

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

Parish Priest: Father Philip Thomas

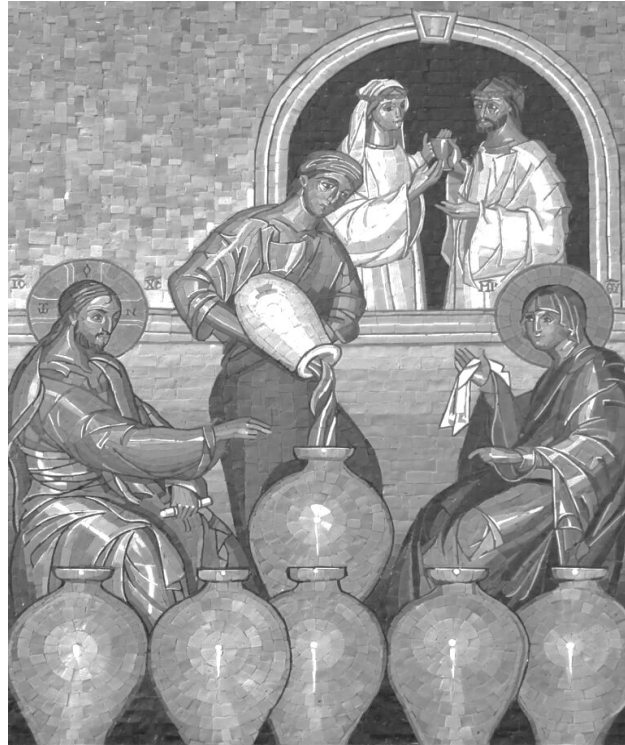
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## ORDINARY SUNDAY II (Year C)

Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Feast of St Wulfstan</i>	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>in other years</i>	10.30am	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Dursley
		<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Annual Ecumenical Service for Churches Together</b>	Dursley
<i>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>	<i>St Sebastian</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Mass (S Hudson RIP)</i>	<i>Dursley</i>
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	St Agnes	9.30am	Mass ( )	Dursley
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	St Vincent of Saragossa	9.00am	Mass (The Deacons of our Deanery)	Dursley
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Feria of Week 2	10.00am	Mass with Yr 6 for the Jubilee Year ( )	Nympsfield
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	St Francis de Sales	6.00pm	Holy Hour & Confessions	Dursley
		7.00pm	Mass (The MSFS in Clifton)	Dursley
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, Feast	Noon	Mass ( )	Dursley
		3.00-4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley

## ORDINARY SUNDAY III (Year C)

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan		5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> an		10.30am	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	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 SUNDAY OF WEEK II – (Year C)**

**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!

**First Reading – Isaiah 62: 1–5** *The bridegroom rejoices over the bride*

**Responsorial Psalm Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples!**

**Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11** *One and the Same Spirit apportions to each one individually as He wills.*



**Alleluia Verse** God calls us through the Gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Reading – John 2:1-11** *The Wedding at Cana in Galilee*

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



### **FEAST OF SAINT WULSTAN, OUR PASTORAL AREA SAINT, AND JUBILEE EVENTS ‘PILGRIMS OF HOPE’:**

The 19<sup>th</sup> January marks the memorial in England’s National Calendar of Saint Wulstan/Wulfstan, who is the Patron of our Pastoral Area. In setting up the new Pastoral Areas Bishop Declan encouraged everyone in the Diocese to get to know the saint of their area better which we will be doing during this Jubilee year. Saint Wulstan is a great Patron to have - he was the only Bishop in England to remain in place after the Norman Conquest in 1066, being Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095. In Bristol he was also instrumental in abolishing the Bristol slave trade of Angles to Viking Ireland. At the Pastoral Area Forum this weekend the main focus is the Jubilee Year, and how we as a Pastoral Area will celebrate it. Ideas include

a Saint Wulstan Southern Way Catholic Jubilee Pilgrimage in May from Worcester to Bristol, and a gathering with children and their families from communities across the Pastoral Area in July. A website is being developed which will have further details of our Jubilee Year events. Further information will also follow in parish newsletters.

### **FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS**

- **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 4.00pm Annual Ecumenical Service for Churches Together in St Dominic’s. Followed by light refreshments in the hall.**
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January Peace Sunday in England and Wales
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Candlemass – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple – The last outpost of Christmas, being 40 days since we started!
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Coffee Morning at Pat Uglow’s. Details to follow.
- Shrove Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – 6.00pm Pancake Evening in St Dominic’s Parish Hall
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March Lent II – Soup Lunch in the hall after Café Dominic

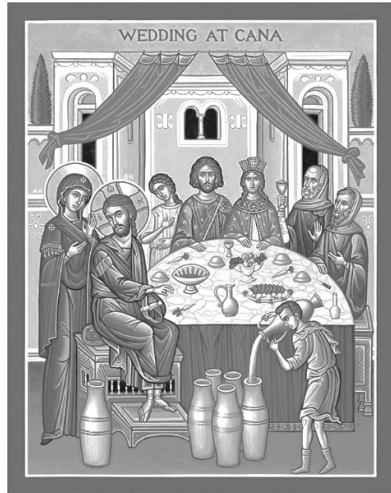
**PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR** *Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators 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.*



## 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 and makes things easier for those who work on Saturdays. It is our custom to pray the Holy Rosary at the start of Holy Hour.



