

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

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SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B



Collect

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

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 (Luke 24: 35 – 48)

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded, so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

Reflection

As proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

Celebration of Mass

Saturday 17 April: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 18 April: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 21 April: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

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

Red Boxes 2020

In 2020 our community of St Dominic's raised £606.04 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Communities around the world are so grateful that people here in Dursley are supporting them through prayer and our generous donations. The missionaries, and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by COVID-19. They have asked us to pass on their thanks and tell us that they pray for us all. Find out more at missio.org.uk.

From Cardinal Vincent Nichols' Easter Message

I'm very glad to have this opportunity of wishing you all a very, very happy Easter.

What a joy it is to be celebrating Easter and the days of Holy Week with congregations in our churches, not like last year, which was such a strange, strange experience. And now we're on the move forward, and thank God for the effectiveness of vaccines, which we must all take up. It enables us to get, again, a little bit nearer to the rhythm of our life and of the living and expression of our faith.

So a very happy Easter!

For me two key words this Easter that go so closely together are sacrifice and service. Easter marks this enormous sacrifice of Christ, of his body and blood, his whole being handed over and coming out of the death that was inflicted upon him. But that sacrifice of the cross frees us from our sins. And prior to it, we saw him washing his disciples' feet, this symbol of service. We see in the person of Jesus, sacrifice and service held inextricably together.

We think of him in the Eucharist. A Eucharist that doesn't give fruit in service is a bit inadequate. And a service that doesn't somehow signal back to its true origins, its true roots, which is this inestimable love of God, is a service that hasn't got all its dimensions together.

In our lives, service is sacrifice in the small print of everyday living. The things we do for each other in service involve a little sacrifice, but it all comes together in the person of Jesus, in the Risen Lord who restores our poise and strengthens our confidence and gives us again a true hope that he is indeed our way, our truth and our life beyond death for eternity.

So may God bless you this Easter and may it be a time of peace, joy and true thanksgiving!



Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral on 3 April

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

Monday Prayers

Although we cannot all meet in our buildings as often as we would like, we can still be together as we set aside 30 minutes each Monday at 5.30pm (or indeed any time that suits) to pray for each other. We call this Praying Together.

A suggested form of prayer is published each week on the Prayer page of the website.



Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently
Mary Collins

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Edmund, Calne St Anthony of Padua, Melksham

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Joseph, Nympsfield

Parish Prayer Rota:

The young people of our parishes