

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

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**SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B**



**Collect**

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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 9: 38 – 43, 45, 47 – 48)

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

### **Reflection**

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith.

Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

### **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

Friday 24 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 7.00pm

Saturday 25 September: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 26 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 29 September: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

Friday 1 October: Mass at St Dominic's at 7.00pm

## World Day for Migrants and Refugees: Sunday 26 September

### From Pope Francis: "Towards an ever wider we"

Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of "them" and "those", but only "us". That is why I decided to title my message for the 107th World Migrant and Refugee Day "Towards an ever wider we".

Salvation history sees an *us* at the beginning and an *us* at the end, a humanity united in Jesus Christ "that they may all be one". The present time, however, reveals to us that the *us* willed by God is broken and fragmented, wounded and disfigured. And this is even before the pandemic, though the latter has revealed this truth to us in all its horror. Closed, exasperated, resentful, and aggressive nationalisms and radical individualism are crumbling the *us* willed by God, both in the "world" and within the Church. And the highest price is paid by those who can most easily become the *other*: foreigners, migrants, the marginalized, all inhabitants of the existential

I would like to take advantage of this happy occasion to launch a double appeal to walk together towards an ever wider *us*, one addressed to the Catholic faithful and one addressed to all the men and women of the world.

For the Catholic faithful, a call to commit themselves to an ever more inclusive Church, following up the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to the Apostles.

For all the men and women of the world, a call to walk together towards an ever wider *us* which begins with a heartfelt invitation to recompose the human family, to

build together our future of justice and peace, ensuring that no one is left out. The future of our societies is a future in colour, enriched by diversity and intercultural relations. That is why we must learn today to live together in peace and harmony.

### Wanted – School Governors

The Bishop wishes to recruit new candidates to join the governing bodies, to help grow and sustain Catholic education in the Diocese for current and future generations, and so has produced a new promotional video where the Bishop and current governors and Headteachers, talk about the importance and value of school governors.

Visit

<https://schools.cliftdiocese.com/governance>

and click on the Recruitment tab to watch the video to discover some of what being a school governor is about.

If you would like to support catholic education and so would like to apply to be a governor, please complete the online application form

<https://schools.cliftdiocese.com/form 2>

or contact Bill McEntee, Governance Officer via [bill.mcentee@cliftdiocese.com](mailto:bill.mcentee@cliftdiocese.com)

or call 07710094976 for more information – he would love to hear from you!



It is hoped that there will be Confirmations in the Deanery in June next year. If anybody in year 9 or above, that is born on or before 31 August 2008, is interested in being confirmed, please speak to Father Philip on or before Sunday 26 September

## CAFOD

The poorest and most vulnerable people in the world are being hit hardest by the climate crisis. Harvests are failing.

CAFOD are reaching out to the most vulnerable and supporting people who are giving their all to protect our world.

Friday 1st October is Family Fast Day and we are all encouraged to eat only a very simple meal that day and to donate any money we save to CAFOD either online at: [cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis](https://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis), or by supporting the 2nd Collection on the weekend of 2nd/3rd October. A number of Gift Aid envelopes will be available. This is a crisis that will affect each and every one of us, and is damaging our world. Our common home. God's Creation.

## “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-todream/>. 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.



**St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley**

**Songs of Praise  
for Harvest**

**Sunday 26th September**

**6pm**

**with members of  
Frampton Silver Band**

**Refreshments**

**All Welcome**

### Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Valerie Organ

#### Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Dunstan, Somerton

St Joseph, Langport

#### Churches Together Prayer Rota:

Dursley Tabernacle

#### Parish Prayer Rota:

Father Philip, Deacon Domenic and our altar servers