

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

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SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



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 (Mark 8: 27 – 35)

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again, and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him,, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants 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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples what others say about him. He then turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe. Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ.

Now that the disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he will be rejected, must suffer and die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely.

We can easily miss the fear that Jesus' words must have evoked in his disciples. Death by crucifixion was all too familiar as a method of execution in Roman-occupied territories. It was also an omnipresent danger to the Christian community for whom Mark wrote.

The path that Jesus was inviting his disciples to share meant tremendous suffering and death. This is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel.

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 11 September: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 12 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 15 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

Friday 17 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 7.00pm

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 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th, or 70th anniversaries during 2021 or getting married this year please email (adult.education@cliffondiocese.com) leaving details of your names, address, and the number of years you are both celebrating.

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

"Dare to Dream" Autumn Series

There has been much talk about everything getting back to normal now that the pandemic appears to be receding. However, to simply believe that we just go back to how we were, has the potential for us to miss an opportunity to 'refresh, renew and re-engage'. We are all different people because of the pandemic. Lives have changed. It is true to say that the pandemic has made many of us stop and think. Do we just want to return to how things were? What might we hold onto and what might we let go of? There is much to ponder. If we do want to embrace the new world, we are being offered, we will need to have open hearts and open minds, confidence, hope and above all faith that God is on this journey with us. The resources for this series are available on the Clifton Diocese website and will be added each week during the months of September and October at <https://cliftondiocese.com/dare-to-dream/>. Each session has a similar framework to follow. We are encouraged to read a short passage and then follow the reflections which come with a video. Each new video and reflection will be available on the Friday before each Sunday.

Music and Cake at St Bartholemew's Church, Coaley

On Sunday 19th September at 3pm, local singing duo Susy Keating and Dave Lane will be performing, followed by delicious tea & cake provided by the catering team from Friends of Coaley Church, and a chance to chat. All welcome.

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Thomas More, Marlborough

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

Church of the Holy Cross, Owlpen

Parish Prayer Rota:

The children of our parishes