

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

Parish Priest: Father Philip Beisly

St Dominic's Presbytery Jubilee Road Dursley GL11 4ES 01453 542039

Permanent Deacon: Domenic Bucci

01453 542136

[dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com)

**SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C**



**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**

## **Gospel** (Luke 21:25 - 28, 34 - 36)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

### **Reflection**

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength.

The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair.

Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

<b>Celebration of Mass</b>			
Hand sanitisers will still be used and face coverings are strongly recommended			
Friday 26 November	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley
Saturday 27 November	5.30pm	Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 28 November	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
Wednesday 1 December	9.00am	Mass	Dursley
Thursday 2 December	10.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
Friday 3 December	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley

## **Honouring Sunday**

The Bishops of England and Wales have written a letter for all Catholics to remind them of the role of the Sunday Eucharist in their Christian lives.

Although they acknowledge that at this stage in the pandemic some parishioners might not feel able to attend because of health concerns or a fear of meeting in large numbers, they feel that there are some who have lost the habit of regular Sunday attendance.

The Bishops encourage these people to 'look again at the patterns they have formed in recent months' as the 'Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life'.

The full text of the letter is available on the Parish website

## **First Communion**

Application forms for First Communion in 2022 are now available for children in years 3 and 4. The closing date is 9 December, and classes are scheduled to start on 22 February

## **Raffle in aid of *Stella Maris***

Thank you for your help so far. We would welcome further offers of prizes – by the end of November, please. Tickets can be bought by delivering a donation in an envelope to St Dominic's – you will not receive a paper ticket, but will be allocated a number for each £1 that you donate

## **Stroud Foodbank**

Stroud Foodbank are currently preparing food hampers for Christmas and are in need of the following items to make the season a little brighter for people in need. Christmas cakes and puddings, tinned ham, jars of pickles, nice toiletries, hot chocolate, boxes of savoury and sweet biscuits, boxes of chocolate. Donations can be made at Tesco Cam, Dursley Coop, Little Rascals and The Pulse

## **Red Boxes**

APF Red Boxes:- Please will all box holders return their boxes for emptying on or before Sunday 12 December. All monies need to be banked before Christmas to help the APF office finalise their yearly accounts before the end of the current year. If you are unable to return your box to Church or the Presbytery then please ring me on 01453 547834 or 07503 192758 to arrange for your box to be collected. Thank you. *Mary Cryan*

## Prayer for Advent



Lord, as Advent begins, help me to put my eyes on you  
Help me to open my ears to your voice  
And help me to open my heart to your glorious presence  
May I be attentive to you in every way you desire to  
come to me  
Jesus, I trust in you  
Amen

## Prayer for the Synod

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
for ever and ever. Amen*

### **Our Parish**

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

**Diocesan Prayer Link:**

Sacred Heart, Tisbury

**Churches Together Prayer Rota:**

St James, Dursley

**Parish Prayer Rota:**

The young people of our parishes