

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

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SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2020
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

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 Matthew 16: 13 - 20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ

Reflection

Jesus asks Peter a very pertinent question, 'Who do you say I am?' I wonder what we would say to Jesus if he asked us the same question? It is a good one for us to ponder. Who do we say Jesus is? Who is Jesus for me?

The spiritual life invites us to come to know the person of Jesus and grow in our relationship with him. How do we grow in that relationship? The pandemic has forced us out of the Church but not out of our relationship with God. If anything, it has offered us an invitation into a deep encounter with the Lord and a renewal of friendship.

Someone described the enforced lockdown as an opportunity to experience in a very small way the cloistered life. Locked up, as we have been, the pace of life has shifted, the rushing from here to there has had to stop. It is as if God is asking us to pause, to live more 'intentionally', to appreciate the small seemingly insignificant things. Being attentive to the love of Jesus is more possible, not because we hide away, but because we encounter the Lord in and through one another.

Whether we are living alone or we have a houseful, the Lord is inviting us to unite together in prayer for the world, for health, for safety, the opportunity to gather once more and in gratitude for all those special people who have worked tirelessly and at great cost to keep us safe. Who do we say Jesus is? He is our light in the darkness we are, hopefully, beginning to emerge from.

Opening of our Churches for Private Prayer

Our churches will be open this week as follows

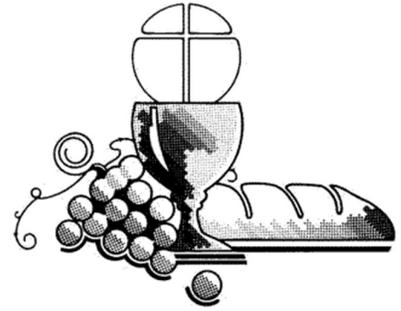
St Joseph's: Sundays, 10 am to 11 am

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

Celebration of Mass

We will be celebrating Mass again at St Joseph's at 5.30 pm on Saturday and at St Dominic's at 11 am on Sunday

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.



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

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

Missio urges supporters to 'Think outside the Box!'

Due to COVID-19, supporters are unable to get their iconic Red Boxes to their local Red Box volunteers or churches to be emptied.

However, COVID-19 has also made the needs of missionary dioceses around the world more urgent than ever, as the constraints of lockdown have added to existing problems of poverty, violence and injustice.



The Red Box is a vital revenue stream for projects and communities supported by Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Last year, supporters in England and Wales raised £2.9 million through the Red Box and together with the global Missio network, helped people in 1,070 dioceses worldwide.

Missio is letting supporters know that there are many ways to donate to the Red Box fund. Supporters can:

- Send a cheque: made payable to Missio-Mill Hill and posted to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
- Give online: www.missio.org.uk/redbox
- Give via text: Text REDBOX 5 to donate £5 or REDBOX 10 to donate £10 to 70085. This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard rate message.
- Donate by phone: Call 020 7821 9755 during office hours to donate with your credit or debit card
- Donate by bank transfer: Account Name: Missio Sort Code: 16-00-16 Account Number: 10824230 Ref: RB+ your postcode

Missio is grateful for every penny, prayer and pound our supporters put in their Red Boxes. According to Mill Hill Missionaries working in Africa and Asia, COVID-19 and the lockdown are causing real hunger and suffering, especially among those already living in poverty.

Without any income for many months, many Priests and communities of Sisters are struggling too. They need our help now and will do for some time to come. Your prayers and the contents of your Red Box will help them reach out to the local community with the care and compassion of Christ. Your Red Box is a sign of faith and of hope for our global family across the world.

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently: Margaret and Lionel Holloway

Diocesan Prayer Link: Holy Family, Swindon

Churches Together Prayer Rota: Dursley Tabernacle

Parish Prayer Rota: Members of the UCM

Praying Together

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.