

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 13 DECEMBER 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B



Collect

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation, and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing

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 (John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28)

A man came, sent from God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness;

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising, if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Reflection

Rejoice! Today, 'Gaudate' Sunday is a call to rejoice! The word 'Gaudate' means rejoice but can we rejoice? We may not feel that we can. We may be weighed down with sadness, weariness, simple tiredness at the end of this particular year.

Yet, as Christians, we have been given the mantle of proclaiming 'glad tidings' to those beaten down by life, to be what we have been anointed to be in baptism, 'priest, prophet and king', to be the light that Christ brings to the world.

How do we do this when we, ourselves, may be feeling ragged and disorientated? By holding fast to the hope we have been given, a hope which enables us to cut through the darkness and see the light ahead. There will be light – there is always light. Though it may seem as if the clouds are heavy and low, the sun has an amazing capacity to break through, when we least expect it.

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 12 December: Mass at St Joseph's at 5.30pm

Sunday 13 December: Mass at St Dominic's at 10.30am

Wednesday 16 December: Mass at St Dominic's at 9.00am

If you wish to attend, please contact the Church Office on 01453 542039 or at dursley.stdominic@cliftodiocese.com to book a place

Confessions are heard from 3.30pm to 4.00pm on Saturdays

St Joseph's School

Governors are pleased to confirm, that after consultation with Bishop Declan and the Diocesan Education Dept., Mrs Howells will remain in post as Acting Headteacher of St. Joseph's School until the end of the academic year. We are very grateful to Mrs Howells and all the Staff for their unstinting efforts during this pandemic. Despite everything School remains a "happy place to be" for our children.

We continue to develop our collaboration with other Catholic Schools in Gloucestershire. The Chaplain from St. Peter's High School is helping with our liturgy

If you would like to see what we are doing, look at our website:-

[.www.st-josephs-nympsfield.org](http://www.st-josephs-nympsfield.org)

You will find a virtual tour, Harvest Celebration and Remembrance Service

We are pleased to report that St. Joseph's was included in the Sunday Times Top 250 Primary Schools, in England at 138. Well done everyone.

Gabriella Tiley/Syd Gwyer
Co-chairs of Governors

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

Diocesan Prayer Link:

Christ the King, Amesbury

Churches Together Prayer Rota:

St Bartholomew, Lower Cam

Parish Prayer Rota:

members of the UCM

Guests for Friends at Christmas

As yet we have had very few responses from people who want to receive Christmas dinners. There could be a number of reasons for this - maybe the word hasn't got round or maybe people are confused about filling in the on-line forms which enable us to co-ordinate interest.

Please have a think about who might welcome a Christmas dinner and a chat on the doorstep. Please could you also remind them to fill in the on-line forms if they can or give them a hand if they are having difficulties. Alternatively take their details and pass them on to us. It would be sad if people missed out because of the technology.

Here's the link again for 'guests' - <https://forms.gle/6nXYHBXWzsupQYSL8>

Martin Gregg, Churches Together 07788 421059

Cathy Iddles, GL11, 01453 548530

Overseas Aid Budget

Cardinal Vincent has written to some Members of Parliament to express concern about the reduction in overseas aid:

'I am writing to express my concern at plans to reduce UK spending on overseas aid from 0.7% of gross national income to 0.5%. In today's figures that amounts to a cut of around £4 billion in spending on help to the world's poorest people.

'A clear measure of a nation's greatness is the manner in which it responds to the needs of its poorest. The same is true for the response to poverty between nations. If we truly wish to be a great nation, then cutting the overseas aid budget is a retrograde step. The great tragedies of forced mass migration and human trafficking must be tackled at their source. Carefully targeted and well managed overseas aid programmes are an essential part of this effort. In the face of these catastrophes, this is no time to reduce the UK's contribution or effort.

'As Pope Francis said recently, 'Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet. If we are troubled by the extinction of certain species, we should be all the more troubled that in some parts of our world individuals or peoples are prevented from developing their potential and beauty by poverty or other structural limitations. In the end, this will impoverish us all'. (*Fratelli Tutti* 137)

'Promises were made by all parties on aid spending at the last election. In these extraordinarily difficult times, we should not now step back from our responsibilities to the world's most vulnerable people, especially as combatting the spread of COVID-19 will necessarily mean richer countries supporting poorer ones in purchasing vaccines for their people and helping to roll out mass vaccination programmes. Combatting COVID-19 is an international endeavour and we cannot neglect those countries that benefit from our aid. I hope that compassionate and wise counsel will prevail.

'I realise the pressures which those holding elected office face in these times. Thank you for what you do and you remain in my prayers.'