

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

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SUNDAY 16 MAY 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B



Collect

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do

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 17: 11 – 19)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,
keep those you have given me true to your name,
so that they may be one like us.
While I was with them,
I kept those you had given me true to your name.
I have watched over them and not one is lost
except the one who chose to be lost,
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.
But now I am coming to you,
and while still in the world I say these things
to share my joy with them to the full.
I passed your word on to them,
and the world hated them,
because they belong to the world
no more than I belong to the world.
I am not asking you to remove them from the world,
but to protect them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth;
your word is truth.
As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world,
and for their sake I consecrate myself.
so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

Reflection

The disciples are in the world, but they do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. As Jesus' teaching and ministry was a source of consternation for some, Jesus knows that the world may not accept his disciples with open arms. Again, we hear echoes of John's theme that salvation is worked out through the cosmic battle between light and darkness. The world, according to John, prefers the darkness. Yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Reading this prayer of Jesus during the Easter Season, through the lens of his Resurrection, we know that the light of Christ has overcome the darkness of sin and death in our world. In the opening line of this prayer, we hear Jesus pray that his disciples will be kept in the name that he was given by God. We know that the salvation is given to us in the name of Jesus, and that his name—"God saves"—announces his mission on our behalf.

Coronavirus in India

As we all know, India is facing a devastating second wave of coronavirus, with more than 16 million cases and 200,000 deaths confirmed. Father Paul Moonjely, Executive Director of our partner agency Caritas India, tells us, "The Church in India has lost many of its faithful laity and religious brothers and sisters in their pursuit to serve the distressed population...There is a strong urgency to reach out to the strained and stranded population that has been dispossessed and isolated."



On behalf of the Catholic Church in India, Father Paul said, "I make an earnest appeal to all the members of the Caritas Fraternity across the globe, to come together in solidarity and encourage the community of faithful, institutions and people of goodwill to contribute generously to this humanitarian call and express our solidarity at this crucial moment."

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

Dursley and Cam Child Contact Centre

Dursley & Cam Child Contact Centre exists to support separating families enabling the parent of the child or children they no longer live with to spend precious time together, to foster and maintain their relationships during the time it may take for the parents to establish the way forward for everyone's benefit.

Sadly over the last year due, to the Covid pandemic, we have been unable to offer the regular contact sessions to families that we have been doing since 2007 – this has been very distressing for our existing families and disappointing for new families unable to start. In addition, for various health and work reasons we have lost a few volunteers. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD SPARE A SATURDAY AFTERNOON ONCE A MONTH?

Please email coordinator@dursleyccc.org.uk for further information, all enquiries are in confidence with no obligation to proceed.

Celebration of Mass

Saturday 15 May: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 16 May: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 19 May: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

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

Pope's Message for World Communications Day, Sunday 16 May

Pope Francis heralds the courage of journalists committed to sharing stories we would otherwise not see – such as the hardships endured by persecuted minorities – and rings a note of caution over the misuse of the internet.

“The crisis of the publishing industry risks leading to a reportage created in newsrooms, in front of personal or company computers and on social networks, without ever “hitting the streets”, meeting people face to face to research stories or to verify certain situations first hand. Unless we open ourselves to this kind of encounter, we remain mere spectators, for all the technical innovations that enable us to feel immersed in a larger and more immediate reality. Any instrument proves useful and valuable only to the extent that it motivates us to go out and see things that otherwise we would not know about, to post on the internet news that would not be available elsewhere, to allow for encounters that otherwise would never happen.”

“Thanks to the internet we have the opportunity to report what we see, what is taking place before our eyes, and to share it with others. At the same time, the risk of misinformation being spread on social media has become evident to everyone. We have known for some time that news and even images can be easily manipulated, for any number of reasons, at times simply for sheer narcissism. Being critical in this regard is not about demonizing the internet, but is rather an incentive to greater discernment and responsibility for contents both sent and received. All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it. All of us are to be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share.”

LGBT+ Mass

A monthly celebration of the Eucharist for LGBT+ Catholics, families and friends: a Clifton Diocese initiative. All are welcome!

Sunday 16 May at 3.00pm

St Nicholas of Tolentino Church, Lawford's Gate, Easton Bristol BS5 0RE

Follow the livestream via the Parish website <https://tolentino.org.uk>

Thy Kingdom Come, Lighting up the World in Prayer: 13 – 23 May

This is a timely ecumenical initiative to help us reflect more deeply on our journey with Christ and personal call to discipleship. A variety of rich Catholic resources are available for use in our parish communities, which can enable us to prepare more fully to celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost. In a year that has been beset by many personal challenges and worries, we hope that these resources may provide a useful source of spiritual nourishment and reflection.

See cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/ for more details, including a Pentecost Novena for the days between Ascension and Pentecost.

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Gregory the Great/St Thomas More, Cheltenham

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

Cam Methodist Church

Parish Prayer Rota:

The congregation at Nympsfield