

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

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SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B



Collect

Almighty, ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal

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 15: 1 – 8)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit

he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes

to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,

by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,

but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, and you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me

is like a branch that has been thrown away

-he withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,

and they are burnt.

If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will

and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples



Reflection

Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfilment of God's promises to Israel.

Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbour. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

Celebration of Mass

Saturday 1 May: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 2 May: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 5 May: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

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

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.....

Finance Report: January to March

The current balance is the total amount held in our church accounts. We try to keep this above £30 000 as we do need to hold money in reserve to cover any major maintenance work to the buildings. For example this summer we were advised to refit the Presbytery kitchen, which is nearly 25 years old, at a cost of £5 000

Between 2020 and 2021 this balance went down by £4 097 and now, even before paying for the kitchen, is below our minimum target of £30 000. So it is important that we try to increase our receipts, hence the appeal for Gift Aid

	2021 (Jan to March)	2020 (Jan to March)
Receipts	£5 656	£10 605
Payments	£12 436	£11 704
Receipts less payments	-£6 780	-£1 099
Current balance	£28 525	£32 622

CAFOD

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. Thank you for your steadfast support.



Vocations in the Clifton Diocese

Clifton Diocese is always seeking to encourage each one of us to consider more deeply how God is calling us to serve. The Vocations Ministry of the diocese seeks to promote vocations and is always happy to come and talk to parishes and schools or other groups about this. Father Colin Mason is Vocations Director for Clifton Diocese. He is Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart and St Antony's, Bristol, and has a strong focus on promoting vocations within the diocese. He leads a Vocations team that encourages and supports vocations to the priesthood, the religious life, the consecrated lay life and single life, and to the Permanent Diaconate. The vocation to the married life is encouraged and fostered separately within the Diocese.

God knows me and calls me by my name....

God has created me to do Him some definite service;

He has committed some work to me

which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission—I never may know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow I am necessary for His purposes...

I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection
between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good,

I shall do His work;

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth

in my own place, while not intending it,

if I do but keep His commandments

and serve Him in my calling.

John Henry Newman

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link:

English Martyrs, Chard with Crewkerne and Ilminster

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St James, Dursley

Parish Prayer Rota:

The sick of our parishes