

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

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SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2021
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



Collect

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.

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 (Mark 4: 26 – 34)

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Reflection

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

Celebration of Mass

Saturday 12 June: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 13 June: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 16 June: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

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

Children and Young People

Restrictions are gradually easing, so that we are now able to resume some of our normal activities.

We have one **Confirmation candidate**, Magda, who had completed her preparation before the first lockdown. As there have not yet been any Confirmation services in the Deanery, the Bishop has authorised Father Philip to confirm Magda during the 10.30 Mass on Sunday 20 June. We wish her well

We are thinking that it may also be possible for a group of candidates to be prepared for **Confirmation** in the autumn. In this case, classes would need to start before the summer holidays. Candidates should already be at Secondary School. If you know of young people who would like to join such a group, please get in touch with the Church Office as soon as possible, certainly by the end of June

First Communion preparation is now underway for a group of about a dozen children, who will take their First Communion on the weekend Saturday 3 / Sunday 4 July

We hope to be able to resume the **Children's Liturgy of the Word** in the Parish Hall on Sundays during the 10.30 Mass. In the meantime a Children's Liturgy is published each week on the Parish website

The Beauty of Marriage

From Pope Francis – June 2021

Some people say that marriage has gone out of style. And yes, it's an adventure, a great adventure — or, as Francis says, "a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times complicated, but it's worth making the effort."

You need to understand that "marriage isn't just a 'social' act; it's a vocation that's born from the heart," as the Pope says this month. Go ahead and share this message of joy that reminds us that "sharing one's life is something beautiful." Getting married and sharing one's life is something beautiful. It's a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times complicated, but it's worth making the effort. And on this life-long journey, the husband and wife aren't alone; Jesus accompanies them. Please, never forget this. God has a dream for us — love — and He asks us to make it his own. Let us make our own the love which is God's dream for us.

The Common Good: What does it mean?

The Common Good in its true sense relates to the shared life of a society where everyone contributes and is able to reach fulfilment, a settled pluralism of identities and interests. But it is often misunderstood. Join us to explore its meaning and importance as our country faces complex challenges ahead.

#1 in a new series of four public conversations



Philip Booth
St Mary's University
Twickenham

Jenny Sinclair
Together for the
Common Good

Sam Bruce
Centre for Social
Justice

Ruth Kelly (Chair)
St Mary's
Twickenham

6.30-8pm, Tuesday 15 June 2021, online via zoom

For full details and booking, please visit:
http://bit.ly/CommonGood_series2021

This is the first of four events in the series: *The Common Good: what does it mean for families, society and government*, produced in partnership between Together for the Common Good, The Centre for Social Justice, Caritas Social Action Network and the Benedict XVI Centre at St Mary's University Twickenham. The series is sponsored by CCLA, one of the UK's largest ethical fund managers, home of the Catholic Investment Fund.



Going Green

Pentecost brought our Easter season to a rather energetic close and this beautiful solemnity always finds us returning to the Upper Room with the women and the disciples watching, waiting and praying for that promised gift of the Spirit who would anoint them and send them out as witnesses of Gospel joy. The strength, the power, and the very breath of God would fill them and energise them to being the voice of Good News not just to a city but to the ends of the Earth. Whilst Pentecost marks an end in one sense it also marks a beginning. It is the beginning of Jesus' ministry, now extended in the life and in the example of the disciples.

But as we move the Paschal candle from its place near the lectern back to the baptistry we fall into Ordinary Time. Ordinary comes from the word 'ordinal,' which means 'numbered', hence Week 8, 9, 10 etc. It's not so much a time where we just do ordinary things but rather it is a time where we narrate the ordinary ministry, life, teaching of Jesus and we find ourselves immersed in a Gospel that simply draws us into a deeper, richer understanding of the outreach of the kingdom of God through the day to day walking, talking, reaching out, praying and eating side of Jesus' life. It is ordinary in that we are able to gaze into the extraordinary breaking in of God's kingdom through the simple life of Jesus of Nazareth which, of itself, is anything **but** ordinary. But I suppose we also find Jesus breaking into the ordinariness of our lives, too.

Into the simple and into the uncomplicated Jesus seeks to touch our lives. Through his simple word and simple touch Jesus seeks to make holy the ordinariness of our lives for, it is in the ordinariness that we can encounter the life of God. We 'go green' in that we put aside the white of the Easter season and adorn our churches in the green of Ordinary Time.

Green speaks to us of life, of growth, of abundance and of verdant pastures where we find a richness and a fullness of nourishment. Rather than just seeing ordinary time as an ordinary, day-to-day season, we can journey through it inviting the tender, compassionate, healing, forgiving Lord to draw us, through ordinary things, into the extraordinary life of God's kingdom. But, also, maybe this ordinary season allows us to embrace something of the mission of Jesus in our own lives and to be reminded that it is precisely in the ordinariness and every-day-ness that we are called to be proclaimers of God's goodness, of God's justice, of God's beauty, of God's joy and of God's peace.

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Mary Philpott

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Peter, Cirencester St Aldhelm, Malmesbury St Michael, Tetbury

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

The Quarry Chapel

Parish Prayer Rota:

The young people of our parishes