ST DOMINIC'S, DURSLEY & ST JOSEPH'S, NYMPSFIELD
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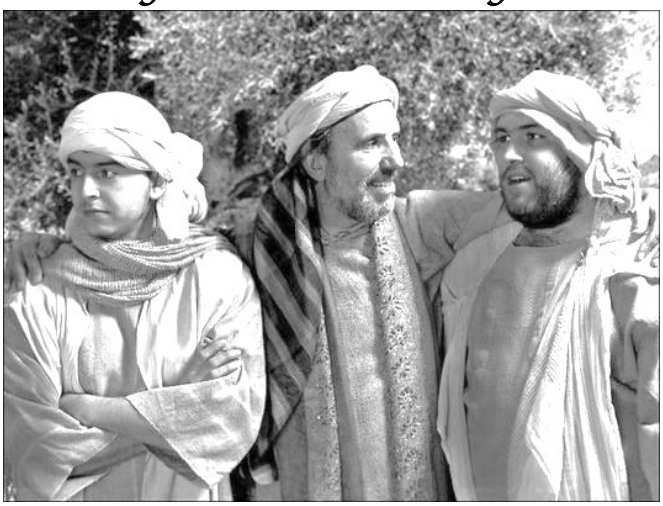
ORDINARY SUNDAY XXVI (Year A)

Next Week Harvest Festival and CAFOD Second Collection



WORSHIP FOR THIS WEEK

26th Sep	**SUNDAY XXVI 'Per Annum'**	**5.30pm**	**Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)**	**St J's**
27th Sep		**10.30am**	**Sunday Mass ( )**	**St D's**
28th Sep	St Wenceslaus, Duke of Bohemia & Martyr		**No Public Office or Mass**	
29th Sep	ST. MICHAEL & THE HOLY ARCHANGELS, Feast	9.15am	Lauds	St D's
		9.30am	Mass (Holy Souls)	St D's
30th Sep	St Jerome of Bethlehem	9.15am	Lauds	St D's
		9.30am	Mass (M.E. Thomas RIP)	St D's
		11.00pm	**Funeral Service for Paul Harrison**	**St Mary the Virgin, Berkeley**
1st Oct	St Therese of Lisieux	**10.00am**	**Full School Mass** (Our School)	**School Hall**
2nd Oct	Holy Guardian Angels	5.30pm	Vespers	St D's
		5.50-6.50pm	Rosary and Holy Hour & Confessions	St D's
		7.00pm	Mass (Holy Souls)	St D's
3rd Oct	Our Lady on Saturday	Noon	Modern Mass in Latin (Holy Souls)	St D's
		3.00-4.00pm	Confessions	St D's
3rd Oct	**SUNDAY XXVII 'Per Annum'**	**5.30pm**	**Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)**	**St J's**
4th Oct	**Harvest Festival**	**10.30am**	**Sunday Mass ( )**	**St D's**

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER **For the care of water.** Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER **For mental health ministry** Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

SUNDAY PROPERS FOR O.S. 26 (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: All that You have done to us, O Lord, You have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against You and not obeyed Your commandments. But give glory to Your Name and deal with us according to the bounty of Your mercy.

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28 *Ezekiel was a priest of the Temple, working before the Exile to Babylon and in Babylon itself. He tells the people that God will not punish the children of the guilty but the guilty person. God says that when a wicked person turns away from evil, He will live.*

Resp. Psalm: Remember Your compassion O LORD.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11 *To illustrate his teaching that we should have the mind of Christ in us, St Paul uses an existing hymn. We use it a lot in Holy Week.*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them and they follow Me. Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 20:1-6 Christ tells the Parable of the Two Sons. This may be where He got the idea for the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Communion Antiphon Remember Your word to Your servant, O Lord, by which You have given me hope. This is my comfort when I brought low.

"FRIENDS AT CHRISTMAS" ' Friends at Christmas' are **looking for a cook** to head up the kitchen team **at the Methodist Church on Christmas Day**. The cook will be responsible for cooking a Christmas lunch for up to 70 people. A team of volunteers is in place to help with procurement and preparation. For more details contact Nicky Yudin (F@C coordinator) Mobile: 07999755138, Email: harrowyudins@aol.com'

