

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

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SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B



Collect

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very occurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed.

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: 19 – 31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied,

'My Lord
and my God!'

Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

Stella Maris Raffle

Thank you all for your generosity, both in providing prizes and in buying tickets. Together we have raised £341 for Stella Maris

£50 Marks and Spencer voucher	Whitneys
£50 garden voucher	Obre Arundel
Tea for two at Calcot Manor	Sue Johnson
Tub of garden flowers	Pat Prodger
Dartington wine tumblers with wine	Barbara Skal
£20 Amazon voucher	Trevor and Gill Hill
£10 Sainsbury voucher	Susan Terry
£10 Sainsbury voucher	Theresa Dyer
£10 Argos voucher	Mary Cryan
Famous Grouse whisky	Tom Holden
Gordons elderflower gin	Anne Ballard
Pimms	Rosemary Caning
Box of chocolates	John O'Donnell
Plastic storage box	Maire Murphy
Silver picture frame	Louisa Rubin
Reed diffuser	Mary Molloy
David Beckham toiletries	Pat Uglow
Baylis and Harding toiletries	Catherine Moloney
Purely Samantha toiletries	Ana Szokalo

If we haven't managed to get your prize to you, it will be waiting in the office. Please contact the office to collect it or have it delivered. Thank you

From Pope Francis' Lenten Message

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

“Social love’ makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 183).

Love is a gift that gives meaning to our live

Celebration of Mass

Saturday 10 April: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

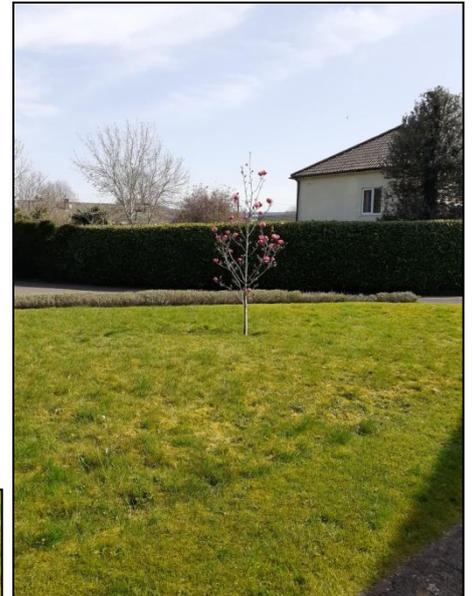
Sunday 11 April: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 14 April: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

Please remember to wear masks, use sanitiser and maintain social distancing. Thank you

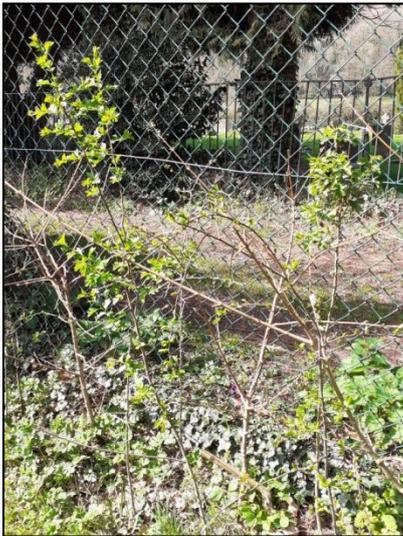
Green St Dominic's: Wilding our Garden

Inspired by the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si'* we have drawn up a plan a plan to make our church gardens more environmentally sustainable and more friendly to wildlife. Last year we planted a native hedge; this is now one year old and coming into leaf again, showing that it is successfully established. For the second year we have also devised a mowing regime which will leave part of the lawns to grow unchecked, with just a border round the edge being mown Last year this led to us finding a number of wildflowers, including a number of wild orchids.



Grass in front of the Presbytery – only the edges have been mown

We will not mow again until the autumn



New life in the new hedge

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Mary Collins

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Patrick, Brockworth Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Churchdown

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Dominic, Dursley

Parish Prayer Rota:

Father Philip, Deacon Domenic and our altar servers