

ST DOMINIC'S, DURSLEY & ST JOSEPH'S, NYMPFIELD

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PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

CHRISTMASS III (Year C) – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat 11 th Jan		5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Nympsfie
Sun 12 th Jan		10.30am	Sunday Mass & Holy Baptism of Ellis Collins	Dursley
Mon 13 th Jan	St Hilary of Poitiers - Ordinary Time begins		Fr. P's Day Off	
Tue 14 th Jan	Feria of Week I	9.30am	Mass (Roderick Davidson RIP)	Dursley
Wed 15 th Jan	Feria	9.00am	Mass ()	Dursley
Thu 16 th Jan	Feria	10.00am	Mass with Reception Class ()	Nympsfie
Fri 17 th Jan	St Anthony of Egypt	6.00pm	Adoration, Rosary & Confessions	Dursley
		7.00pm	Mass ()	Dursley
Sat 18 th Jan	Start of Unity Octave	Noon	Votive Mass of St Peter ()	Dursley
		3.00-4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley

ORDINARY SUNDAY II (Year C)

Sat 18 th Jan	Feast of St	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfie
Sun 19 th Jan	Wulfstan in other years	10.30am	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Dursley
		4.00pm	Annual Ecumenical Service for Churches Together	Dursley

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2025 For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

MASS PROPERS FOR CHRISTMAS III – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Year C)

Entrance Antiphon After the Lord was baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered; This is My Beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.

First Reading – Isaiah 40: 1 –5 & 9-11 *The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together*

Responsorial Psalm Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great You are!

Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7 *We are saved by the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

Alleluia Verse He Who is Mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

After Jesus was baptised and was praying, the heavens opened over Him

Communion Antiphon Behold the One of Whom John said: I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God.

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Friday 17th January @ Dursley Tabernacle, Public Meeting at 7.30pm with our MP about the assisted suicide bill currently before Parliament
- Saturday 18th January Pastoral Area Forum in Tuffley at English Martyrs. 11.00 to 1.00pm approx. [Like a Pastoral Council only looser and more informal] Open to all.
- **Sunday 19th Jan. 4.00pm Annual Ecumenical Service for Churches Together in St Dominic's. Followed by light refreshments in the hall.**
- Sunday 19th January Peace Sunday in England and Wales
- Sunday 2nd February – Candlemass – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple – The last outpost of Christmas, being 40 days since we started!

THE OSMA GROUP – (Parish Ladies) Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th January in St Dominic's Hall from 11:30am to 1.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch, but drinks will be provided. Before going across the Pyrenees to preach to the Albigensians, St Dominic was a canon of Osma Cathedral

PASTORAL AREA FORUM on Saturday 18th January from 11:00am until approximately 1:00pm (coffee from 10:30am) at English Martyrs, Tuffley (247 Tuffley Lane, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0NX). There will be a particular focus on the Holy Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' and how we will celebrate this within our Pastoral Area. Everyone is welcome. Tea and coffee will be available. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch for the end of the session

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – THE END OF CHRISTMAS-TIDE FOR NOW

We began Christmas-tide when it got dark on Christmass Eve. We have marked the birth and the appearing of Christ. In many ways, we have celebrated the meaning of these things more than the events themselves. Whilst our ancestors extended the season for 40 whole days, in more recent centuries we finish a bit earlier. Nevertheless, we will keep the 40th Day after Christmass Day as the Feast of Candlemass and it will and can displace a Green Sunday.

It is an outpost of the season of the Incarnation. Rather neatly, these days, we start Christmas-tide with the Birth of the Saviour and we finish with marking our own rebirth in Him through Baptism. The Saviour had no original or actual sin to wash off. Neither did He need to be adopted by the Father,



because He is the Only Begotten, “full of grace and truth”! It is because of these facts that John the Baptist was reluctant to perform the dipping of the Christ in the Jordan. There were two reasons that John didn’t know and which Christ revealed to Him. The first is that, like the Birth in Bethlehem, this is an act of solidarity with sinful humanity. Secondly, Jesus is not being hallowed by the waters, but is making them holy and pointing forward to the sanctification of His followers in the Sacrament of Baptism He has yet to institute. In a way, He hallows not just the waters, but also looks forward to the redemption of material creation in its entirety. [St Paul writes to the Romans in Chapter 8, “*For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*” He points out that whilst we receive salvation through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism



