigil

Arise, Jerusalem and look the East and see your children gathered
from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Entrance Antiphon - Day

Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is his grasp,
and power and dominion.

Responsorial Psalm – Vigil & Day

All nations shall fall prostrate before You, O Lord!

Gospel Acclamation – Vigil & Day

We saw His star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

Communion Antiphon - Vigil

The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem,
and the nations will walk by its light.

Communion Antiphon - Day

We have seen His star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Our Parish: PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died:

Jamie Anthony, Eileen McAsey

Diocesan Prayer Link: The Salisbury Parishes – St Osmund, Most Holy
Redeemer, St Gregory and the English Martyrs

Churches Together

Parish Prayer Rota: Our altar servers

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals within the Catholic church.



LITTLE WAY CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST.

We are thrilled to announce that on 1st January 2024, six Catholic schools from Gloucestershire will be joining the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust (LWCET). The founding schools of the Trust are St Joseph's, Nympsfield; St Gregory's, Cheltenham; St Peter's Primary, Gloucester; Rosary, Stroud; St Thomas More's, Cheltenham; St Catharine's, Chipping Campden. These schools have been working closely together for over a year to share ideas, support one another and ensure the children within our Catholic schools are supported to be the best they can be while still maintaining the unique character of each of their schools. Their Patron Saint is St Therese of Lisieux and so the children are modelling their actions on her by doing **SMALL ACTS WITH GREAT LOVE TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**. As the

Trust is launched, we ask you to keep them all in your prayers as they begin their next steps in the Bishop's vision for the schools in Clifton Diocese. More updates coming in the new year.

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER Pope Francis has named 2024 the Year of Prayer, a year spent in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. There's a new page on the Clifton Diocese website to share news about the year of prayer, new resources to deepen your prayer life, and point towards celebrations that will come in 2025.

The first event for the year of prayer will be a livestream on the diocesan website Pilgrims of Hope: The 2025 Jubilee in Clifton **1 February (7:30-8:45 pm)**. It will introduce the jubilee year, providing context for the current three-year programme (2023 – Year of the Council, 2024 – Year of Prayer, 2025 Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope), as well as background for jubilees – how they originated, their role in Scripture, and how jubilees have been used in the Church. It will conclude by exploring the theme that pope Francis chose, Pilgrims of Hope, and how Clifton Diocese can journey together over the next few years towards this great celebration.

INVITED - A FORMATION COURSE IN STROUD

Invited - God offers us a radical invitation but what does it mean to say yes? What does it mean to be a Catholic? What do we believe and how do we grow deeper in our Faith? This twelve-week course will enable us to explore a variety of questions relating to Catholic Teaching.

Who is Invited? This is a course for anyone who is interested in learning more about their faith and passing it onto others. The course will take place from January to May 2024 at The Immaculate Conception, Stroud. For the full outline of the course and to express your interest please complete the booking form and send to catechists@clifftondiocese.com or Dept of Adult Education & Evangelisation, Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, BS5 0TX.

Cost of Full Course £60 or £7.50 per session. Although it is not necessary to attend every session (they are stand-alone) we hope that the group will grow together as a community. We suggest if you can afford more, please do send what you can, it could help those who cannot afford the full fee. As we do not want anyone to feel excluded on the grounds of finance, please contact us at: catechists@clifftondiocese.com. There is a place for everyone.

