

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

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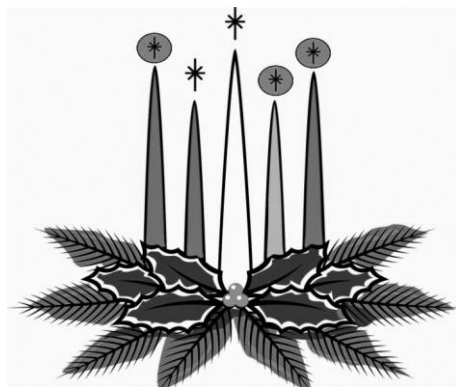
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SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Baptist quotes the prophet Isaiah and then announces to the Jewish clergy on Jordan's bank that the Saviour, Whom they seek, is already among them as yet unrecognised. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. The season also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. Although penitence and faith are proper responses to the Advent of the Saviour, we await His coming with Joy, just as we will soon celebrate His first coming with joy at Christmas.

O Lord Jesus Christ, at Your first coming, You sent Your messenger, the Baptizer John, to prepare Your Way before You: grant that the ministers and stewards of Your mysteries may also prepare And make Your way ready by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, so that, at Your Second Coming to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in Your sight; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for and for ever.

WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 16 December Advent Feria ADVENT III – B – O Sapientia	3.30pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley
Saturday 16 December	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 17 December	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
Monday 18th December O Adonai	6.00pm	Mass	Dursley
Tuesday 19 December O Radix	9.30am	Mass (Thomas & George Johnson RIP)	Dursley
	Noon	Funeral of Goff Smith	Nympsfield
Wednesday 20 December	9.00am	Mass (Mary Ryan's intentions)	Dursley
O Clavis David	6.00pm	Nympsfield Village Carol Service	St Bart's
Thursday 21 December O Oriens	9.00am & 9.45am	Christingle Services	Nympsfield
	Noon	Mass	Nympsfield
Friday 22 December O Rex Gentium	6.30pm – 6.55pm	Exposition and Confessions	Dursley
	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley
Saturday 23 December	3.30pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley
O Emmanuel ADVENT IV - B			
Saturday 23 December	5.30pm	Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sunday 24 December	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
<u>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD IN THE FLESH = START OF THE CHRISTMASS SEASON</u>			
Sunday 24 December	5.30pm	Vigil Mass	Nympsfield
	9.00pm (carols from 8.40pm)	Mass of Christmas Night	Dursley
Monday 25 December	9.00am	Mass of Christmas Dawn	Nympsfield
	11.00am	Mass of Christmas Day	Dursley

Café Dominic is open for refreshments each Sunday after the 10.30 Mass at Dursley

Entrance Antiphon Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near

Responsorial Psalm My soul rejoices in my God

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia

Communion Antiphon Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us

Our Parish: PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died:

Gerald Lockier, Goff Smith

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Benet, Kemerton, St Joseph, Tewkesbury, St Nicholas, Winchcombe

Churches Together: All our church congregations as they celebrate Christmas.

Parish Prayer Rota: Father Philip and Deacon Domenic

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention of society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

CHRISTMAS FAIR The Christmas Fair raised a magnificent £405. Many thanks to all those who helped and gave so generously!

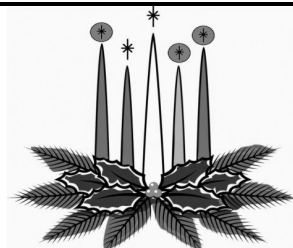
2024 YEAR OF PRAYER Pope Francis has named 2024 the Year of Prayer, a year spent in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. There's a new page on the Clifton Diocese website to share news about the year of prayer, new resources to deepen your prayer life, and point towards celebrations that will come in 2025.

The first event for the year of prayer will be a livestream on the diocesan website Pilgrims of Hope: The 2025 Jubilee in Clifton **1 February (7:30-8:45 pm)**. It will introduce the jubilee year, providing context for the current three-year programme (2023 – Year of the Council, 2024 – Year of Prayer, 2025 Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope), as well as background for jubilees – how they originated, their role in Scripture, and how jubilees have been used in the Church. It will conclude by exploring the theme that pope Francis chose, Pilgrims of Hope, and how Clifton Diocese can journey together over the next few years towards this great celebration.

