

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

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**28 JANUARY 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



In the pre-scientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. That said, there truly are unclean and demonic powers.

There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in the Holy Land of the First Century. Jesus may appear to be like these healers, but He heals with unique authority and connects His healing activities with the words of His preaching, that God is the Sovereign Lord.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of His authority to proclaim His Father's Kingdom. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to His teaching.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B - Septuagesima

Saturday 27 January	5.30pm	Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 28 January	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
Tuesday 30 January	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
Feria of Week IV			
Wednesday 31 January	9.00am	Mass	Dursley
St John Bosco			
Thursday 1 February	10.00am	Mass with school <i>Reception</i>	Nympsfield
Feria of Week IV	Noon	Funeral of Adrian McNulty	Dursley
Friday 2 February	6.00pm – 6.55pm	Exposition & Confessions	Dursley
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – The Feast of Candlemass	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley

Saturday 3 February	9.30am	Mass & Blessing of Throats	Dursley
St Blaise of Sebaste	3.30pm – 4.15pm	Confessions	Dursley

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B - Sexagesima

Saturday 3 February	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 4 February	10.30am	Sunday Mass	Dursley

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

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name and make it our glory to praise you

Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts

Gospel Acclamation

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you

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 1 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.

The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust (LWCET) are currently recruiting for a Chief Executive Officer and a Headteacher. Both roles invite practising Catholics to apply. For more information, please visit the Trust website at <https://lwcet.co.uk/work-for-us/>. Please share this with people you feel may be interested in either of these roles. With thanks.

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 27 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!**

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.

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.

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:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9ZkuPmIVhXQ3bFV#/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](#)

WE ARE UPDATING OUR CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST JOSPEH AND ST DOMINIC. WE NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO HOLD AND USE THIS INFORMATION. SOME HAVE MOVED. SOME HAVE ARRIVED AND SOME HAVE CHANGED THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE FILL IN THE SIMPLE FORM AND RETURN IT, EVEN IF YOU THINK WE ALREADY HAVE YOUR DETAILS

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

'SEEKING GOD' WEEKEND Friday 1 March, 6:00pm to Sunday 3 March 3, 2:00 pm at the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Bernard, Brownshill Road Stroud, GL6 8AL

St. Benedict asks "Who is the one who longs for life?".... Are you longing for life? The monastic path, set out by St. Benedict, has been followed by monks and nuns for centuries, as they have answered God's call to the fulness of life. Each and every person has a unique call from God. The question is "What does the Lord your God ask of you?"

This is an invitation to encounter God in the Monastery, to live alongside the community for a weekend in order to experience our way of life. It is open to those who are seeking their place in the Church, men and women, who have not already made a life commitment.

The weekend includes all meals from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. Donation welcome. See www.brownshill.org to find out more



FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Wednesday 7th February 11.00am Funeral Requiem for Golfredo Tarquinni in Dursley. No 9.00am Mass that day.
- **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.