

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

Parish Priest: Father Philip Beisly

St Dominic's Presbytery Jubilee Road Dursley GL11 4ES 01453 542039

Permanent Deacon: Domenic Bucci

01453 542136

dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B



Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before

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 10: 11 – 18)

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock
and one shepherd.
The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Reflection

Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the following verses, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

Feast of St Bernadette Soubirous – 16 April

At the age of fourteen, whilst out collecting wood at the side of the River Gave, Bernadette heard a noise like a wind and then saw a Lady dressed in white dress and veils with a blue belt and a yellow rose on each foot, the Lady was in a niche in the rock side some three metres above the ground. Startled and frightened, Bernadette made the sign of the cross and began to pray the rosary with the Lady. When the prayer ended, the Lady vanished.

At the third apparition, the Lady spoke for the first time and asked Bernadette to come to the Grotto for fifteen days. The Lady also told Bernadette that “she did not promise to make her happy in this world, but the next”.

The eighth apparition was an especially important one in terms of the message of Lourdes. The lady told Bernadette “Penance, Penance, Penance, pray for sinners. Kiss the ground as a penance for sinners!” This very much influenced the remainder of Bernadette’s actions over the remainder of the apparitions and indeed for the rest of her life.

During the period of the eighteen apparitions (February to July 1858) and for some time after, Bernadette was questioned intensely by the authorities and the church, she was put under immense pressure to change her story of the apparitions and deny them. However, she was completely resolute, she never wavered in the consistency of her answers and showed no fear of the stern authorities and doctors.

Due to the attention that Bernadette continued to get from the public, the pious and the disbelieving along with the plain curious, Bernadette moved into the convent of the Sisters of Nevers in Lourdes, where she learned to read and write, eventually joining them to become a nun.

Bernadette had a great love of caring for the sick, but she became sick herself and so spent time in the infirmary as both patient and nurse. “After all, they are our brothers.” During long sleepless nights, she united herself with the Masses celebrated throughout the world and offered her suffering, through Mary, with her eyes fixed on the crucifix: “That is where I find my strength.”

Statement by Bishop Declan Lang

on the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

On behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton, I would like to express our condolences and promise of prayer for her majesty Queen Elizabeth II and all members of the royal family at the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince Philip was a man dedicated to supporting the Queen and accompanying her on many visits both at home and abroad. Prince Philip was his own person and had strength of character. The Prince’s death is a loss to United Kingdom and the commonwealth.

Bishop Declan Lang

Celebration of Mass

Saturday 24 April: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 25 April: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 28 April: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

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

Stroud Food Bank

We wanted to write to you to ensure that you were properly thanked for your contributions. The Lent collection received a total of 209.35 kg of food which is a huge achievement. Thank you too for your generous cash donations. We are sure that we do not need to tell you that during the last year, the need to for the foodbank has increased immensely. We are very humbled to have been able to reach and assist these people, but we could not have done so without the unfaltering support of our donors.

Gift Aid Appeal

As you can imagine, one of the side effects of this very strange last year is that our Parish income has been greatly reduced. Although some of our expenses have also been reduced the maintenance costs of keeping our Church, Presbytery and hall in good condition have not.

One fairly painless way of increasing our income at no extra cost to you is for you to Gift Aid your donations if you are able to. This enables us to claim 25p from HMRC for every pound that is Gift Aided. Some of you already do this and we are extremely grateful to you.

Your income must be high enough for you to pay tax and the amount claimed by the various Charities that you support must not be more than the amount of tax you pay or HMRC will claim the difference back from you.

Gift Aid forms are available from Sue Whitney or the Gift Aid Secretary, Colin Archer. You can then make your donations either by Standing Order or by using the numbered Offertory Envelopes and both of these options are available from Colin Archer. Ad Hoc Donation Envelopes are also available at the back of the Church for one-off donations. You will need to keep a record of any Gift Aided donations you make in case you need to complete a tax return.

Another way of supporting the Parish is to join the 200 Club but that is another story.....

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently: Mary Collins

Diocesan Prayer Link:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chippenham St Patrick, Corsham

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Mark, Dursley

Parish Prayer Rota:

The choirs of our parishes