

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

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

O God, who founded all our commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and our neighbour, grant that, keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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 20: 1 - 16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he was others standing idle in the market place and said to them. "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at the ninth hour he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too". In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Reflection

If we need reminding of how much God loves us, then today's parable does just that. God is all loving and all giving – no measurements involved.

Given the nature of our humanity, there is a tendency for us to be judgemental about the generosity of others if it doesn't impact favourably on us. Perhaps we think justice is about making sure that we receive that which we perceive to be our right reward, our just desert. Father Jack Mahoney SJ writes of a different kind of justice, the justice of need, as promoted by Pope Leo XIII when he wrote in his encyclical *Rerum novarum*: 'if one man hires out to another his strength or skill, he does so for the purpose of receiving in return what is necessary for the satisfaction of his needs.' (n. 5).

God sees the unique needs of every individual and responds accordingly to that need. This is the challenge given to us today. Who are the people in most need in our community, in our locality, in our world? Can we respond to their needs with great generosity, not measuring out what we think someone is worth but giving without counting the cost?

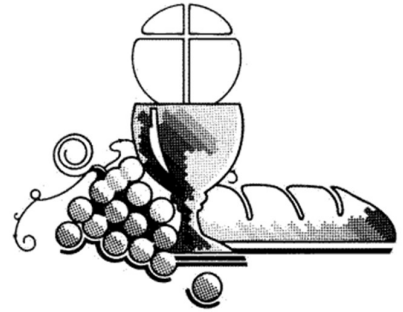
Opening of our Churches for Private Prayer

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

Celebration of Mass

We will be celebrating Mass again at St Joseph's at 5.30 pm on Saturdays and at St Dominic's at 11 am on Sundays and at 9 am 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

Clifton Refugee Sponsorship: our 2020 Parish Charity

cliftonrefugeesponsorship.co.uk

The Arafeh family consists of Mohamed Arafeh, his wife and their two sons. They are from Homs in Syria and fled to Jordan in 2012 at the time of particularly horrible massacres and destruction in Homs. They had lived as refugees in Jordan ever since, and were selected by the UNHCR to come to the UK as particularly vulnerable refugees who would be unable to return to Syria.

Since the family arrived in October 2019 the CRSS has been working full-time to help them adjust to their new life here in Bristol. They have accommodation that we furnished for them in a safe suburb of north Bristol. We arranged full medical registration and checks. Bank accounts have been sorted out and state benefits are now helping their finances. Up until that time the CRSS had provided the family with full financial support. We arranged contracts for their mobiles, a laptop and broadband connection and a television. We have provided startup bus passes and shown them how to use the buses to access shops, mosques, museums and other areas of Bristol that they may wish to visit.

All of this has been done with the idea of gradually encouraging their independence from us so that the family can function safely and efficiently in this city and country.

We have introduced the family to members of the local Syrian community and taken them to several events. The children have now both started at a local secondary school, and CRSS arranged for meals and paid for their uniforms. The family has been receiving English language tuition from our volunteers and the parents have started a certificate course. The next stage of our project is to help the parents to gain the training and support needed eventually to move off benefits and into work.

84 Hymns for 84 Years

Pat Uglow has been our Church organist for over 50 years. At the age of 84 she has decided to retire, but not before she has completed an exciting and exhausting challenge that she has set herself: playing 84 hymns on the organ, one for each year of her life! The aim will be to raise money for our Parish Charity, Clifton Refugee Sponsorship, so whilst you are invited to come and listen to



the hymns, you are also invited to give. More details will be available next week, but the recitals will take place in four sessions – after Mass on September 30, October 4, 7 and 11

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link: St George/St Theresa of Lisieux, Taunton; St John Fisher, Wellington

Churches Together Prayer Rota: St Bartholomew, Nympsfield

Parish Prayer Rota: The sick of our parishes