

**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 5 SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B**



**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** (Mark 7: 31 – 37)

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

## **Reflection**

In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament.

We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch.

The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

### **Celebration of Mass**

You no longer need to contact the office and book a place but we shall continue to record names as a precaution. We shall try to ensure that anyone who wishes to be "distanced" can be – in which case please arrive early

Hand sanitisers will still be used and face coverings are strongly recommended

Saturday 4 September: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 5 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 8 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

Friday 10 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 7.00pm

## **Faith in Action Day 2021**

Join us for an online day of talk and prayer to learn more about this year's climate talks, Pope Francis's call to action and how people in the Amazon region are leading the fight to care for our common home

The countdown is on. In a few months, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks. Our government has a vital role to play in leading global efforts to tackle the climate crisis. But as citizens of the host nation and as people of faith, we have an important role to play too.

This is the time to come together, build a community and act. Do not miss our Faith in Action Day 2021 on Saturday 11 September, 11am-4pm

On this Faith in Action Day you will:

Find out more about the UK government's vision for COP26

Connect with other Catholics in interactive sessions and find out how we can organise ourselves to build momentum for the climate talks in Glasgow this year

Hear from environmental defenders in the Amazon about their struggle to protect our common home

Explore Pope Francis's Synod on the Amazon and his call for justice

Get inspired by young Catholic campaigners and their fight for the climate crisis

Stand in solidarity and pray together for our brothers and sisters who are suffering the most as a result of the climate crisis

Register here: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Faith-in-Action-Day-2021>

Agenda for the day can be found here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/56814/779052/version/1/file/-CAFOD%20FIA%20agenda.pdf>

## **Celebration of Marriage**

Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 2 October (12 noon) and is inviting all married couples to join him.

He will send a personal invitation to those couples who are celebrating significant anniversaries during 2021 or those who will marry during this year.

If you are celebrating 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, or 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries during 2021 or getting married this year please email ([adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com)) leaving details of your names, address, and the number of years you are both celebrating.

## **200 Club Winners for August**

1<sup>st</sup>: Sue Johnson, £40

2<sup>nd</sup>: Midie Macdonald, £30

3<sup>rd</sup>: Louisa Rubin, £20

## Education Sunday

Education Sunday is marked this year on 12 September – just after the new academic year starts. The theme for 2021 is ‘A word in season’, taken from Isaiah 50:4.

Churches Together in England (CTE) rightly describes teaching and studying as “demanding and privileged callings” and Education Sunday gives us the opportunity to give thanks to God for all who teach and all who study, for all who continually have to find the right words and deliver them with enthusiasm and graciousness.

This is all the more poignant as we attempt to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers, pupils and leaders in our schools have suffered 18 months of disruption and uncertainty. For the second year in a row, GCSE and A Level students have been Centre Assessed or Teacher Assessed – a challenging situation for both teachers and pupils.

On 12 September, we pray that God will fortify those working to make our schools places of learning and sanctuary – not just teachers and leaders but all the support staff whose tireless work sometimes goes unnoticed. We pray for all our primary and secondary pupils – particularly school leavers who have had such a difficult journey in recent times – not to mention students in higher education and vocational training.

## SVP calls for a million gestures of kindness

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is seeking a million gestures of kindness to address the trail of poverty and loneliness left in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Launching its Awareness Month campaign, which runs throughout September and includes the feast days of SVP founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and the Society’s patron saint, St Vincent de Paul, on September 9 and 27 respectively, the SVP is calling for parishioners in the Clifton diocese to become a member, volunteer a few hours of their time, or donate to support people in need.

In 2017, on September 27, the Feast of St Vincent de Paul, Pope Francis said that charity is central to the Church’s mission: “Charity is at the heart of the Church, it is the reason for its action, the soul of its mission.”

*svp.org.uk*

### Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

#### Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Bernadette, Whitchurch    St Dunstan, Keynsham

#### Churches Together Prayer Rota:

Cam Methodist Church

#### Parish Prayer Rota:

The congregation at Nympsfield