

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

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ORDINARY SUNDAY VIII (Year C) Quinquagesima

Sat 1 st Mar		5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Nympsfield
Sun 2 nd Mar		10.30am	Sunday Mass ()	Dursley
3 rd Mar	Feria of Week 8	NO PUBLIC MASS		
4 th Mar	St Casimir of Poland – Shrove Tuesday	9.30am	Mass (Fr. Francis Wadsworth's birthday intentions)	Dursley

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO TIMES AND PLACES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY FROM WHAT WAS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

5 th Mar	ASH WEDNESDAY Start of Lent - Fasting & Abstinence	9.30am	Ashing Service with the school	Nympsfield
		Noon	Mass & Ashing	Dursley
		7.00pm	Mass & Ashing	Tuffley
		7.00pm	Mass & Ashing	Glos. St Peter
		7.00pm	Mass & Ashing	Stroud
6 th Mar	Lenten Feria	7.30pm	Mass & Ashing	Thornbury
		10.00am	Mass with Year 2	Nympsfield
7 th Mar	Lenten Feria <i>Ss. Felicity and Perpetua</i>	2.30pm	[Women's] World Day of Prayer Service	Cam Methodist
		6.00pm	Holy Hour, with Rosary & Confessions	Dursley
		7.00pm	Mass	Dursley
8 th Mar	Lenten Feria <i>St John of God</i>	Noon	Mass	Dursley
		3.00pm-	Confessions	Dursley
		4.00pm		Dursley

LENT I (Year C) Quadragesima

8 th Mar		5.30pm	Penitential Procession & Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Nympsfield
9 th Mar		10.30am	Penitential Procession & Sunday Mass ()	Dursley
		4.00pm	Lenten Evening Worship	The Tab

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE HOLY FATHER

MASS PROPERS FOR ORDINARY SUNDAY VIII – (Year C)

Entrance Antiphon The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; He saved me because He delighted in me.

First Reading – Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7 *Ben Sirach warns us not to praise someone, until we have heard them reason.*

Responsorial Psalm It is good to give thanks to You, O LORD

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 *St Paul teaches us that the Risen Lord, victorious over death, makes us winners, steadfast and immovable.*

Alleluia Verse Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

Gospel Reading – Luke 5:1-11 *Continuing the Sermon on the Plain, St Luke tells of Jesus stating that out of the abundance of the heart, a person speaks.*

Communion Antiphon I will sing to the Lord, Who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Shrove Tuesday 4th March – 6.00pm Pancake Evening in St Dominic’s Parish Hall – PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE BACK OF CHURCH
- Saturday 8th March in Clifton Cathedral with the Bishop, the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion.
- **Sunday 9th March Lent I – both Sunday Masses will begin as last year, with the traditional Penitential Procession, with the Litany of the Saints, asking them to support us in our disciplined journey to Easter**
- Sunday 9th March at 3.30pm in Bristol Anglican Cathedral, Bishop Bosco is to be installed as an honorary ecumenical canon. We thank our neighbours for recognising Bishop McDonald in this way.
- Friday 10th February – CAFOD Family Fast Day and Collection the following Sunday
- Sunday 16th March Lent II – Soup Lunch in the hall after Café Dominic
- Sunday 30th March Lent IV – Laetare or Mothering Sunday, Marian Service and Benediction in St Joseph’s, Nympsfield
- Thursday 22nd May to Wednesday 28th May **St Wulstan’s Southern Way Catholic Walking Pilgrimage** from Worcester Anglican cathedral to Clifton RC Cathedral – Walk, Talk, Pray, Celebrate. You are invited to join all or part of the walking, as well as the evening celebrations in the church where they stop overnight. More details will follow. This is part of the Jubilee Year ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.
- Sunday 7th September [Sunday closest to Our Lady’s Birthday] Annual Clifton Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Glastonbury

LENT PRAYER COURSE 6 sessions on the Lord’s Prayer, led by Revd. Jimmy Cullingford, the Minister at Dursley Methodist church each Tuesday either at 10.30am or in a house group in the evening. The Prayer Course is a 6-week journey through the Lord’s Prayer, with 24-7 Prayer founder Pete Greig and co-host Poppy Williams. Each session includes a video, a guide for small group discussion and practical ideas for prayer. The Prayer Course is based on Pete Greig’s book *How To Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People*.



