

**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](mailto:dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com)

**SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020**  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION, YEAR A**



**Collect**

Almighty, ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory.

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 1: 39 - 56)**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? From the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt with joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
he has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to  
his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

### **Reflection**

We hear in today's Gospel how the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy when she is greeted by Mary, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary has travelled to see her cousin, Elizabeth, to share her amazing news that she is to bear a son who will be named Jesus.

The joy of the two women is electrifying. Mary is full of praise for God who has 'done great things' in her. Mary's response to Elizabeth's praise is a song of hope for great things to come. God is at the heart of this prayer, a God who is to bring salvation to all and Mary is to be the bearer of the one who will bring about the justice that the poor have longed for. Mary's joy reflects the inner longing she has had for the oppressed in her own country to be released from their pain. She has given her unequivocal yes to God's invitation to her.

As a young woman at the start of her life this was a generous and selfless act of personal sacrifice. Mary was giving her body and her life to the world. What is God's invitation to us to this day and in the week ahead? Can we say yes to God, even if that yes is costly? If we do, then we too will be able to sing of the marvellous things God has done for us.

### **Opening of our Churches for Private Prayer**

Our churches will be open this week as follows

St Joseph's: Sundays, 10 am to 11 am (note the change in times)

St Dominic's: Thursdays, 2 pm to 3 pm, for individual prayer only.

## **Celebration of Mass: Sunday 16 August at 3 pm**

Because we are following the guidelines set down by the bishops, whose chief consideration is to create a safe environment for everyone, fewer people will be able to attend the Mass each week.

### **Arrangements for August**

Father Philip will be away on his annual leave and Father Gary Brassington from Stroud has very kindly offered to take Mass at St Dominic's in his place. We offer him our heartfelt thanks for serving us in this way. Please note the later time of 3 pm.

Next week Father Philip will return, and will be celebrating Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30 pm on Saturday 22 August and at 11 am at St Dominic's on Sunday 23 August.

### **Does everyone now need to attend Mass?**

The bishops have made it clear that the Sunday obligation remains suspended, so it is not necessary to attend Sunday Mass

Some Masses will continue to be streamed (eg Clifton Cathedral)

The elderly and those at special risk are asked to give careful thought about whether to return to Mass straight away

### **How can I attend Mass?**

As numbers will be limited, you will have to contact the Church Office in advance with your name and contact details: 542039 or [dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com)

Be sure to arrive early for the Mass; stewards will be on hand to help with the seating

You will need to bring a mask and wear it

You will need to sanitise your hands on entry and exit

There will be no singing, no offertory procession, no bidding prayers

You may place an offering on a plate on entry; there will be no collection

At the distribution of communion you will need to stay in your place until a steward gives you the instruction to move forward

No paper copies of the Newsletter or Mass sheets will be handed out

**BUT** it will be wonderful to be together again at the Lord's table!

### **Stewards and Readers**

Two volunteer stewards, a reader and a cleaner will be needed for each Mass. These should not be from those groups considered at risk and more vulnerable to coronavirus, over 70, or those shielding

## Praying Together: Each Monday at 5.30 pm

Although we are isolated in our own homes at this difficult time we are together as we set aside 30 minutes each Monday at 5.30pm (or indeed any time that suits) to pray for each other.

Each week there is a resource on the Prayers page of the website to help us in our prayer:

### Monday 17 August

Reading: *1 John 3: 1a - 2*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Through Christ we are sons of God; in him we see what we shall be when we come to the Father. With confidence we pray:

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Guide leaders and governments: - give them wisdom and integrity

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

You are the Lord and source of our freedom: - bring those in captivity of mind or body to the freedom of the children of God

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Give courage and strength to the young: - help them to choose their work, and to make the right decisions for their way of life

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Give patient tolerance to those who are no longer young: - open the hearts of the young to accept from them understanding and love

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Receive the departed into your eternal kingdom: - sustain our hope to reign with you for ever

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

**Our Father ...**

We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty, for bringing us safely to the evening of this day; we humbly ask that the prayer we make with uplifted hands may be an offering pleasing in your sight

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

### Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Margaret Holloway

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Immaculate Conception, Stroud

**Churches Together Prayer Rota:** Dursley Methodist Church

**Parish Prayer Rota:** The children of our parishes