

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

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**14 JANUARY 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**



Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time began during the week and this is our first green sunday, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season.

Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptised by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God.

What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday 13 January	5.30pm	Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 14 January	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
Monday 15 th January	9.30am	Mass	Dursley

Feria of Week 2

Tuesday 16 January

Feria

Wednesday 17 January

St Anthony of Egypt

Thursday 18 January

Feria of Week II **Christian**

Unity Octave starts

Friday 19 January	6.00pm – 6.55pm	Exposition & Confessions	Dursley
St Wulstan of Worcester, Patron of our new Deanery	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley

Saturday 20 January	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
St Sebastian	3.30pm – 4.15pm	Confessions	Dursley

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday 20 January	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 21 January	10.30am	Sunday Mass	Dursley

Sunday 21 January **4.00pm** **Unity Week Service** **Dursley Methodist Chapel**

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

Entrance Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name,
O Most High

Responsorial Psalm

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life

Communion Antiphon

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst

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

Jamie Anthony, Eileen McAsey

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Dunstan, Somerton Holy Ghost, Yeovil

Churches Together

Parish Prayer Rota: The choirs of our parishes

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.

PEACE SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PEACE.

Prayer:

God our creator and sustainer, We thank you for the gifts of creativity you have given us, for the ability to explore science and understand your creation. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have used science for evil and not for good, for war and not for peace. Make us vigilant as we develop technology, that violence and discrimination may not take root, that injustice and inequality will not be fuelled, that the poor and vulnerable will not pay the cost. May all that we create contribute to peace and justice. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER. You can now hear the Lord's Prayer in different languages at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/the-lords-prayer-in-the-worlds-languages/>

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 to 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@cliftondiocese.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@cliftondiocese.com. There is a place for everyone.

Journals - participants are encouraged to bring a book for journaling – 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.

FATHER PHILIP WRITES Christian Unity Week is technically an Octave of 8 rather than 7 days. It began in New York State in America, a place called Graymoor. A group of Anglican Franciscans, called the Society of the Atonement wished to be united to the Holy See and contacted like minded Anglicans/Episcopalians to see if they were the only ones who believed in the Petrine Primacy of the Bishops of Rome. They set up with they first called the Chair of Peter Unity Octave. The 18th January was then kept as one of two feasts of the Chair of Peter [Today only one of them survives, the 22nd February and will be the day of Canon Christopher Whitehead's episcopal ordination as Bishop of Plymouth]. They found support in Europe with a French priest Abbé Paul Couturier. Eventually the friars and sisters of the Atonement were received into full communion with the Catholic Church, putting their money where their prayer was. Their reconciliation with Catholic Unity did not stop the work they had begun. Our Lady of the Atonement is a patroness of this work, as is the village of Little Walsingham.



The desire to be reunited with the Apostolic See of Rome, founded by St Peter, broadened out into a desire to reunite all Christians in one Faith and Order. Several ground-breaking conferences were held under the Faith and Order banner. Eventually, these would lead to the creation of the World Council of Churches. Despite the original founders being non-Catholics seeking to join the Holy See, the Catholic Church was initially rather cool towards this nascent Ecumenical Movement. In part, this was because it has always understood itself to have maintained the original faith and order of the Early Church and has seen other Christian groups not as splits but as departures from

Catholic Unity, usually associated with theological errors.

The theory has never altered. What has changed is the arrogant attitude which said it did not need to talk to or engage with other Christians. Slowly, through the first half of the Twentieth Century, Catholics of East and West have come to see that reunion requires of all of us humility and open hearts. Dialogue on theological differences can clarify the way ahead. The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican in Rome between 1962 and 1965 invited non-Catholic observers and issued a decree on Ecumenism. However late to the endeavour the Catholic Church was, once it joined in there has been no stopping us. Working closely with the Orthodox, and various episcopal protestant groups the Church has worked and prayed tirelessly. There have been significant agreements with various groups and churches. The Anglicanorum Coetibus initiative of Benedict XVI is practical fruit of this dialogue and building of friendships.

In the course of a century, centuries of enmity and shouting from behind barricades has largely ceased. We have taken down the barriers and entered into conversations with our separated brethren. We have discovered that the gaps between us are not always as wide as we first thought. We have also discovered happily that dialogue can bring us closer and find ways for folks to shift their positions in a positive direction.

Sadly, occasionally there are decision and tendencies which have caused pain and further division between us all, but the newer, warmer climate means that we can go on talking about these new problems. Considering how long we have lived apart and how deep some of the theological rifts go, it is amazing that so much has been achieved. We cannot expect to solve all the problems of Christian unity in a few short decades. The work continues and the friendships build.

Sacrifice and hard work are indispensable. Restoring Christian unity will further the mission of Christ's Church.