ENTERTAINING ANGELS UNAWARES St Andrei Rublyev's famous icon of the Holy Trinity, shown here, uses a story from the book of Genesis to draw God, an impossible task. The story is that of Abraham entertaining mysterious visitors with a message from God. Indeed, although there were three, Abraham addresses them as though they were just a single someone [Trinity – Three in One]. In the icon St Andrei paints them a having halos and wings. Could Abraham possibly have mistaken them for just visitors out of the desert. Sarah, his wife, says to him that she herself was visited by "a man of God" to announce that she would give birth to Isaac to continue the line of the Patriarchs. There is a clue in the fact that the visitor announced – we might say, "Brought tidings"! Although she saw no wings and nor shining light, it seems her mysterious visitor was, in fact, an angel, whom she did not recognize. The Greek word Angelos describes a job, not a kind of non-human life. An Angelos is an announcer, a messenger from God, an imparter of news. They recur throughout the Old and New Testament. Gideon meets an angel. The mother of Samson meets a messenger. The most important message in

history is brough to Our Lady by an Archangel, Gabriel. The guardian angels announce God's love and protection for us, as they keep guard around us.

If angels and archangels can and do look like ordinary human beings, could it not be that God Our Father uses ordinary human beings to announce His messages and proclaim His rescue of us in action? Fireman, policewomen, ambulance and lifeboat workers. They do not glow with light or have halos around their heads. In fact, they are often in dark and dirty places saving people. They do not have wings, but they DO announce God's Good News in word and deed. I suspect we would be terrified if we knew how God uses man and angelic beings working together. We look for little green men from Mars and enjoy science fiction from Dr. Who to Star Wars, but non-human life is at work on this very planet. The Holy, Bodiless Powers of Heaven (to describe them correctly) borrow bodies to work on earth. Incorporeal beings become temporarily corporeal, like us. Perhaps, by God's love for us and ours for Him, He can borrow us to work with Him and for Him. May be, temporarily, we can be Seraphic, Cherubic, Angelic or Archangelic to further God's marvellous plans. Maybe, this must happen unawares, lest we be frightened or puffed up with pride, but it may be working on us to become saints.

The co-operation of human beings with the holy, bodiless powers of heaven, is mentioned over and over again to remind us before we sing the Holy, Holy, Holy, "With all the angels and saints, we praise You, as we say/sing……" Worship and service, above, below, these unite us. Wings are not necessary. Willingness to help others, to be humble, to serve God and others, love, prayer these things we share with the angels and they share with us.

St Michael is the Prince & Captain of the Heavenly Host. May he be our captain and may we be part of the Hosts of Heaven, fighting for justice and the cause of right. Together, may we cast down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits, wandering through this world, trying to ensnare us. Lord God of Hosts, make us victorious with Your host/army here and hereafter.

"SYNOD ON SYNODALITY" SYNODAL PROCESS As you will know Bishop Bosco has appointed a Synod Team to support parishes in a period of reflection leading to a Diocesan Assembly in June. We have put in the diary several dates to cover information sessions and small group facilitation sessions, which are outlined below.

I know that you are very busy, but it would help enormously, if you could support this by inviting two (though it can be more) parishioners to represent your parish so that no parish is left out. Your first two reps would not have to commit but attend on a fact-finding basis and make a decision then if it is for them or perhaps some other people in the Parish. It would be good to have some young people represented so if you can encourage them that would also be great.

Our four areas and dates for learning about facilitation sessions are:

1. **Saturday 26 September, St. Dunstan, Keynsham:** 10am-12noon
   - **https://CiSKeynsham.eventbrite.co.uk**
2. **Saturday 26 September, English Martyrs, Chard:** 2.30pm-4.30pm
   - **https://CisChard.eventbrite.co.uk**
3. **Saturday 3 October, English Martyrs, Tuffley:** 10am-12noon
   - **https://cisTuffley.eventbrite.co.uk**
4. **Saturday 3 October, St. John the Baptist, Trowbridge:** 2.30pm-4.30pm
   - **https://CisTrowbridge.eventbrite.co.uk**

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Representatives can attend any one of the meetings. Refreshments will be available 30 minutes before the meeting starts. So that we can know what numbers to cater for, it would be very helpful if your representatives can please register using the Eventbrite link.

In addition to these formation meetings, we are also offering two online zoom information sessions (different to the above) which will help people to understand what is being asked of them and why. These will take place on:

Tuesday 22 September, 7-8pm **- https://synodalinfosession1.eventbrite.co.uk**

Thursday 24 September, 7-8pm **- https://synodalinfosession2.eventbrite.co.uk**

When they register for one of these you will receive the zoom link to the meeting within your Eventbrite ticket.

Please feel free to invite anyone you know who may not have received this email, especially new parishioners, people newly received into the Church and young people. If you have any questions about any of this, please do contact the team by emailing **synod@cliftondiocese.com**