

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

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SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2021

THIRTY SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

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 12: 38 – 44)

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

Reflection

Jesus observes how Jewish pilgrims are making their contributions to the temple treasury. The Temple in Jerusalem was the centre of Jewish worship in the time of Jesus. It was expected that observant Jews would make pilgrimages to the Temple to offer prayer and sacrifices. Pilgrims were also expected to make a financial contribution to the temple treasury.

As we would expect to be the case, Jesus observes that those who were rich contributed large sums to the treasury. Those with less means made smaller contributions. A similar situation exists in most of our parishes as well.

Jesus calls attention, however, to a poor widow who makes the smallest of contributions—two coins of little value. Jesus upholds the poor widow's offering for his disciples' consideration, commending her because her small offering was an act of profound generosity, giving from her livelihood rather than her surplus.

To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, it is also an act of trust in God. We can only give from our need if we trust that God will provide for us.

Celebration of Mass			
Hand sanitisers will still be used and face coverings are strongly recommended			
Friday 5 November		NO MASS	
Saturday 6 November	5.30pm	Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 7 November	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
Wednesday 10 November	9.00am	Mass	Dursley
Thursday 11 November	10.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
Friday 5 November	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley

COP26: From Pope Francis's reflection on *Thought for the Day, Radio 4, 29 October*

Climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic have exposed our deep vulnerability and raised numerous doubts and concerns about our economic systems and the way we organize our societies.

We find ourselves increasingly frail and even fearful, caught up in a succession of “crises” in the areas of health care, the environment, food supplies and the economy, to say nothing of social, humanitarian and ethical crises. All these crises are profoundly interconnected. They also forecast a “perfect storm” that could rupture the bonds holding our society together within the greater gift of God's creation

We can confront these crises by retreating into isolationism, protectionism and exploitation. Or we can see in them a real chance for change, a genuine moment of conversion, and not simply in a spiritual sense

This last approach alone can guide us towards a brighter horizon. Yet it can only be pursued through a renewed sense of shared responsibility for our world, and an effective solidarity based on justice, a sense of our common destiny and a recognition of the unity of our human family in God's plan for the world

All this represents an *immense cultural challenge*. It means giving priority to the common good, and it calls for a change in perspective, a new outlook, in which the dignity of every human being, now and in the future, will guide our ways of thinking and acting. The most important lesson we can take from these crises is our need to *build together*, so that there will no longer be any borders, barriers or political walls for us to hide behind. I was recently impressed by something said by a scientist, “If things continue as they are, in fifty years' time my baby granddaughter will have to live in an unliveable world”

We cannot allow this to happen!

It is essential that each of us be committed to this urgent change of direction, sustained by our own faith and spirituality.

Humanity has never before had at its disposal so many means for achieving this goal. The political decision makers who will meet at COP26 in Glasgow are urgently summoned to provide effective responses to the present ecological crisis and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations.

And it is worth repeating that each of us – whoever and wherever we may be – can play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home



Volunteers at St Dominic's

We would like to restart the Little Church, the choir and Café Dominic. But first we do need volunteers – so if you feel able to help, please collect a form at the back of church or download the form from the website

Raffle in aid of *Stella Maris*: Prizes needed!

We are planning a Christmas raffle for to be drawn hopefully at Café Dominic on the Sunday before Christmas. If anyone would like to donate a prize it would be very much appreciated. Thank you. *Laura Gardiner*

Second Collection for Priests Retirement Fund: Sunday 7 November

This fund offers grants each year to the priests who have served our Diocese faithfully during their years of active priestly ministry. This money supports them in their retirement and offers them security in their retirement years. Our gift to them through this fund shows them something of our gratitude and our support.

200 Club

October winners:

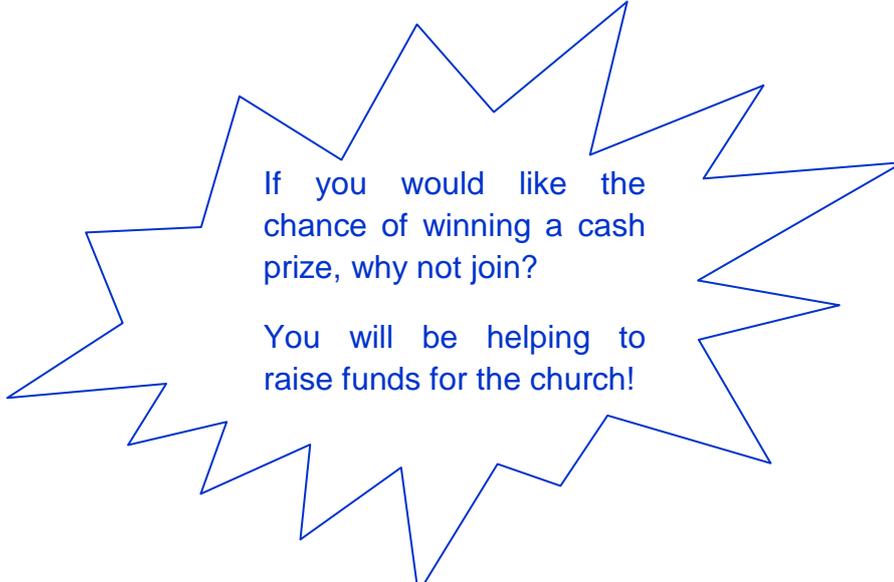
1st - Susan Terry £40

2nd - Mary Bucci £30

3rd - Susan Terry £20

St Dominic's Church 200 Club costs 50p per week per number. There are monthly draws of £40, £30 and £20 and the profit, which usually amounts to up to £1000 per year, goes towards the maintenance of the church. It is just a bit of fun whilst raising money for

the Church. Subs can be paid weekly, monthly, annually, a few weeks at a time or however you wish. For any further information or if you would like to join please contact Sue Whitney on 01453 542410



If you would like the chance of winning a cash prize, why not join?

You will be helping to raise funds for the church!

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Peter, Swindon Sacred Heart, Royal Wootton Bassett

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Dominic, Dursley

Parish Prayer Rota:

The children of our parishes