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear God, You are my light and shining star. Help me to give someone a smile, make them happy and let my light shine. Thank you for everything, for loving us and helping us to understand that Jesus is the light of the world. Amen

Written by Year 4 of St Joseph's School



INVITED - A FORMATION COURSE IN STROUD

Invited - God offers us a radical invitation but what does it mean to say yes? What does it mean to be a Catholic? What do we believe and how do we grow deeper in our Faith? This twelve-week course will enable us to explore a variety of questions relating to Catholic Teaching.

Who is Invited? This is a course for anyone who is interested in learning more about their faith and passing it onto others. The course will take place from January to May 2024 at The Immaculate Conception, Stroud. For the full outline of the course and to express your interest please complete the booking form and send to catechists@cliftondiocese.com or Dept of Adult Education & Evangelisation, Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, BS5 0TX.

Cost of Full Course £60 or £7.50 per session. Although it is not necessary to attend every session (they are stand-alone) we hope that the group will grow together as a community. We suggest if you can afford more, please do send what you can, it could help those who cannot afford the full fee. As we do not want anyone to feel excluded on the grounds of finance, please contact us at: catechists@cliftondiocese.com. There is a place for everyone.

Journals - participants are encouraged to bring a book for journaling – help will be given with how to do this. The sessions will be 7pm to 9pm including time for refreshments.

Almighty God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of Your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so
we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; Who lives and
reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for and for ever.



ADVENT IS NOT LENT!!! GAUDETE Advent has 4 Sundays in the Roman Rite, which we follow. Lent has 6 Sundays embedded in it, but they IN LENT and not OF LENT. The two seasons are both kept in purple and both of them have a half holiday kept in Rose Pink. However, Lent is an entirely penitential season, sorrow for sin and conversion of heart make each day of the season. Advent does have some penitence in it but concentrates more on preparation and growing expectation. It has a sense of excitement and mounting joy, which Lent excludes. The joy there is saved up until Easter. We get that joy earlier in Advent.

THE GREAT O ANTIPHONS AT VESPERS LEADING TO THE START OF CHRISTMAS

Latin:

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiiisti,
attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque
disponens omnia, veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

Latin:

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae
rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti:
veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento

Latin:

*O radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem
continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.*

Latin:

O Clavis David,¹ et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo
claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit veni, et educ vinctum de domo
carceris, sedentem in tenebris et umbra mortis.

Latin:

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumina
sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

Latin:

O Rex Gentium,² et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui
facis utraque unum: veni et salva hominem, quem de limo
formasti.

Latin:

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio
Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine,
Deus noster

English: :

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly
ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

English:

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, Who appeared
to Moses in the fire of the burning bush,
and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an
outstretched arm.

English:

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will
make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer

English:

O Key of David¹ and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who
dwell in darkness and the shadow of death

English:

O Morning Star, splendour of light Eternal and sun of
righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

English:

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making
both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned
from clay.

English:

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the
nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

If you take off the O and use the initial letters of these antiphons, they spell the little Latin phrase ERO CRAS. I will be there tomorrow. When we reach O Emmanuel that will be precisely true, for Christmas starts in the dark of Christmas Eve Evening. It is believed that these Great Os started life in Italy in the 6th century, so they are very ancient. They quickly became vastly popular, with folks coming to church to hear them sung at either end of the Magnificat at Vespers/Evening Prayer, folks who didn't come to Vespers any other time of the year. So popular were they that many religious orders and dioceses invented new ones to extend the list and start earlier.

The Victorians changed the order and turned these Great O's into the hymn O Come O Come Emmanuel to a tune from a French processional book of the 15th Century. It is this tune that has provided our Mass setting in Advent.

The original texts are full of Biblical allusions to the coming Christ, over 30 in total. King David gets a mention, the Rising Sun, the Law Giver on Mount Sinai, St Paul's saying that Jesus brings two walls together and makes them one. See how many you can spot. Try turning these antiphons into your prayers in this last run up to Christmas. The Church herself makes the Great O's into the Alleluia verses in the special series of Masses for this Late Advent period. It is unfortunate that the publishers have printed the verses in the wrong order!

