

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@cliftdiocese.com

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B



Collect

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Gospel (Mark 1: 1 – 8)

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection

There is no doubt about the difficult times we are living in and Christmas may well seem very different for us this year. With the potential loss of the usual parties and outings, people are beginning to think and speak about 'getting back to the real meaning of Christmas'. Perhaps, the pandemic is moving us to think about what really matters.

There are times when we can get carried away with lights and parties and flashes of this and that but the real meaning of Christmas, is so much more. It is learning how to love, learning how to care, learning how to be brothers and sisters to each other.

Advent is an invitation to change our lives, to perhaps refocus our direction, something we do not necessarily find easy. John the Baptist implores us to prepare a way for the Lord, to straighten ourselves out! How do we do this? By being honest with ourselves, truthful about who we are and honest about how we live in the world.

With so many physical restrictions currently placed upon us – this Advent is a real opportunity to start anew, to make the changes needed so that the Lord can walk down those straight paths and into our hearts, where he longs to dwell.

Bishop Declan's Advent message is available at

[Pastoral Letter Advent 2020.pdf \(dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk\)](https://www.dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk/Pastoral%20Letter%20Advent%202020.pdf)

CELEBRATION OF MASS

We are now able to open to celebrate Mass with a congregation again, so our services this week will be as follows:

Saturday 5 December: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 6 December: Mass at St Dominic's at **10.30am (note the change in time)**

Wednesday 9 December: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am



In order to keep everyone safe we still have to adhere to the following guidelines:

When attending Mass:

- Contact the Church Office on 01453 542039 or at dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com to book a place
- Wear a face covering
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit
- Social distancing observed at all times
- No groups of more than 6 people
- No socialising inside the church with anyone outside your household or 'bubble'

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 3.30pm to 4.00pm, starting on 5 December

Our churches will be open for **individual private prayer** at the following times:

St Dominic's – Thursdays 2pm to 3pm

St Joseph's – Sundays 11am to 12am

Friends at Christmas

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

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. Unfortunately under current Tier 2 restrictions we are unable to carry out home visits. However if you, or someone you know, would like a visit, possibly also to receive Communion at home, once restrictions are lifted, please contact the Church Office on 01453 542039 or at dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com
Thank you

Directory and Diary

Next year's Clifton Directory (£5) and Liturgical Diary (£6.50) will be available from this weekend

200 Club: November Winners

Sue Johnson £40, Rosemarie Lynch £30,
Jamie Whitney £20

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

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 Uglow'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

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link:

all Hospital and Prison chaplaincies

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Bartholomew, Coaley

Parish Prayer Rota:

the children in our Parishes