

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@cliftdiocese.com

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

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: 21 - 35)

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Reflection

Bud Welch, an American whose daughter was killed in the Oklahoma bombing describes how he was eaten up with hate and a desire for revenge. When he realised that this hate inside was killing him, he started to think about his daughter and what she would have wanted.

Being able to move forward when we have suffered comes when we are released from our pain. We need healing, we need to be able to forgive and we need to be forgiven. It is difficult because it can feel like a betrayal of the past. How can we let go and forgive? Forgiving another does not come easily to us. Harder still is the struggle we have seeking forgiveness for wrongs that we have committed. Yet the capacity to forgive and be forgiven is necessary if cycles of violence are to be broken.

We do not have to do this alone. The love which God has for us also brings forgiveness and the chance to renew our relationships and begin again. It is a chance for us to have a different future one that is not dictated to by what has happened in the past. For Bud Welch it was his faith and his desire for healing that led him to forgive the killer. His act of forgiving, he says, 'freed him' more than it freed the killer. He found peace and freedom and the chance to once again think of his daughter with joy.

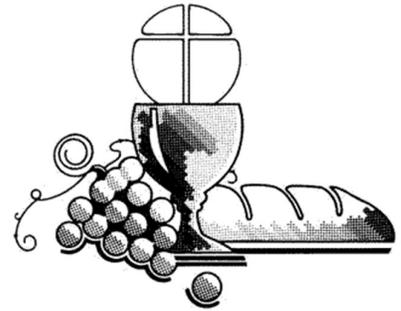
Opening of our Churches for Private Prayer

St Dominic's Church will be open individual for private prayer on Thursdays, 2 pm to 3 pm.

Celebration of Mass

We will be celebrating Mass again at St Joseph's at 5.30pm on Saturdays and at St Dominic's at 11.00am on Sundays and 9.00am on Wednesdays.

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!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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.

Special Collections

The Good Friday collection for Holy Places & Christians in the Holy Land will now take place this Sunday the 13th September. It contributes towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Christian Shrines of the Holy Land. It also offers financial support to the Christian communities living in the Holy Land at times when they are experiencing opposition and suffering. If you would like to contribute but are not planning to come to church on Sunday please either post or hand deliver your offering to St Dominic's Presbytery, Jubilee Rd, Dursley GL11 4ES with a note inside saying "Holy Land Collection".

Starting School?

If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, then you must apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2021 onwards by 15th January 2021.

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

Foodbank

The Foodbank has been very busy during the pandemic, delivering food to people's homes. Since the 20th March the Dursley centre has made 170 deliveries which have fed 461 people. This does not include the clients GL11 has fed.

On Saturday 12th September from 10am -2.00pm there will be an opportunity for individuals to bring donations to the forecourt of Dursley Methodist Church. If you wish you could bring a monetary donation in an envelope.

The Season of Creation – 1st September to 4th October

For more information see: <https://cliftdiocese.com/laudato-si/> or <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

This week's prayer by Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregational Ireland:

God of the universe, we thank you for your many good gifts - for the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants. Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted. Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and to share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all that you have made. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species and to be willing to share your gifts today and always. Amen.

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Peter Swindon, Sacred Heart Royal Wootton Bassett

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Bartholomew, Lower Cam

Parish Prayer Rota:

The choirs in 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.