“AGING GRACEFULLY” – LENTEN SERIES Come and join in with the Ageing Gracefully course. It starts on **5th March, running for 6 weeks from 2pm to 4pm, during Lent.** The course is led by Ian Donald, a retired Doctor and Christian. It is designed for those who are ready to confront the process of ageing, blending medical expertise with biblical insight and practical Christian wisdom. I enclose a flyer to book onto the course or please do feel that you can just turn up. For more information please look at this link, <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/ageing-gracefully-course-practical-theology-of-later-life/>



EVENING PRAYER FOR THE SUNDAYS IN LENT Last year, we met in the dark, and Dursley’s Methodist community played host at their chapel. This year, we shall be meeting in the light, each Sunday @ 4.00pm, moving around some of the various churches of the Ecumenical Partnership, for whose hospitality we are grateful in advance:-



- 9th March – Dursley Tabernacle URC church, GL11 4BW**
- 16th March – St George’s Anglican church, [Upper] Cam GL11 5PQ**
- 23rd March – St Giles Anglican church, Uley GL11 5SN**
- 30th March Dursley Methodist church GL11 4BS**
- 6th April – St Bartholomew’s Anglican church, [Lower] Cam GL11 5JX**

THE -GESIMAS – THE RUN-UP TO LENT The Gesimas derive their name from Latin numbers. Lent is Quadragesima from the number 40 [As in the Italian Quaresima] and Septuagesima is 70. The other Sundays are named from there. We no longer use the -gesima titles for the Sundays leading up to Lent. There are no special readings or mass propers for these 3 Sundays and it is possible, though deeply inadvisable, to hit Ash Wednesday like a train, crashing into the buffers. For this reason, we are adding the -Gesima titles on the front cover of our bulletin to remind ourselves the season is on the way. You will find in this bulletin

SEPTUAGESIMA SEXAGESIMA
QUINQUAGESIMA

SHROVE
TUESDAY



ASH
WEDNESDAY



details of events and worship to facilitate your fruitful participation in the coming season of prayer, fasting and works of charity.

Because Lent (as we would recognise it) first appeared as the final period of preparation of candidates for Baptism and Confirmation at Easter, the season has become for the rest of us a refresher course in Christianity and a time of renewal of our faith. We aim by His grace, to deepen our relationship with God by conversion and

repentance. This is why we have Lent courses, buy books and pamphlets to help us, join groups and attend special events.

It is for this reason that our Catholic Community and ecumenical partners provide opportunities for growth and cleansing. Nevertheless, you still must think for yourself about what you are giving up (Vice) and what you are taking on (Virtue). Each individual Christian’s observance will be different. That is quite right and proper. If you want help, the parish clergy (both of us) are more than willing to help.

SIMPLE WAY TO REMEMBER SOME OF THE VITAL ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

Almost all of us learned an Act of Contrition by heart, when we prepared for First Confession. Older prayer books give other acts. One way to remember some of the most important elements of prayer is the word ACTS

- A = Adoration. This is praise and the acknowledgment of God’s glory
- C = Contrition. This is sorrow for sin and the acknowledgment of that we are sinners in need of His mercy
- T = Thanksgiving. This is self-evident
- S = Supplication. This is asking for things if they are in accord with God’s will for us and others.

INDULGENCES FOR THIS HOLY YEAR OF JUBILEE These are gainable under “the usual conditions” i.e. Prayer for the Pope’s intentions, receiving Holy Communion within a few days before or after the good act to which the indulgence is attached and also going to Sacramental Confession likewise within a few days either side of the good act. It is also asked that as far as possible, we be detached from sin, as these good works are meant to help with our conversion to God. The Good Works recommended are:-

1. pilgrimages to the four Papal Basilicas and their Holy Doors in Rome, Jubilee Shrines in Italy and the Holy Land, the Cathedral Church of SS Peter & Paul, Clifton, Bristol [see the walking pilgrimage above], and the Shrine of Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury, Somerset.
2. A) The corporal and spiritual works of mercy,
 B) taking part in parish & diocesan catechetics,
 C) fasting from futile distractions.

Examples of these recommended activities include the following : Visiting prisoners, the sick, lonely or elderly, Helping those who are in need • Giving a generous gift of your time or money, participating in spiritual exercises [Retreats], Formation activities on the documents of the Vatican II or the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Abstaining for at least one day a week from social media, video games, apps or television.

FULL CIRCLE The return of Ash Wednesday takes us almost round in a complete circle. The ashes we use for blessing and imposition on our heads is made by burning the palms of last year. Many folks, not all of them church goers, are attached to their blessed palms. They do not willingly give them up for burning and liturgical recycling. There is, however, no “magic” in the palms. They are merely holy props. The listening to the Palm Gospel and walking in procession is how we truly united ourselves with Christ in His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, symbolised for us by the church building where Mass is to take place.



The Palm Sunday Mass at the end of the Procession moves us from the Palms to the Passion. The reminder of this comes on Ash Wednesday with the ash made from blessed palms. The crowd shouted joyfully, “Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessings on Him Who comes in the name of the Lord! And yet a few days later, the fickle crowd bayed for His blood and shouted, “Crucify Him!”. We are those same, weak human beings, trying to be loyal and obedient and yet, like woolly headed sheep, we wander off and get lost. We must come back, admit our faults and start afresh. The journey to eternal life starts with the admittance of our mortality, that we will eventually return to the dust from which we were taken. It is about truth and reality. God is Truth and Ultimate Reality. Ash Wednesday is sombre, but it is not depressing. Not for us misery, depression and the grave. Repentance and Conversion lead to life. The road to Easter starts here.

