

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

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SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2020
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise.

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 22: 34 – 40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets also.'

Reflection

Today's Gospel centres around love, a potentially difficult concept because it is a word which is so over-used. The love which Jesus is speaking of is what is known in Greek as agapeic love – that unconditional, self-giving love of the highest order; the kind of love which knows no boundaries.

We hear how the Sadducees and Pharisees are trying to catch Jesus out. In their desire to score points they fail to see who is standing right in front of them. It would be easy for us to be critical of them.

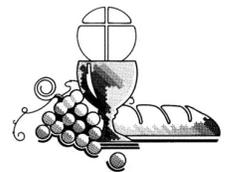
It might be better for us if we could look at them with some compassion and catch sight of the way we, too, might be with them, failing to love as we are called to love. The love which Jesus speaks of is all embracing. It is not the love between two people but the love we express to everyone we know and even those we don't, especially those who are in most need.

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
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@clifftondiocese.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



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

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available at St Dominic's on Saturdays, 3.30pm to 4.00pm or by arrangement

Becoming a Catholic

We shall be starting a group for those interested in exploring the Catholic faith, with a view to being received into the Church. They are known as 'enquirers'. There is no commitment involved in joining the group. It is an opportunity to discover more, ask questions and discuss. The time of meetings will be arranged to suit participants.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining, do encourage them to get in touch. They might like to contact Father Philip for an informal chat.

Pat's Hymn Challenge: Update

There is still time to give before the closing date of Sunday 25 October

The preferred way of sponsoring Pat is through *JustGiving* at

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stdominicsdursley?utm_id=1&utm_term=m38QW7Q5N

Other ways of donating are by cheque (made out to M P Uglow) or by cash left in the basket at church after Mass or posted to church at any time – if you pay using either of these methods please indicate clearly that the donation is for CRSS

Many thanks to Pat for undertaking this marathon for our Parish Charity!

Rebuilding our Common Home in the light of Coronavirus

An Advent Reflection for Religious and Religious Communities

You are invited to join us for an online afternoon of reflection in preparation for the Advent

Thursday 19 November – 1pm for a 1.15pm start

Please register in advance here (by 1 November):

<https://rebuildingourcommonhome.eventbrite.co.uk>

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 28 July - 6 August 2021

Father Colin Mason, Vocations Director for Clifton Diocese, will be one of the Spiritual Directors on next year's pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This trip has been designed specifically for young UK Catholic adults in the age range 18 to 35ish. In addition to celebrating Mass at some of the Holiest places on Earth, exploring places mentioned in the Bible and other historic sites, we also have a lot of fun! Imagine swimming in the Dead Sea, rafting down the Jordan River, and camping out in the Judean Desert!

Check out YouCAN Instagram handle [youngcatholicadultnetworkuk](#)

Red Boxes

Please will anyone who has a red collection box that has not been emptied since before lockdown either try to deliver it to Father Beisly at the Presbytery or contact me on 01453 547834 so that I can arrange to collect it from you. If possible please deliver your box or contact me by November 15th. Thank you for your cooperation. Mary Cryan

Fratelli Tutti: A New Encyclical from Pope Francis



The Pope describes *Fratelli Tutti* as a “Social Encyclical”. It aims to promote fraternity and social friendship. In the background of the Encyclical is the Covid-19 pandemic which, Francis reveals, “unexpectedly erupted” as he “was writing this letter”. But the global health emergency has helped demonstrate that “no one can face life in isolation” and that the time has truly come to “dream, then, as a single human family” in which we are “brothers and sisters all”.

Chapter One: dark clouds cover the world

In the first chapter the document reflects on the many distortions of the contemporary era: the manipulation and deformation of concepts such as democracy, freedom, justice; the loss of the meaning of the social community and history; selfishness and indifference toward the common good; the prevalence of a market logic based on profit and the culture of waste; unemployment, racism, poverty; the disparity of rights and its aberrations such as slavery, trafficking, women subjugated and then forced to abort, organ trafficking.

Chapter Two: strangers on the road

The second chapter is dedicated to the figure of the Good Samaritan. In it, the Pope emphasizes that, in an unhealthy society that turns its back on suffering we are all called – just like the Good Samaritan – to become neighbours to others, overcoming prejudices, personal interests, historic and cultural barriers. We all, in fact, are co-responsible in creating a society that is able to include, integrate and lift up those who have fallen or are suffering. Love builds bridges and “we were made for love”, the Pope adds, particularly exhorting Christians to recognize Christ in the face of every excluded person.

Baptism

Congratulations to the family and friends of Elia Tomiak-Baquero who was baptised last Saturday at St Joseph's



Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link: Corpus Christi/Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph, Weston-super-Mare

Churches Together Prayer Rota: 3C's Community Church

Parish Prayer Rota: Father Philip, Deacon Domenic and our altar servers