NEW YEAR - FRESH EFFORT The decorations and trees are all gone. Schools have returned. Parish life also left Christmas-tide behind, when we kept the Baptism of the Lord and the Baptism into the Catholic Church of our brother Ellis Collins. Green Time has started. 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. Invigorated 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!

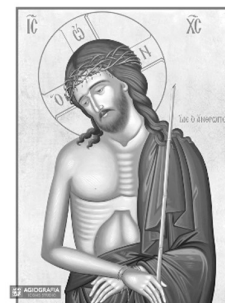
RC MARRIAGE LAW This reminder is headed RC because other, non-roman parts of the Catholic Church in communion with the Pope have their own Marriage Law. You can consult the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches if you wish to learn more. This is not the place to spell everything out. The Gospel of the Wedding at Cana is, however, a good opportunity to remind all St Joseph's and at St Dominic's that our rules apply to everyone baptised into the Catholic Church at whatever age. It also applies to all folk who have been received into full communion with the Catholic Church. It applies to all RCs living within our two parishes, even if they go elsewhere, as is their right. If you are contemplating Holy Matrimony (the Sacrament where both parties are baptised Christians) or Matrimony (non-sacramental marriage where one or both parties is not baptised), please consult the Parish Priest of Dursley & Nympsfield before you make too many arrangements. It is possible to keep our law and be married in another Christian building attended by one of the parties.



## THAT WEDDING AT CANA

- Whatever you think this famous gospel is about, we may be sure that it is not about the alcohol. The fact that the Saviour produced wine in quantity should not be taken in any way as a rebuke for those who cannot or should not consume any more than they already have. The disease of alcoholism, like other addictions, has therapies, counselling and Twelve Step Programmes to help, fully approved of by the Church and the Hierarchy.

- What might it be about. One obvious answer is the powerful yet gentle intercession of Our Lady with Christ her Son. She has but to whisper, “They have no wine” and He realises what she is asking. He tells her that His hour has not yet come. That hour gets its first mention here and will come eventually, when He reaches His Passion and Resurrection. His great work has not yet arrived, but He decides, at her request, to perform His first miracle, what John calls a Sign. Her instruction to the servants to do whatever Christ tells them is excellent advice to any and all Christians.
- We could usefully spend some time looking at these signs and wonders which fill the pages of isms drew Him attention and fame, not all of it welcome. We could ponder which is our favourite miracle and why.
- We could easily see the presence of Christ at a wedding as the hallowing of Marriage itself for Christians, His raising of it to the level of a sacrament. It was already God’s gift to humanity at creation, the only blessing not lost at the expulsion from Eden. Now, He attends and rejoices at a wedding. This is not the place to tell the 2000 years of history, which surround Christian Marriage, how it is celebrated and by whom.
- Critics and heretics over the centuries have tried to hijack Cana to be the Saviour’s own wedding. Dan Brown’s Da Vinci Code novel, alleges that Christ married St Mary Magdalene at Cana. Conspiracy theories abound and they love to allege that their “truth” has been covered up by someone. In this case, they like to make the Catholic Church the villain, but the story does not read like that. Christ is the guest, not the bridegroom
- It is traditional to see Christ the Bridegroom in the Gospels, but not at Cana. When His Hour finally comes, earth is wedded to heaven, the union of the human and divine that starts in the Incarnation comes to even greater prominence as Christ weds the Church in His Passover Mystery. Some poetically see this foreshadowed here at Cana, making the wine red to remind us of blood. John does not tell us what colour the wine was. Christ the Bridegroom is an icon of Christ having been scourged by the Roman soldiers and wrapped in borrowed purple cloak. It is sometimes known by the Latin tag, “Ecce, homo!” the words of Pilate to the crown, “Behold the man”. It is not a wedding garment or a wreath of flowers and a very long way from the rejoicing in Galilee.
- That said, another way of seeing this famous gospel is as a counter to those who allege Christians are party poopers and dull. The miracle at Cana strongly suggests that the Saviour approves of a party! Jewish weddings to this day are famous for their Klezmer music and dancing. Most folk love a wedding, especially the party after the ceremony. Riotous dancing on tables is not required. Aging aunts and grandparents prefer not to do that anymore!



**THE HAPPY LIFE OF VIRTUE** Clifton Diocese in partnership with ‘Light of Truth’ are offering 7 sessions to discover the virtues of faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, keys to a holy and happy life, in communion with God and in imitation of Our Blessed Mother Mary. The sessions will take place every second Friday of the Month, at 7.30 pm.

14 February – 3: Charity  
 14 March – 4: Prudence  
 11 April – 5: Justice  
 9 May – 6: Fortitude  
 13 June – 7: Temperance

This course is designed for the Catholic Women’s Association and is open to everyone. The Theological Virtues are Faith, Hope and Charity and the other 4 are the Cardinal Virtues