

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

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SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



Collect

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good.

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 25: 14 – 15, 19 – 20)

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.”

Reflection

‘One does what one can’ is the message that Jesus wants us to learn from today’s parable.

All of us have talents and it is for us to decide how we will use them. Talents are often associated with successful people. When we hear someone referred to as being ‘so talented’ it is unlikely that we are referring to someone who spends every night, awake, caring for a sick child or parent. It is unlikely that we are referring to the young person who works in a soup kitchen or talks to the homeless.

Yet what these people do stems from a desire to use what God has given them; the capacity for compassion, for gentleness, for concern, for generosity of heart, for their commitment to over-coming injustice and oppression in the lives of others, for not giving into the pain of personal disability.

It takes skill to bring healing and hope to others and this can be just as rewarding as the adulation that comes from being a successful superstar performing to the best of their ability.

And then ...



Daily Mass is still streamed live from Clifton Cathedral – see the parish website dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk for links to this and to other Masses

The daily readings can be found by clicking on the tab

Universalis
Readings for Today

at <https://cliftondiocese.com/departments/adult-education/liturgy-office/>

CELEBRATION OF MASS

Following Saturday's announcement of a second lockdown it will no longer be possible to celebrate Mass in our churches, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be discontinued for the month

However our churches will be open for **individual private prayer**:

St Dominic's – Sundays 2pm to 3pm

St Joseph's – Sundays 11am to 12am



We had hoped to be able to make a special Christmas collection to support our local foodbank. With the current lockdown restrictions this is no longer possible, but parishioners might like to make a contribution of goods or money. Details of what is needed can be found at

<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/christmas/>

All contributions will be much appreciated

Vigil of Christ the King: Saturday 21 November

The Catholic Bishops invite us to share in a national day of Prayer for the ending of the pandemic

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve.

Jesus Christ, heal us. Amen

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 Seven: renewed encounter

Peace is connected to truth, justice and mercy. Far from the desire for vengeance, it is “proactive” and aims at forming a society based on service to others and on the pursuit of reconciliation and mutual development. Forgiveness is linked to peace: we must love everyone, without exception, but loving an oppressor means helping him to change and not allowing him to continue oppressing his neighbour.. Forgiveness does not mean impunity, but rather, justice and remembrance, because to forgive does not mean to forget, but to renounce the destructive power of evil and the desire for revenge. Never forget “horrors” like the Shoah, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, persecutions and ethnic massacres. They must be remembered always, anew, so as not to become anaesthetized and to keep the flame of collective conscience alive. It is just as important to remember the good.

Just War: War is a constant threat, that represents the negation of all rights, a failure of politics and of humanity, and a stinging defeat before the forces of evil. Moreover, due to nuclear chemical and biological weapons that strike many innocent civilians, today we can no longer think, as in the past, of the possibility of a just war, but we must vehemently reaffirm: “Never again war!” The total elimination of nuclear arms is a moral and humanitarian imperative. With the money invested in weapons, a global fund for the elimination of hunger could be established.

Death Penalty: The death penalty is inadmissible and must be abolished worldwide. Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity and God himself pledges to guarantee this. It is necessary to respect the sacredness of life where today some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed, such as the unborn, the poor, the disabled and the elderly.

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Arthur Bradley, Adam Weneck

Diocesan Prayer Link: Alexander House/Diocesan Departments/St Ambrose

Churches Together Prayer Rota: Dursley Methodist Church

Parish Prayer Rota: the sick of our parishes