

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

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SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2020

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

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: 21 - 27)

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way thou think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone want to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Reflection

At the time that Jesus was put to death, the cross was seen to be an instrument of torture and execution. Slowly over time the cross has become a symbol of triumph over death and resurrection, a symbol we are familiar with today. We hang crosses in our homes, our churches, and many of us wear one around our neck. We begin and end our prayer with this sign.

When Jesus calls his disciples to take up their cross and follow him, we might wonder if he was asking them to pick up an instrument of torture or the promise of resurrection. We, too, are invited to pick up our cross and follow him.

To understand what this might mean we can turn to St. Paul who tells the Romans that they are to 'offer their bodies as a living sacrifice'. In other words, he is telling them, and us, that every day of our life is to be a life lived for Christ. Inevitably this will come with joys and sorrows. Daily life is not always easy, but it can bring us many opportunities to also experience kindness, compassion and love.

Eventually living will lead to death, not usually a gruesome death in the way that Jesus died. It may not be straightforward or come at a time that we expect, but eventually it will come. This is the very nature of what it is to be human. This is not a cause for despair. We are a people of hope – a hope which takes us from death to resurrection and new life shared with the risen Lord.

Opening of our Churches for Private Prayer

Our churches will be open this week as follows

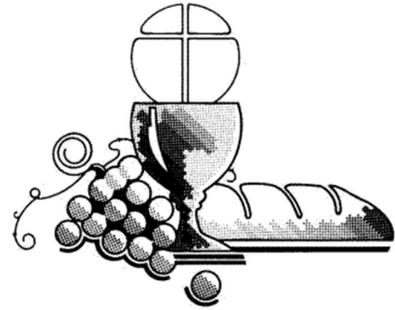
St Joseph's: Sundays, 10 am to 11 am

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 and 9.00 am on Wednesday.

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

Baptism

Congratulations to the family and friends of Bernie Richard Maurice Smith who was baptized at St Joseph's last Sunday.

The Season of Creation

This year is the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On the Care for our Common Home. Pope Francis challenges us to consider the kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us. It's not just an 'environment encyclical', it leads us to ask ourselves about the meaning of existence and the values at the heart of social life: "What is the purpose of our life in this world? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?"

Pope Francis, quoting Pope Saint John Paul II, reminds us that, as Christians, we are called to be responsible custodians of creation:

"Christians in their turn 'realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith'".

The Global Catholic Climate Movement has just released the first of a series of monthly reflections. This month reminds us about the Season of Creation and runs from September 1st to October 4th. It is an opportunity to celebrate God's gift of creation with the global Catholic family. We are especially asked to take part in this season. There are a number of ways in which we can do this – for example see <https://clifftondiocese.com/laudato-si/> or <https://seasonofcreation.org/> - and, of course, we can pray.

CAFOD Prayer for our World

Creator God, who made our beautiful world, appointed us as its guardians and gifted us with everything we need, forgive us for the times we cause it harm; for the times our way of life affects our neighbours. Inspire us to care for the environment; to help rebuild lives and communities; to share in the griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes of all your people, so that all your creation may flourish.

Amen.

Our Parish

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

Diocesan Prayer Link: Holy Rood, Swindon

Churches Together Prayer Rota: The Quarry Chapel

Parish Prayer Rota: Father Philip, Deacon Domenic and our altar servers

Prayer

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.

We call this Praying Together.