

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

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SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



Collect

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Gospel (Mark 1: 29 – 39)

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with a fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and casting out devils

Reflection

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea): Charity Raffle

Stella Maris is our charity for 2021. We are hoping to hold a fundraising raffle – details of how this will work whilst we are not meeting together will follow ... But first we will need some prizes! If you would like to donate a prize (we are thinking of a value of perhaps £10 or more) please contact the office. At this stage we are happy to receive pledges; the actual prize can be delivered or collected later. Once we feel that we have a set of prizes worth winning, we will be in a position to launch the raffle

CELEBRATION OF MASS DURING LOCKDOWN

During this lockdown we are still able to celebrate Mass with a congregation, so our services this week will be as follows:

Saturday 6 February: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 7 February: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 10 February: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

However the bishops have made it clear that the Sunday obligation remains suspended, so it is not necessary to attend Sunday Mass. The elderly and those at special risk are asked to give careful thought about whether to attend. If you do wish to attend, please contact the Church Office on 01453 542039 or at dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com to book a place. To keep everyone safe, please observe the guidelines: 'Those attending mass must not mix with people, even family members and friends, from outside of their household or support bubble while inside or outside the church building.' Thank you

Active Participation at a time of Covid *Deacon Stephen Corrigan*

How can active participation be possible at this time? Active participation is about our being during the liturgy; this is very challenging over a livestream, which cannot be considered the same as being present physically at Mass. The ability actively to participate online is challenging.

Ways that I find help my own participation are: celebrating the Divine Office, quiet prayer, meditation on scripture and the rosary. I fully appreciate that I have more time for that than many people, but I cannot recommend it highly enough. In terms of trying to participate actively in livestreamed Masses, prayerful reflection of the readings in advance is very helpful. The current situation is not an easy one to flourish in spiritually. We are physical beings, and the liturgy normally makes full use of our senses; a beautiful church; music; incense; the touch and taste of the Eucharist.

At this time we pray that, despite the challenges, we can grow closer to Christ through the transforming power of the liturgy

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Catherine Appleby, John Kaye

Diocesan Prayer Link:

Holy Family, Patchway, Bristol

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

Cam Methodist Church

Parish Prayer Rota:

Members of the UCM



Lent this year begins with Ash Wednesday on 17 February. As we will not be able to meet together this year, we are suggesting a Lent Course for individual study – to study the whole of the Bible during Lent! The course takes the form of some written material each week with some background, a passage of scripture and a reflection. We will be printing a small extract each week in the Newsletter; the whole resource will be published weekly on the parish website. Should you wish to receive a printed copy each week, please contact the office.

Echoes of God: Journeying with the word of God

David McLoughlin invites you to join him on a journey through the whole Bible in this wonderful 7 week course. He writes in his introduction:

Dear Friends

The aim of this series is to help us get a sense of the Scriptures as a whole. To see the unfolding of God's liberating and creative love in the history of Israel and in the Church.

We will set out with the freed Hebrew slaves and their leader Moses, responding to God's call; so close and yet always a little strange to us. We will become familiar with their pattern and be guided by the echo of the divine words from the beginning. Words which continue to liberate us in our time.

Our journey will lead us to encounter God. The same God across all the ages in the one unifying Spirit. Our choice of readings will reveal the growing sense of the mystery of God, and the mystery of God's Creation. Of men and women called to be a reconciled community, capable of selfless responses that can heal and fulfil each other and the world

February 14: Week 1, Exodus

February 21: Week 2, Genesis

February 28: Week 3, Prophets

March 7: Week 4, Wisdom

March 14: Week 5, Psalms

March 21: Week 6, Gospels

March 28: Week 7, Paul and the Letters

David McLoughlin is the Emeritus Fellow of Christian Theology at Newman University, Birmingham. He has helped to train Christian activists, priests, deacons, ministers and teachers for 40 years.