

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

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**SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020**  
**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**  
**YEAR A**



**Collect**

Almighty, ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise

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: 31 – 45)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, ‘Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.’ Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it o me.” Next he sill say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer. “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you have neglected to do it for me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.

## Reflection

In the film *Chocolat* a small French Catholic community follow the rules of the Church to the letter of the law. But it makes them miserable and the villagers are often cruel, unkind, judgmental, and critical of each other. When a young woman arrives in the town and opens a chocolate shop her way of life is frowned upon. However, her desire to bring joy and happiness to the people of the town brings change in how people relate to one another. Eventually, the young parish priest, himself full of doubt, finally sees the truth. In his homily on Easter Sunday he preaches:

*“I’m not sure what the theme of my homily, today, should be. Do I want to speak of the miracle of the Lord’s transformation? No, not really, no I don’t want to talk about his divinity. I want to talk about his humanity. I mean, you know, how he lived his life here on earth; his kindness, his tolerance. Listen, here’s what I think. We can’t go round measuring our goodness by what we don’t do, by what we deny ourselves, what we resist and who we exclude. I think we have to measure our goodness by what we embrace, what we create and who we include.”*

Next week marks the start of Advent. We are still living with the pandemic and many people are tired, unsure of what Christmas will bring. But this we do know, Jesus entered our world to live amongst the most vulnerable in society, reaching out in compassion and love and mercy. Today’s gospel encourages us to do the same.

And then ...



Daily Mass is still streamed live from Clifton Cathedral – see the parish website [dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk](http://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

During this 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

### Sunday 22 November: Youth Sunday

National Youth Sunday is an opportunity to *recognise* young people as a gift in the Church, *enable* the youth ministry and parish community to celebrate young people and *affirm* the contribution of young people in the Church and those who work with them. This year the theme is *Together*. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every part of life. The way we live, work, study, play and pray has all changed. The most significant change has been that we have not been able to do many of those things together. This year's theme recognises what it means to be 'together'; with ourselves, with others and with God.

*To come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together; together, not alone. Together. Alone no, because it cannot be done. Either it is done together, or it is not done. We must do it together, all of us, in solidarity.*

Pope Francis, September 2020

As we learn to live together again alongside the COVID-19 virus, the world isn't quite the same as it was. But there is still much to make us hopeful.

There is something special about being together – being a part of a community – it is our togetherness which tells us who we are. It heals us and makes us complete. There are reflections for young people at

<https://nationalyouthsunday.com/foryou/>

## 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 Eight: religion and fraternity

The focus is on “Religions at the service of fraternity in our world” and emphasizes that terrorism is not due to religion but to erroneous interpretations of religious texts, as well as “policies linked to hunger, poverty, injustice, oppression”. A journey of peace among religions is possible, but it is necessary to guarantee religious freedom, a fundamental human right for all believers.

The Church does not “restrict her mission to the private sphere”. While not engaging in politics she does not, however, according to evangelical principals, renounce the political dimension of life itself - attention to the common good and concern for integral human development.

Francis quotes the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together”, which he signed on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, along with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyib. From that milestone of interreligious dialogue, the Pontiff returns to the appeal that, in the name of human fraternity, dialogue be adopted as the way, common cooperation as conduct, and mutual knowledge as method and standard.

### Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Arthur Bradley, Adam Weneck

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** all University/College/School Chaplaincies in the diocese

**Churches Together Prayer Rota:** Dursley Tabernacle

**Parish Prayer Rota:** the congregation at Dursley



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