

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

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**21 JANUARY 2024
THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**



Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen - Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Mark reports that they left their fishing immediately - Zebedee was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples.

The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfilment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday 20 January	5.30pm	Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 21 January	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
	4.00pm	Unity Week Service	Dursley Methodist Chapel
Tuesday 23 January	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
Feria of Week III			
Wednesday 24 January	9.00am	Mass	Dursley
St Francis de Sales			
Thursday 25 January	10.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
CONVERSION OF ST PAUL			
Friday 26 January	6.00pm – 6.55pm	Exposition & Confessions	Dursley
Saints Timothy & Titus	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley
27 January Our Lady's Saturday	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
	3.30pm – 4.15pm	Confessions	Dursley

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday 27 January	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 28 January	10.30am	Sunday Mass	Dursley

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

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song unto the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make me know Your ways.

Gospel Acclamation

The kingdom of God is close at hand; believe in the Good News

Communion Antiphon

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed

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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: UNITED SERVICE '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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS Daily prayers and biblical reflections for the week can be found at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/biblical-reflections-and-prayers-for-the-eight-days/>

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. 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 Jubilee Year of 2025, with its theme '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.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: Saturday 27 January. This year's theme is **Fragility of Freedom**

Freedom means different things to different people. What is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle, slow process. The ten stages of genocide, as identified by Professor Gregory Stanton, demonstrate that genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur, or which are created, to build the climate in which genocide can take place and in which perpetrator regimes can remove the freedoms of those they are targeting.

Not only do perpetrator regimes erode the freedom of the people they are targeting (demonstrating how fragile freedom is), but they also restrict the freedoms of others around them, to prevent people from challenging the regime. Despite this, in every genocide there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others' freedom or to stand up to the regime. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. 49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days. The professed aim of terrorists like Hamas and Hisbollah is still to wipe Israel off the face of the planet, surely another name for genocide.

INVITED - A FORMATION COURSE IN STROUD

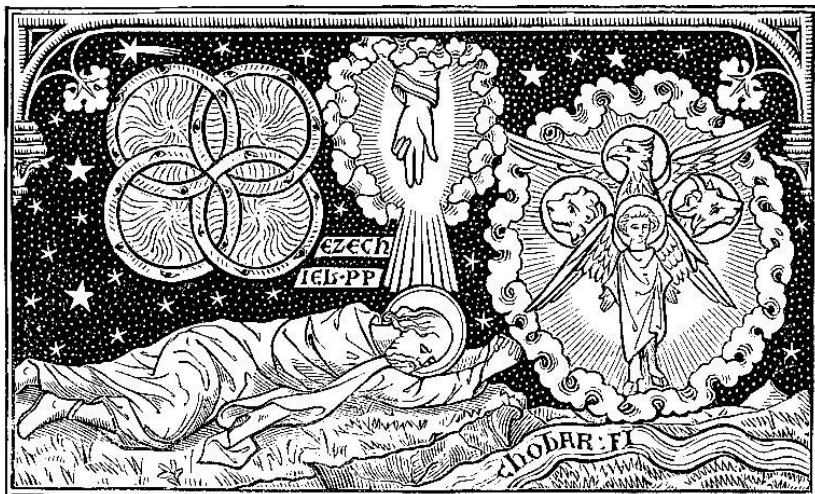
Invited - God offers us a radical invitation but what does it mean to say yes? What does it mean to be a Catholic? What do we believe and how do we grow deeper in our Faith? This twelve-week course will enable us to explore a variety of questions relating to Catholic Teaching.

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@cliftondiocese.com or Dept of Adult Education & Evangelisation, Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, BS5 0TX.

