

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

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SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B



Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

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

There is an Advent message from Bishop Declan: see link on our Website

Gospel (Mark 13: 33 – 37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, morning, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Reflection

2020 has been like no other year that we can probably remember or imagine. When we started Advent in December 2019, we had absolutely no idea that the new liturgical year would play out as it has done. We could not have anticipated or expected the experience we have had and currently still have.

Government recommendations during the pandemic to 'Stay alert' find echoes in our Gospel today. 'Stay awake, be on your guard' is how Mark puts it. But this is not about watching out for the dangers of a virus. Rather we are to be prepared for the coming of the Lord, not just at Christmas, but at any time. This second coming of Christ and the final judgement is what we need to hold in mind throughout our Christian lives.

As a faithful community, we are waiting in hopeful anticipation for Christ to come once more. It is not a passive waiting but is mindful and open to the reality that Christ comes to us in the poor, in the exiled, in the refugee and asylum seeker, in the homeless and the most vulnerable in our society. As we enter the season of a new liturgical year, let's pray for the strength to be hopeful and joyful in the weeks and months ahead.

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

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

Friends At Christmas 2020

Churches Together, GL11 Community Hub and Severn Vale Community Kitchen are working together to share Christmas Dinner across Cam and Dursley on 25th December.

Are you going to be on your own on Christmas Day? Then let one of our volunteers bring a chilled, oven-ready Christmas Dinner to your door, together with cake, a gift and a Holiday Quiz.

There is no charge – and our friendly volunteers hope to enjoy a doorstep chat with you too.

If you would like to take part as a guest or as a volunteer, please contact Martin Gregg - Churches Together on 07788 421059 or Cathy Iddles - GL11 on 01453 548530.



Winter Wander

During Advent *Cam and Dursley Churches Together* are launching a Winter Wander. There will be a trail around our churches to see tableaux of scenes from the Christmas narrative. Look out for one at St Dominic's! There will also be activities and competitions. Further details at Froffy Coffee, Cam Post Office, Dursley Post Office, Kingshill House, Uley Post Office and Coaley Village Stores

Documents available on Parish Website

Parish Register

We are trying to update our registers to ensure that everyone in both our parishes hears from us regularly; this is particularly important as Christmas approaches.

Please do let us know contact details of anyone that you know of who does not hear from us regularly, either by email or through the post, and we will make sure that they are included

Christmas Visits

This year has of course been very different, and we appreciate that many people may feel isolated and cut off from the Church. In particular they may not have been able to attend Mass for many months.

If you, or someone you know, is in this position and would like a visit, possibly also to receive Communion at home, in the weeks before Christmas please contact the Church Office on 01453 542039 or at

dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com

Thank you



Parish Charity 2021

This year's charity has been *Clifton Refugee Sponsorship*. Although we have not been able to have many joint fundraising activities, Pat Uglov's magnificent '84 Hymns' challenge in October gave us all an opportunity to contribute, raising over £2000. Many thanks to Pat

Now is the time to start looking forward to next year ... please could you submit nominations either by email or by a letter to the Church Office by Sunday 13 December ... then we will decide how best to organise a vote!

Thank you



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

EU Resettlement Scheme

The deadline for applying to the EU Settlement Scheme is 30 June 2021, so we are urgently seeking all those who may not yet have applied.

North and West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice is able to help any individuals or families who would like help and advice in applying to the scheme. In-depth details of the scheme, including how to apply, are also available in all 26 languages, and I would be delighted to signpost individuals to these.

To get in touch with us, people can either email me on

jennie.watts@gloscab.org.uk

or phone me on 01452 527202 ext 262. I will then put them in touch with an EU Settlement Scheme Advisor. At the current time, the office is closed for face-to-face appointments, but we are able to give advice over the telephone.

Jennie Watts

North and West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently:

Arthur Bradley, Adam Weneck

Diocesan Prayer Link:

all Chaplaincies to HM forces in the diocese

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

The Quarry Chapel

Parish Prayer Rota:

the congregation at Nympsfield