

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

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SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive our adoption, look graciously you're your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

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 18: 15 - 20)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Reflection

When we are hurt or angry, we can use silence both as a shield and a weapon. Afraid to say the wrong thing, afraid of causing more hurt, we can sit and fester. But silence is the enemy of peace.

Jesus reminds us of the need to seek reconciliation. It is often difficult to take that first step, to be the one to start the conversation especially if we are the wronged one; but in a spirit of generosity and willingness to listen to the other, the process of healing can begin. If, on the other hand we continue to meet with hostility, we are encouraged to seek the help of others to try and bring about peace.

Without this peace and reconciliation, the situation will remain bound. In other words we have to do everything we can to resolve the problem. Perhaps in our own life we have a situation which is causing pain either for ourselves or another. Do we need to take that step? Let us ask God for the courage and the willingness to reach out and begin the process.

Opening of our Churches for Private Prayer

Now that Masses have resumed at St Joseph's Nympsfield on Saturday evenings, it will no longer be open for private prayer on Sunday mornings.

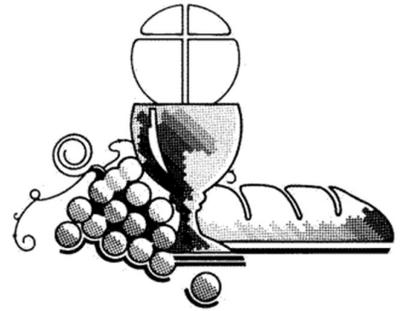
St Dominic's, Dursley will be open on Thursday, 2 pm to 3 pm, for individual prayer only. Please follow instructions and observe social distancing guidelines at all times.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to act as stewards.

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 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



Congratulations to Maria Parry and Andrew Ormes who got married in St Dominic's last week.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Dominic's Church on Saturdays 3.00pm to 4.00pm or by arrangement starting on Saturday 12th September.

200 Club winners for August:

1st Phil Durcan £40, 2nd Mary Cryan £30, 3rd Boby Milczarczyk £20.

Please contact Sue Whitney at the Church office if you would like to join, the cost is 50p per week.

Starting School?

If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2021 onwards.

You must complete an application form, available from the admissions team of Gloucestershire Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school.

Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15 January 2021.

The Season of Creation

This month from 1st September to 4th October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi) is the Season of Creation. It is an opportunity to celebrate God's gift of creation and we are all especially asked by Pope Francis to take part. There are a number of ways we can do this – for example see <https://cliftondiocese.com/laudato-si/> or <https://seasonofcreation.org/> - and, of course, we can pray.

“Almighty God, you created the world and gave it into our care so that, in obedience to you, we might serve all people: inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom, and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all; that, trusting in your bounty, all people may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Our Parish

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

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Mary, Swindon

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

Sr Bartholomew, Coaley

Parish Prayer Rota:

The young people of our parishes

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.