

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

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SUNDAY 4 APRIL 2021

EASTER SUNDAY



Collect

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life

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 (John 20: 1 – 9)

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Reflection

In John's Gospel the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.



Father Philip and Deacon
Domenic wish you and your
families every blessing at Easter

SERVICES FOR EASTER

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 8.30 pm at St Dominic's

Easter Sunday: Mass 9.00 am at St Joseph's

Mass 10.30 am at St Dominic's

There will be **no Mass** on Wednesday 7 April

To ensure the safety of all who participate in these services:

- The services will be shorter than the usual ones; the Bishops' Conference has authorised the omission of certain parts of the liturgy
- Face coverings must be worn
- Use of sanitiser on entry and exit is essential
- No interaction is allowed indoors between people from different households

Numbers will also be limited to ensure social distancing. IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT YOU BOOK A PLACE BY CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE ON [542039](tel:542039) OR BY EMAILING dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com

If you are not able to attend these services, they will all be livestreamed from Clifton Cathedral

Easter Offering

This is made directly to the priest, so either send a cheque to Father Philip at the Presbytery or drop an envelope (*available at the back of church*) into the letterbox



If you do not feel able to attend a Mass, watch a live-streamed service and make an act of Spiritual Communion

An act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally

come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen



Don't forget Holy Land and Middle East Christians over Easter, says Bishop Declan

Ahead of Holy Week, Bishop Declan Lang, chair of the Bishops' International Affairs department, has issued a reminder that the Christians living in the lands of Christ should be held in prayer. Starved of pilgrim visitors to the Holy sites, and facing the daily realities of conflict and occupation, the Christians, as Pope Francis puts it, are suffering "the economic inequalities and regional tensions that threaten the stability of these lands."

Bishop Declan is asking Christians to reaffirm their commitment to justice and peace in Middle East.

He also calls on our leaders to "increase their support for peacebuilding, humanitarian relief, and the protection of human dignity, while forsaking narrow political or economic interests, including the sale of arms which only fuel conflict."

First Communion

We hope to hold classes for Holy Communion during May and June and to celebrate the Sacrament the weekend 3rd/4th July. Classes will be held at St. Joseph's School, Nympsfield and in the Parish Hall at St. Dominic's, Dursley. These classes are for those children who started the course last Spring.

We shall set up a new programme for children currently in Y3 and Y4 in the Autumn.

Details will follow as soon as possible. This will all depend on Covid restrictions and whether we can find suitable dates and times. We are sorry that we cannot be more precise at this time.

Syd Gwyer

200 Club Winners March

1st: Pat Scriven £40
2nd: Susan Terry £30
3rd: Mary Bucci £20

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently: Mary Collins

Diocesan Prayer Link:

Our Lady of the Rosary, Lawrence Weston
St Bernard, Shirehampton

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Cyr, Stinchcombe

Parish Prayer Rota:

Members of the UCM