and Confirmation, the completion of redemption will come at the end of time.]. Byzantine Catholics and the Orthodox perform the Great Blessing of Waters at this time. Worshippers get soaked in church by sprinkling and often a cross is thrown into the sea, a river or a lake for younger members of the Congregation to dive in and retrieve. We shall not be doing this in Dursley or Nymphsfield, so you can put your swimming costumes away, especially the Osma Ladies! We are very

grateful to Ellis in His Baptism and Confirmation this weekend, in giving us a visible reminder of our own entry into Christ and His Church, without jumping into cold water. Most of us were not baptised as adults and have only seen this Sacrament performed for others, often children of family and friends.

ASSISTED DYING BILL - PUBLIC MEETING WITH SIMON OPHER MP Friday

17th January 7.30pm at Dursley Tabernacle. Simon Opher, MP for Stroud, is willing to discuss with the public the issues around the implementation of the Assisted Dying Bill. Kim Leadbeater’s Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill passed its second reading on 29th November by a wider than expected margin, 330–275. But this is just the first hurdle the bill will face. The bill has been committed to a public bill committee – a group of MPs, yet to be selected, who will go through the bill line-by-line, scrutinizing each clause and proposing amendments. Simon Opher hopes to be on the Bill Committee. This meeting, chaired by Revd Simon Helme, will give an opportunity to reflect on the Commons vote in November and the challenges faced in implementing the bill with proper safeguards in place.

HOLY HOUR, FRIDAY CONFESSIONS & MASS Friday is for busy working folk, who can’t get to morning masses during the week, but who feel they need more than just Sunday. Holy Hour (adoration and benediction) is golden opportunity not afforded to every parish for quiet time with Jesus. Confession helps with both of these and makes things easier for those who work on Saturdays



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



NEW YEAR - FRESH EFFORT Now that the pine needles have been swept and trees thrown out, even the Corporation is bringing the streetlights down. Schools have returned and works that closed for the holidays reopened. Parish life also leaves Christmas behind. Green Time starts on the day after the Baptism of the Lord. Ordinary Time means normal activities - Church cleaning, help with Café Dominic, choir, sacristy duties, readers, Gardening Volunteers etc. We appreciate hot coffee, clean floors, wonderful flowers, gorgeous music, all signs of our vitality and faith.

Invigored by a new year and festive jollifications, gyms are full of new recruits and returners to regular exercise. Parish life is not a gym, but it does need volunteers new and old!!!! "Something must be done!" goes up the cry and it must, but not by somebody else!!!! We must all pull together, or else we shall sink together. Both parishes are great communities. January is the time to prove it!

**When Jesus comes to be baptized,
He leaves the hidden years behind,
The years of safety and of peace.
To bear the sins of all mankind.**

**The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
Anoints the Christ to suffering,
To preach the word, to free the bound,
And to the mourner, comfort bring.**

**He will not quench the dying flame,
And what is bruised he will not break,
But heal the wound injustice dealt,
And out of death his triumph make.**

**Our everlasting Father, praise,
With Christ, his well-beloved Son,
Who with the Spirit reigns serene,
Untroubled Trinity in One.**



**The Sinless One to Jordan came,
and in the river shared our shame;
God's righteousness He thus fulfilled,
and chose the path His Father willed.**

**Up rising from the waters there,
and Father's voice did then declare
that Christ, the Son of God, had come
to lead His scattered people home.**

**Above him see the heavenly Dove,
the sign of God the Father's love,
now by the Holy Spirit shed
upon the Son's anointed head.**

**How blest that mission then begun
to heal and save a race undone!
Straight to the wilderness He goes
to wrestle with His people's foes.**

**O Christ, may we baptized from sin,
go forth with you a world to win:
grant us the Holy Spirit's power
to shield us in temptation's hour.**

**On You may all Your people feed,
and know You are the Bread indeed,
Who gives eternal life to those
that with You died, and with You rose.**

GOD BECAME MAN, THAT MAN MIGHT BECOME DIVINE