LENTEN RETREAT: 'TRANSFORMED BY LOVE' Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a Lenten retreat: 'Transformed by Love' in six online sessions, contemplating God's grace at work in the lives of six persons, through scripture and artworks. **The six sessions begin at 7.30pm on a Tuesday evening: 20 February, 27 February, 5 March, 12 March, 19 March, 26 March. To sign up for the series, click on the Zoom link: Meeting Registration**

'Light of Truth': as Dominican Sisters, our mission is to proclaim the Gospel by our lives and words. We are in the UK, in the New Forest, and live a community life of prayer and praise, of study and preaching, according to our Dominican tradition. With 'Light of Truth', we hope to share with everyone the fruits of our contemplation: the fruit of our prayer, of our academic formation and of our rich experience of working with adults, catechists and young people at the services of parishes and dioceses in the last 25 years. Through 'Light of Truth', we aim to offer a formation which will provide a rich experience of the fraternal life of our community and of the fellowship of the Church. We want to offer the best content and the best experience possible to help everyone grow in faith, hope and charity. We suggest a donation of £5 per person per session: details can be found here: [Contact | Light of Truth](#)

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 ends on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, 25th January. Many churches and organisations find it easier to celebrate their feast of title on this day than at the joint celebration with St Peter at the end of June. Many of us have purchased devotional items and reading material at a St Paul's Bookshop, in person or online.

The theme of conversion is particularly dear to Christians of all shapes and sizes. For Catholics, this is especially true as we draw closer to the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday 14th February this year. We all need to change for the

better. Complacency will not do. Most of us have few real laurels to rest on anyway! I am not bad, but God desires more and better for me and it would be very ungrateful not to except His offer. Conversion is the way to that more and better.

Its literal meaning is turning around. I must turn away from what is bad and incomplete towards what is good and perfect. As Scripture says, "Die to sin and live to righteousness"! Perhaps, St Paul's Conversion is giving us the opportunity to plan a fruitful Lent. What spiritual reading will I take up, or what profane or unhelpful reading will I lay down? Can I make it to an extra weekday mass in either church? Could I make walking the Way of the Cross, Stations, a part of my devotional life, on my own or with others as a group?

Lent is bounded by two days of Fasting and Abstinence [Ash Wednesday and Good Friday], reduced amounts of food and no meat. Could I make some small sacrifice or act of discipline in my eating habits? In addition, these dietary customs have the added bonus of witnessing to our faith before the world, like the smudge cross of blessed ash on Ash Wednesday. Could you turn a Big Mac into a Fillet o'fish for Lent? The many vegetarian and vegan options in the supermarket make eating less meat or more vegetables much easier than it used to be.

- **Ash Wednesday, First Day of Lent, 14th February – Fasting and Abstinence. Mass and Ashing at 10.00am in Nympsfield, Noon and 7.30pm in Dursley**
- First Sunday in Lent 17th/18th February, our 5.30pm and 10.30am Masses will start with the traditional **Lenten Stational Procession**, singing the Litany of the Saints.
- Lent Friday evenings will see 6.00pm Exposition and Benediction before Mass become Stations of the Cross in St Dominic's. Would St Joseph's support the return to Stations in Lent? And if so when in the week?
- Lent Tuesday Mornings after the 9.30am Mass, Father Philip will give a series of talks on praying the Liturgies of Holy Week called, "Nice One Cyril or Passover in Jerusalem" [St Cyril of Jerusalem established many of our much-loved customs and services in the 4th Century AD]
- The Fast of the Eyes starts on the evening before the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The statues and crosses of both churches, but not the Stations, will be veiled in purple.
- We will observe the Sacred Triduum together as two parishes together in communion and we will celebrate the Resurrection on the **First Sunday of Easter on the 31st March** this year. Look out for details coming next week of what will be happening where!!! Please note that this is One Triduum for Two parishes and boycotting the other building because it is not mine is both small minded and counter-productive. We are more mature than that.

PASTORAL AREA [DEANERY] OF ST WULSTAN Our new Pastoral Area encompasses the old deaneries of Gloucester and Stroud, with bits leaving us and bits joining us. The Dean feels we need to constitute a new Deanery Pastoral Council for laity to be involved in the pastoral care of people and places, for the Dean and his brother clergy to consult and involve. There will be a preparatory meeting or **Forum, on Saturday 27th January at Brockworth from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Both of our parishes will need to find volunteers to attend this. Attending will not automatically make you our deanery rep!**

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/>