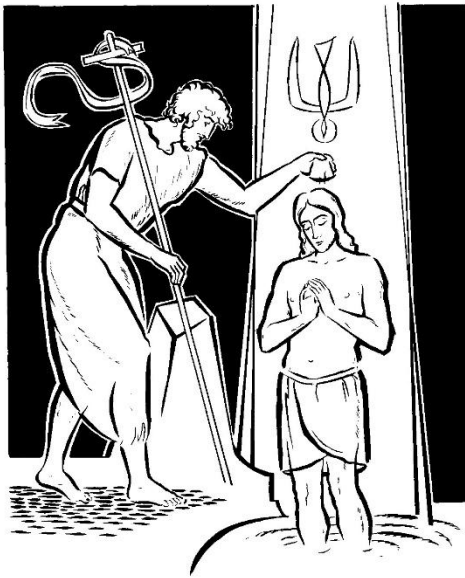
Journals - participants are encouraged to bring a book for journalling – help will be given with how to do this. The sessions will be 7pm to 9pm including time for refreshments.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. 'GO AND DO LIKEWISE', a **service of Prayer for Christian Unity is on Sunday 21st January 4 pm at Dursley Methodist Church**. All are welcome.

CAFÉ DOMINIC. Café Dominic is run by a small group of faithful volunteers; they urgently need more volunteers. If you would be willing to help after the 10.30 Sunday Mass, probably for only once a month, please speak with Father Philip or Laura Gardiner. Your help will be very much appreciated.

200 CLUB: DECEMBER.

1st: Louisa Rubin £40, 2nd: Mary Cryan £30, 3rd: C. Tarquini £20



BAPTISM of the LORD

FATHER PHILIP WRITES in some years, we get a Second Sunday of Christmas that is not Epiphany. Then we have the Visit of the Wise Men on the 6th January its proper date and the third and last Sunday of Christmas is celebrated at the Baptism of the Lord. There is no First Sunday in Ordinary Time, only a First Week, beginning on the Monday or Tuesday.

The Feast of the Lord's Baptism completes the majority of Christmas time. There is, of course the traditional outpost of Christmas on 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemass, the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. We shall consider that when we get there and till then the Crib, now become the Epiphany House, will stay up. There is a beautiful circular symmetry to Christmas Time, for it begins with the Lord's own birth in the flesh and ends with our

mystical rebirth in the waters of the Font. The Baptism of the Lord is the moment when He leaves His anonymity behind and the quiet rhythms of the Carpenter's Shop to step out of the crowd and be acknowledged by John as the One Foretold. The signs and wonders at the Jordan attest to Who He is. There's no going back or hiding.

We Christians like to hide or keep our heads below the parapet. Perhaps this is because Catholics were so long persecuted by the Anglican State. We got the vote in 1829 and we got a proper diocesan structure on St Michael's Day 1850. Persecution is well behind us. We need to get used to witnessing boldly to our beliefs and values in our modern world. Pope Benedict XVI told both houses of Parliament when he visited us that Catholics in particular, and Christians in general, must make our voices heard in the marketplace. This statement acknowledges that there are other voices, but it does not concede superiority to them. Like all market traders, we try to be heard, to attract

attention and sell our product. We don't really sell and our faith is not a mere product, but the image works well to explain our place in the world and modern society.

Most Catholics are baptised as children and babies, although I was christened as an Adult. It is easy to see how Baptism is not an end, but a beginning. Neatly, therefore the end of Christmas Time leads us into green time and the time after Epiphany leading towards Lent. It moves us forward with conviction, joy and strength.

Baptism is the basis of all endeavours for Christian Unity. Please not the Ecumenical Service at Dursley Methodist Church in the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. This Octave began amongst non-Catholics seeking reunion with the See of Peter. It should not therefore be difficult to Catholics to embrace it whole heartedly. Since the reign of Pope St John XXIII Catholics of East and West have stopped taking a back seat. We believe that we have something to offer other baptised people. We share devotion to Our Lady and the saints with the Orthodox and with some Anglicans. Likewise, our belief in the Mass is shared. Our unique contribution is the Petrine Office, vested in the Pope as Bishop of Rome and Successor of St Peter. For us, the Papacy is part of fabric of Christianity, its Faith and Order. We believe all Christians need the help of an authoritative voice to interpret Scripture and Tradition for today.

ONE LORD,
FAITH,
BAPTISM,
GOD
AND FATHER OF
WHO IS ABOVE
AND THROUGHOUT
AND IN US ALL

