

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

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**SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**



The parable in today's Gospel teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

We are reminded that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God.

**Guidance for Worship**

You are strongly recommended to behave in a way that is respectful of the needs of others. Please remember that, although the Covid Crisis is behind us, sensible hygiene is still recommended.

## WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 18 November Dedication of St Peter and St Paul	3.30pm -4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley
<b><u>ORDINARY SUNDAY XXXIIIA</u></b>			
Saturday 18 November	5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Nympsfield
Sunday 19 November	10.30am	Mass (Jack Johnson RIP)	Dursley
Tuesday 21 November	9.30am	Mass (Michael Whittard RIP)	Dursley
Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple	<b>1.00pm</b>	<b>Funeral Service for Michael Whittard</b>	<b>Nympsfield</b>
Wednesday 22 November St Cecilia	9.00am	Mass (Our church musicians)	Dursley
Thursday 23 November St Clement of Rome	10.00am	Mass with School, Reception (Gerald Lockier RIP)	Nympsfield
Friday 24 November	6.00pm- 6.55pm	Exposition & Confessions	Dursley
Martyrs of Vietnam	7.00pm	Mass	
Saturday 25 November Feria	3.30pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley
<b><u>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNIVERSAL THE KING – WEEK XXXIVA</u></b>			
Saturday 25 November	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 26 November	10.30am	Mass	Dursley

*Café Dominic is open for refreshments each Sunday after the 10.30 Mass at Dursley*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place

### **Responsorial Psalm**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful and I will give you the crown of life

### **Communion Antiphon**

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER: FOR THE POPE** We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his Petrine mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit

### **RED BOXES DURSLEY & NYMPSFIELD**

1. Please will anyone who did not return their box for emptying in September please do so by 12<sup>th</sup> December, as the office at Missio likes to have all monies for the year banked by the end of December. Thank you. *Mary Cryan*.
2. Red box holders in Nympsfield are asked to get their boxes in for emptying by the end of the month to get their boxes in for counting and banks for the same reason!

**A BIT OF HELP IS WORTH A TON OF PITY! CAN YOU HELP YOUR PARISH WITH GOODS FOR SALE AT OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR? CAN YOU HELP SET UP, MAN A STALL OR HELP US CLEAR UP AFTER? CAN YOU ATTEND WITH AN OPEN HEART AND A GENEROUS PURSE? FUN AND FUND-RAISING GO TOGETHER, SO COME AND HAVE FUN!!!!**



## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

**2023 BISHOP DECLAN WRITES:** Safeguarding is an essential part in the life and ministry of the Church. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure our parishes and institutions are safe places, especially the young and the vulnerable. Abuse and harm have no place in our diocese. There is zero tolerance to abuse, harm and any behaviour that falls short of appropriate safeguarding practices as expressed

in National Policies.

Jesus welcomed children and blessed them. We are told that Jesus was indignant when anyone tried to keep the children away “let the little children come to me and do not stop them. It is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.” (Mark 10: 14). Jesus makes clear his view about those who seek to harm the vulnerable, “anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. Anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea.” (Matthew 18: 5-6) Jesus’ stark words point to the horror and seriousness of abuse. Abuse is evil. It is destructive.

Everyone in our diocese is called to ensure that all diocesan institutions, parishes, clergy, employees and volunteers take appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment and put into practice Christ’s ministry towards children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Our diocese is committed to accompany and support all victims/survivors of abuse. We seek to learn from them and their representatives about best safeguarding practice.

I would ask you to support Safeguarding Sunday on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity to raise awareness of safeguarding, reflect on our own safeguarding journey and celebrate all the good work being done by the diocesan safeguarding office and parish representatives.

### LOOKING AHEAD

- Christmas cards will be on sale each Sunday together with other items on the repository - candles, cards, Mass cards etc.
- **Christmas Fair 3<sup>rd</sup> December – ADVENT SUNDAY – Start of the new church year, Lectionary Year B**
- “Open House” Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at John and Louisa Rubin’s home. £2 entrance
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM
- Oriana Singer’s Pre-Christmas Concert at St Dominic’s, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Our Parish**

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died:

Gerald Lockier, Michael Whittard

#### **Diocesan Prayer Link:**

St Catherine, Frome St Dominic, Mells

#### **Churches Together**

#### **Parish Prayer Rota:**

The sick of our parishes

**EMERGENCY CAFOD COLLECTION ON CHRIST THE KING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE HAS MANY CASUALTIES AND MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS ON BOTH SIDES. CAFOD WILL TRANSMIT OUR EMERGENCY COLLECTION TO THE AID RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE REGION. WE WILL TAKE THIS COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, 25<sup>TH</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, CHRIST THE KING. LET US BUILD HIS KINGDOM WITH COMPASSION AND PRACTICAL LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR.**

## STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING WAR AND VIOLENCE IN THE HOLY LAND Bishop

Declan Lang, Chair of the Bishops' Conference's International Affairs department, and Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Chair of the Holy Land Co-ordination have released a statement on the ongoing Israel/Hamas war:

"To our brothers and sisters across the Holy Land, particularly those sheltering in the Parish of the Holy Family in Gaza along with those in the West Bank, we remain close to you and in constant prayer for you at this most difficult, terrifying, and testing of times. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

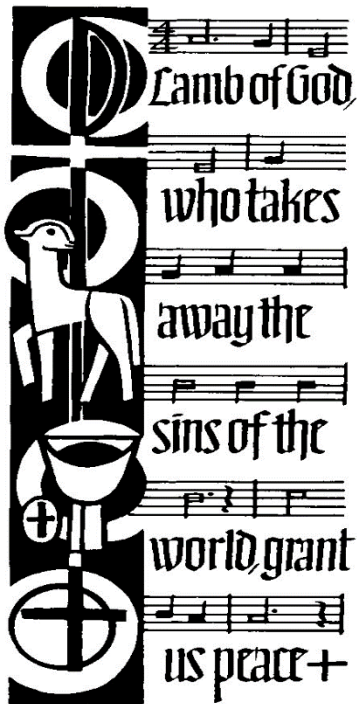
"To our own government, we urge you to continue your diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire, the immediate release of all hostages and the facilitation of humanitarian aid so that desperately needed food, water, fuel, and medical supplies can be safely delivered into Gaza. We will continue to add our voice to the impassioned chorus calling for justice, peace, and the cessation of the suffering that has descended upon the Holy Land.

"To the Catholic Community here in England and Wales, please join us in prayer for those in the Holy Land, particularly for those who have been taken hostage, those who have been killed, those who have been injured, and their families.

"We also pray for those who are wearied by the conflict to receive strength, and those in positions of power and authority receive the wisdom to guide them into ways of peace and justice."

Bishop Declan Lang, Chair, Department for International Affairs

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Chair, Holy Land Co-ordination



**FATHER PHILIP WRITES** This week sees the memorial of the virgin and martyr Cecilia. She is venerated as the patroness of music. Mass is offered for all our parish musicians, active and retired, in both places. Her feast day makes us think a little about what music does for us at worship (not just at Mass!). For many, music is like a dust sheet, it is there to cover the mess or the action. This is a very poor view of what music can do for us. It is not just to cover things up. For a start, actions are very often intended to be seen and paid attention to! We don't want to cover them. Another mistaken view is that music is filler, to occupy the space between things. Most especially, it is not entertainment. God does not need entertaining, and we are being deeply selfish if we believe Mass and the other acts of worship are there to amuse or divert us. Some folks claim that worship is intended to be "simple" and so they tell us that music makes things "complicated". At best, for such folk, music is an add-on, to make some occasions special or more dignified.

In fact, music is intended to raise the heart and mind to God. "To sing is to pray twice". Someone once told me that architecture is frozen music, preserving a space in which to pray and be with God, the Angels and Saints. I love the idea that instrumental and vocal music generates space!

The Bible descriptions of heaven are filled with references to music. This is especially true of the Apocalypse, the Book of Revelation. It actually gives us texts of the songs of heaven, most probably used also on earth in the earliest days of the Church. Some of these now find a place once more in our worship, being part of the Psalmody at Vespers each evening.

The Old Testament also gives us a whole book dedicated to musical worship, the Book of Psalms. For the first Christians, it was easy to find the Saviour and the Christian Gospel in these texts and it was to them that they turned for the very first songs for Mass. They usually had four at Mass. There was a psalm for the entrance of the clergy into the liturgical assembly, usually with an antiphon to focus thoughts on the matters in hand. Sadly, the psalm today has disappeared and only the entrance antiphon is left and that is frequently replaced with a hymn. There was a Psalm between the readings and this, at least, is still with us. It is a poem with a response for us to say or sing, but it is also a poem in response to the first reading. The third psalm at Mass was for the Offertory Procession and often summed up the Intercessions which had just been made. Prayer and Gifts and Praise mark these Offertory Psalms. Despite claiming to be more biblical today, we have completely eliminated this psalm from Mass. The Fourth and final Psalm at Mass was the Communion. Its response survives, but its text is suppressed. For most parishes, even this response is replaced by a hymn or instrumental item. Modern liturgical experts recommend the restoration of sung psalms to Mass, all 4 of them, as well as singing the Psalms at Morning and Evening Prayer (Lauds and Vespers). Biblical worship is musical worship.